

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION



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AFRICAN
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CIVIL WAR
MEMORIAL

65th ANNUAL SESSION

It's Time to Evaluate

— 1 Corinthians 15:8–22 —



JULY 19–23, 2026

Omni Shoreham Hotel

2500 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, District of Columbia, 20008

PNBC LEADERSHIP

Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples
President

Rev. Dr. Keith W. Byrd, Sr.
1st Vice President

Rev. Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson
2nd Vice President

Rev. Thomas L. Bowen
General Secretary

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA & VICINITY

Rev. Rodney A. Teal, Esq.
VP at Large/President, Progressive Caucus

Rev. Dr. André D. Ivy
President

65th ANNUAL SESSION

July 19-23, 2026

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Schedule At A Glance

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

8:00AM & 11:00AM - PNBC Leadership Preaching
Local Church Services

12:00PM - Registration Opens

3:00PM - Laymen Service

6:00PM - 65th Anniversary Gala

9:00PM - Game Night (Youth)

9:30PM - Late Night Event

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

8:00AM - Board Meeting

10:00AM - Ministry Leaders Wkshp

10:30AM - Couples in Ministry

Singles in Ministry

11:00AM - Pew and the Porch Podcast

11:00AM - Mental Health Wkshp

12:00PM - Continuous Evangelism

1:00PM - Congress Classes

5:30PM - Evangelism & Mission

6:00PM - Meet & Greet (Youth)

7:30PM - Musical Concert

9:00PM - Teen Breakout

9:30PM - Late Night Preaching

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026

7:00AM - Congress Classes

8:00AM - Pastors & Ministers Division

10:00AM - Opening Plenary

11:00AM - College Tour (Youth)

12:30PM - Women's Luncheon

2:30PM - Pastors & Ministers

2:30PM - Department Meetings

5:30PM - Regional Caucuses

7:30PM - Youth Night

9:30PM - Late Nite Service

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026

7:00AM - Congress Classes

7:30AM - New Pastors & Chaplains

8:00AM - Pastors & Ministers Division

10:00AM - Plenary Session

12:00PM - Gardner C. Taylor Hour

12:00PM - Youth Outing

1:30PM - Pastors & Ministers Division

2:00PM - Department Meetings

3:30PM - Social Justice Town Hall

7:30PM - President's Night

9:30PM - Youth Glow Up

REGISTRATION

Sunday 12:00PM - 4:00PM

Mon-Wed 9:00AM - 5:00PM

VENDORS

Sunday 2:00PM - 6:00PM

Mon-Wed 9:00AM - 5:00PM

TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Vendor Directory

Sunday 2:00PM - 6:00PM

Mon-Wed 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Ann's Creative Hands
Beautifully Chaste, LLC
BSK Theological Seminary
Call Me Ms. Royalty
DC's Herb Garden
DMV Toe Lady
Forever's Treasures
Givelify

God's Covenant Christian Ministries
Helen Stubbs
Ites International
Janie's Emporium

Judson Press
Kenechi Fashions
Lionhearted Creation
Mihret Ethnic Jewelry
Nurilens Eyewear
Rafah and Lab
Rick Crawford
Simply Marvelous LLC
Tabernacle Baptist
The Charlotte Pearl Company
The Elegant Elephant
Urban Ministries
United States Air Force

Room Assignments



DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
Sunday, July 19th			
	Registration Opens	12:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Ambassador Ballroom
	Registration/Finance Office		West Conference
	Lobby Day Training	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Committee
	Laymen Service	3:00 PM - 4:45 PM	Regency Ballroom
	65th Anniversary Gala	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Palladian
	Game Night (Youth)	9:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Committee
	Late Nite Comedian	9:30 PM	Regency Ballroom
Monday, July 20th			
	Board Meeting (Breakfast)	8:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Diplomat
	Registration	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Ambassodor
	Congress Teacher Meeting	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	President Boardroom
	Ministry Leaders Workshop	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Executive
	Women's Department Meeting	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Palladin
	Single in Ministry	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Calvert - EAST
	Couples in Ministry	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Governor - EAST
	The Pew and the Porch Podcast (YOUTH)	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Regency
	Mental Health Workshop	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Executive
	Continuous Evangelistic Service	12:00 PM - 2:00PM	Regency
	Lobby Visit on Capitol Hill	12:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Capitol Hill
	Congress Classes 23	2:00 - 4:30	
	God is in Control		Executive
	IT- Technology and AI		Directors
	Power of Reconciliation		Committee
	Estate Planning/Wills		Sales Office
	Real Talk from the Savior Lips		Calvert
	Solving Church Conflict		Governor
	Be on Guard		Forum
	Sunday School Teacher Training		Regency
	The Assist: Associate Ministers are the Point Guard		Palladin
	Where Do I Fit Here		room conversion
	No Cap: Living Truth in a Filtered World		room conversion
	Hidden Figures: Unnamed Women of the Bible		Empire
	T.R.E.N.D.S.-Teach, Respect, Engage, Navigate		Regency
	Leading Through Transistion		room conversion
	Social Justice: From the Pulpit to the Pew		room conversion
	Trolling for Jesus - Youth		Cabinet - Youth
	Bulding a Framework with the Carpenter -Youth		Senate - Youth
	I am a Part - Youth		Council Youth
	Praise Dance Ministry		Birdcage Foyer
	Young Adult		Diplomat

Room Assignments



DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, July 21st			
	Congress Classes		
	God is in Control	7:00 AM - 9:45 AM	Executive
	IT- Technology and AI		Directors
	Power of Reconciliation		Committee
	Estate Planning/Wills		Sales Office
	Real Talk from the Savior Lips		Calvert
	Solving Church Conflict		Governor
	Be on Guard		Forum
	Sunday School Teacher Training		Regency
	The Assist: Associate Ministers are the Point Guard		Palladin
	Where Do I Fit Here		room conversion
	No Cap: Living Truth in a Filtered World		room conversion
	Hidden Figures: Unnamed Women of the Bible		Empire
	T.R.E.N.D.S.-Teach, Respect, Engage, Navigate		Regency
	Leading Through Transistion		room conversion
	Social Justice: From the Pulpit to the Pew		room conversion
	Trolling for Jesus - Youth		Cabinet - Youth
	Bulding a Framework with the Carpenter -Youth		Senate - Youth
	I am a Part - Youth		Council Youth
	Praise Dance Ministry		Birdcage Foyer
	Young Adult		Coat Room
	Congress Office	8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Presidential Boardroom
	Pastor's & Ministers Division (including breakfast)	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Diplomat
	Registration	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Ambassador
	Registration Office		West Conference Storage
	Plenary Session	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Regency Ballroom
	College Tour (High School students)	11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Howard University
	Womens Luncheon (LUNCH)	12:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Palladian
	Praise Dance (YOUTH)	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Birdcage Foyer
	Department meetings		
	Health	2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Forum
	Ushers		Directors
	Laymen		Committee
	Evangelism Board		Calvert
	Moderators		Governor
	State Presidents		Council
	Missions		Sales Office
	Womens		Palladian

Room Assignments



DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, July 21st (continued)			
	Judson Press Publishing		Presidential Boardroom
	Christian Education & Publishing Board		Senate
	Youth		Cabinet
	Election and Credentials		Empire
	Young Adult		Converted Rooms
	Pastors & Minister Division	2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Diplomat
	Couple in Ministry	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Empire
	Choir Rehearsal (YOUTH)	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Regency
	Convention Choir Rehearsal	4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Regency Ballroom / youth room
	Regional Caucuses	5:30 PM - 6:45 PM	
	South		Empire (lowest level)
	Midwest		Diplomat
	Eastern		Palladian
	Southwest		Executive
	International		Governor
	Youth & Young Adult Night	7:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Regency Ballroom
	Aloha in DC Pool Party (Youth) (FOOD)	9:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Hotel Pool / Empire
	Late Night	9:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Regency Ballroom
Wednesday, July 22, 2026			
	Congress Classes	7:00 AM 8:30 AM	
	God is in Control		Executive
	IT- Technology and AI		Directors
	Power of Reconciliation		Committee
	Estate Planning/Wills		Sales Office
	Real Talk from the Savior Lips		Palladian
	Solving Church Conflict		Empire
	Be on Guard		Forum
	Sunday School Teacher Training		Regency
	The Assist: Associate Ministers are the Point Guard		Palladian
	Where Do I Fit Here		room conversion
	No Cap: Living Truth in a Filtered World		room conversion
	Hidden Figures: Unnamed Women of the Bible		Empire
	T.R.E.N.D.S.-Teach, Respect, Engage, Navigate		Regency
	Leading Through Transistion		room conversion
	Social Justice: From the Pulpit to the Pew		room conversion
	Trolling for Jesus - Youth		Cabinet - Youth
	Bulding a Framework with the Carpenter -Youth		Senate - Youth

Room Assignments



DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday, July 22, 2026 (continued)			
	Congress Classes	7:00 AM 8:30 AM	
	I am a Part - Youth		Council Youth
	Praise Dance Ministry		Birdcage Foyer
	Young Adult		Coat Room
	Chaplains (Breakfast)	7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Dining Room
	New Pastors (Breakfast)		Presidential Boardroom
	Pastor & Ministers Division (Breakfast)	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Diplomat
	Registration	8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Ambassador Ballroom
	Graduation	8:45 AM - 9:30 AM	Regency
	Plenary Session	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Regency
	Youth Mission	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	
	African History Museum (Youth)	11:30 AM- 5:30 PM	Offsite
	Gardner C. Taylor Hour	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Regency Ballroom
	Voting	1:00PM - 5:00PM	Empire
	Pastors & Ministers Division	1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Diplomat
	Department Meetings	2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	
	Health		Forum
	Ushers		Executive for lunch
	Laymen		Committee
	Evangelism Board		Converted Room
	Moderators		Converted Room
	State Presidents		Council
	Missions		Sales Office
	Womens		Palladian
	Christian Education & Publishng Board		Senate
	Youth		
	PNBC Social Justice Hour	3:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Regency
	Convention Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Regency
	Presidents Night	7:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Regency
	President Reception (Hor'derves)	9:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Empire & Patio
	Youth Closing Celebration "Glow UP"	9:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Diplomat
Thursday, July 23rd			
	Lord's Supper & Installation of Officers	8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Regency
	Board Meeting / New Board Members (Breakfast)	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Ambassador



65TH ANNUAL SESSION

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

— WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA —

JULY 19-23, 2026

Greetings



SHILOH
BAPTIST
CHURCH
EST. 1864

WASHINGTON, D.C.



U STREET
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE TRAIL

Celebrating the legacy of
Black excellence, culture,
faith, and leadership
in the District of Columbia.
EST. 1920s

HOWARD
UNIVERSITY
1867



EMPOWERED BY THE PAST.

Advancing the Promise.

REV. DR.
DAVID R. PEOPLES
PRESIDENT

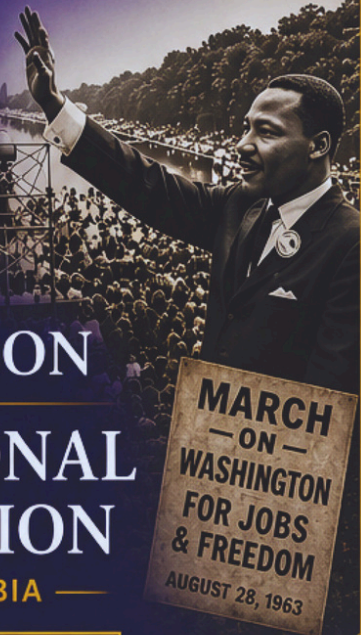
REV. DR.
KEITH W. BYRD, SR.
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

REV. DR.
JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

REV. THOMAS L. BOWEN
GENERAL SECRETARY

FAITH • JUSTICE • ✝ LIBERATION • LEGACY

PROCLAIMING CHRIST • TRANSFORMING LIVES • IMPACTING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1961



FREDERICK DOUGLASS
1818 - 1895
ABOLITIONIST • ORATOR • STATESMAN
WASHINGTON, D.C.



It's Time!

**“To evaluate – our
privilege to serve and
our fervent defense of
the faith”**

1 Corinthians 15:8-22

REV. DR. DAVID R. PEOPLES
PRESIDENT

DR. KEITH W. BYRD, SR.
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

DR. JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

REV. THOMAS BOWEN
GENERAL SECRETARY

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

Greetings to our PNBC Family.

We are so excited to welcome everyone to the 65th Annual Session of Progressive National Baptist Convention. There is no better place to convene than here in Washington DC, the city where our Headquarters is. Our members have travelled all over the country and parts of the world to be apart of this power packed session.

We want to thank Dr Teal, and Dr Ivy, and the DC and Vicinity Pastors and Churches for being our Host. So much hard work and planning have gone into making this one of the best sessions ever. We pray you enjoy this week and return home informed and inspired.

We want to thank Vice President Byrd, 2nd Vice President Thompson, our General Secretary Bowen, and the entire Executive Board and Staff for your prayers, work, and support. Thank you to our Assistant Lady Adams, our Program Chairs, Dr and Lady Jeffrey Smith and Bro Ernest Coverson for your unwavering commitment and leadership and support. We thank attorney Barnes, Dr Kip Banks, Dr Lawrence Foster, and Dr Andrew Hunt for your service to this our beloved convention.

We are excited for the Next President, Dr Byrd and Lady Byrd, and the Zion church Family for what God is about to do through them. PNBC, the best is still yet to come.

Lady Peoples and I would like to thank our Family, Imani Church Family, fellow Kentuckians, and the Entire PNBC Family for allowing us to serve. This has been a tremendous honor to serve and represent you these 12 years and almost 5 years as President and First Lady. We thank God for using us for His Glory.

As we transition to pass the gavel, we reflect on how far we as a PNBC denomination have come. WE leave this ship better than we found her. We will continue to pray and support this Convention.

We love you PNBC. To God Be The Glory.

Because of Calvary,

Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples
President

Lady Margaret Peoples



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PRESIDENT

DR. KEITH W. BYRD, SR.
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

DR. JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

REV. THOMAS BOWEN
GENERAL SECRETARY

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

To my beloved PNBC,

I greet you with the joy of the Lord! It is so wonderful to welcome each of you to the nation's capitol and my hometown, Washington, D.C. It is no coincidence that we are convening in the most powerful city in the world as Progressive Baptists to address the challenges facing our people. This is exactly where we need to be, front and center, speaking truth to power while bringing hope to those who have been left out far too long. President Peoples and the headquarters staff have worked tirelessly to make this week impactful for all in attendance. There will be powerful preaching, mesmerizing music, intensive engagement, and fabulous fellowship for all. In addition to the other planned activities at the Omni Shoreham, there will be advocacy on Capitol Hill as well as an opportunity to visit PNBC headquarters located in Northeast Washington, D.C. I pray that each of you will take full advantage of the offerings this week and take information back home to empower your churches and communities. I hope to have opportunity to share with each of you this week as we grow and go together.

Special thanks to President Rodney Teal and the Baptist Convention of the District of Columbia and Vicinity for hosting the 65th Annual Session of the Progressive National Baptist Convention. I also acknowledge General Secretary Bowen and the entire headquarters staff for their collective efforts to make this week come together.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for the opportunity to have served as both Second and First Vice President for these past eight years. It has been an honor to serve this great denomination under the leadership of Dr. Timothy Stewart and Dr. David Peoples. I have also had the pleasure of serving alongside Dr. Jacqueline Thompson as we worked together to hold up the arms of President Peoples and the ideals of our Progressive work. Now, I look forward to the future of our Progressive cause. In this season we must go higher and further, building on the foundation that has been laid before us. It is my hope to have the privilege of serving as the 23rd President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and to establish our Prophetic Witness on even higher ground. Together, we can continue the great legacy that we have inherited and write a new chapter in the Progressive Story that others may know of our faithfulness to the Progressive cause. To this end, I commit myself to you again, standing on the shoulders of those who have come before and forging a head for the cause of Christ and the liberation of our people.

Still proud to be Progressive,

Rev. Dr. Keith W. Byrd, Sr.

Rev. Dr. Keith W. Byrd, Sr.
First Vice President



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REV. THOMAS BOWEN
GENERAL SECRETARY

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

To the Esteemed Delegates, Officers, Members, and Friends of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.:

Grace and peace be unto you in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I am delighted to bring greetings to you as we gather in the nation's capital for the 65th Annual Session and Anniversary Celebration of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. Our God is a Sustainer! We gather under the theme "It's Time to Evaluate" declared by our President. Evaluation is more than measuring accomplishments; it is a sacred call to reflect upon and celebrate God's faithfulness. For sixty-five years, the Lord has guided PNBC through seasons of challenge and triumph, raising leaders, strengthening churches, transforming communities, and advancing the Kingdom of God. As our founder, Dr. L. Venchael Booth, wisely reminded us, "It was never greatness that accomplished anything. It was always God's grace."

I extend heartfelt appreciation to our President, Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples and Lady Margaret Peoples, whose leadership, vision, and steadfast commitment have helped guide PNBC during a pivotal season in our history. Together, they have helped position our convention for continued impact in the years ahead.

We gather at a consequential moment in the life of our Convention and our nation. Over the past year, our communities have faced significant social, political, economic, and moral challenges. Yet the witness of PNBC has always been strongest when the times demanded courage, conviction, and clarity. This curated session provides us with the opportunity to deliberate and decide how we will engage these challenges. Special thanks to our new General Secretary, Reverend Thomas Bowen, the Executive Board, Host Committee and headquarters staff, for their tireless effort to ensure our time together is strengthening and impactful.

In closing, I have been humbled by the privilege you have afforded me to serve as Second Vice-President alongside President Peoples and First Vice-President, Dr. Keith W. Bryd, Sr. Your encouragement and support along the way has deepened my love for PNBC and my commitment to our collective future. With your blessing and God's favor, I hope to continue making meaningful contributions to this future of this great Convention in partnership and through service as First Vice President. I solicit your prayers. May God bless you this week as we evaluate our past, celebrate our present and move confidently toward the future!

By Grace,

Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson

Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson
Second Vice-President



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2ND VICE PRESIDENT

REV. THOMAS BOWEN
GENERAL SECRETARY

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

Greetings PNBC Family and Friends,

Welcome to Washington, DC, our nation's capital and future 51st state, for the 65th Annual Session of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.

It is both an honor and a joy to welcome you to the nation's capital as we gather under the timely theme, "It's Time to Evaluate." As we come together for worship, prophetic preaching, fellowship, learning, and vision casting, I pray this Annual Session will renew our spirits and strengthen our collective commitment to the work God has called us to do in this critical hour.

In many ways, Washington, DC is holy ground for our Convention and for the ongoing struggle for justice and freedom in America. It is home to our national headquarters, the site of historic marches and movements, the home of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, sacred reminders of both how far we have come and how much work remains before us. At a time when voting rights remain under attack, when truth is too often distorted, when many communities are struggling beneath the weight of inequality and uncertainty, and when some within the Christian faith have lost their way, the witness and moral voice of the Church are needed now more than ever. The Progressive National Baptist Convention must continue to be a strong, prophetic, and compassionate voice in this nation and throughout the world.

This Annual Session is also especially meaningful to me personally, as it marks my first Annual Session serving as General Secretary of our beloved Convention. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have been tapped by our President, Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples, to serve you as he says, "For such a time as this." I look forward to laboring alongside our next president, officers, pastors, churches, and faithful members across this Convention as together we continue advancing the prophetic legacy and mission of PNBC.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for your faithfulness. And thank you for helping carry forward the work of justice, hope, and beloved community.

May God richly bless our time together in Washington, DC.

Blessings,

Rev. Thomas L. Bowen

Rev. Thomas L. Bowen General Secretary
General Secretary



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Greetings to the PNBC family and welcome to the historic 65th annual session.

We reverence the GOD that is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. We are grateful that this great God is immutable.

It has been our signal honor to serve the PNBC family over the last four years. The impact of the “Progressive witness” has transcended time and generations. We are appreciative for the opportunity to have served under the indelible legacy of PNBC.

The social context of this year’s convention reminds us that we must not stop. We must not recoil nor relent. Our voice is needed now like never before. As we gather under the banner of “It’s Time to Evaluate”; we evaluate so we can elevate. God has tremendously blessed us; and this invigorates our efforts for social justice, spiritual transformation, and for developing pastors and churches to be change agents for the kingdom of God.

We are grateful to serve under the steadfast leadership of our President and First Lady, Drs. David and Margaret Peoples, our dynamic first and second vice presidents, Dr. Keith W. Byrd, Sr. and Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson and our General Secretary, Rev. Thomas Bowen. Thank you for extending this honor to us.

Thank you to the program team that has worked with us these last four years. We salute Pastor Matthew Long, Rev. Desjean Jones, Rev. Kenneth Harris, and Sister Lois Simpson-Delk. A special appreciation goes to Bro. Ernest Coverson who has demonstrated unwavering support and insight. May GOD bless each of you!

For HIS Glory,
Pastor Jeffery L. Smith & Lady Heather G. Smith
Program Chairpersons, PNBC, inc.
Pastor, Bethlehem Temple MB Church

20 E 147th Street • Harvey, IL 60426
708-596-1190
Rev. Dr. J.C. Smith, Organizing Pastor
Rev. Jeffery L. Smith, Pastor
btemple@ameritech.net

Follow us on social media:



65th ANNUAL SESSION



BAPTIST CONVENTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND VICINITY

www.baptistconventiondcvicinity.com

Dr. André D. Ivy, President

Rev. Rodney A. Teal, Esq., Vice President at Large – Sis. Josie Thurston-Watson, Secretary

Reimagining Ministry: The Health and Well Being of The Church | III John 1:2-4

July 19, 2026

Dear President, Officers, Delegates and Messengers of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.,

On behalf of the Baptist Convention of DC & Vicinity, it is our highest honor to welcome you home.

Home — because Washington, DC is no stranger to the PNBC witness. This city has heard your voices, has felt your courage, and has been shaped by your conviction. And now, sixty-five years after this Convention was born in the fires of freedom and forged in the furnace of faith, you return to the nation's capitol — to the historic Omni Shoreham Hotel — to celebrate what God has done, to reckon with what remains undone, and to declare anew what shall never surrender.

You come at a consequential hour. The civil rights for which our forebears bled, marched, and died are once again under assault. The gains purchased with sweat and sacrifice are being contested in the courts, in the legislatures, and in the public square. The enemies of justice are emboldened. The hour is urgent. But the Lord is our strength

The PNBC was not born in comfortable times. It was born in protest. It was born in principle. It was born in the prophetic tradition of those who dared to believe that the Gospel demands justice, that the Church must speak where power abuses, and that no earthly force can silence the voice of God's people when we are resolved to stand. Sixty-five years have not diminished that resolve. They have deepened it.

We therefore receive you not merely as our guests, but as our partners in this clarion call: ***We shall not be moved.*** Not by threats, not by Presidents, not by the spirit of this age. We shall not be moved from our commitment to justice, to equity, to the full humanity of every person made in the image of God.

Welcome home. Now, let us work.

In the bonds of Christ and the cause of justice,

The Baptist Convention of DC & Vicinity

Rev. Rodney A. Teal, Esq.

President, BCDCV Caucus of PNBC Churches

Vice-President, BCDCV

Rev. Dr. André D. Ivy

Rev. Dr. André D. Ivy

President, BCDCV



Greetings

Progressive National Baptist Convention 65th Annual Session

July 19, 2026



As Mayor of Washington, DC, I am delighted to extend greetings to the organizers and attendees of the 65th Annual Session of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (PNBC).

As the denominational home of Martin Luther King Jr., PNBC has been a leading voice for justice, civil rights, and the inherent dignity of all people since its founding in 1961.

Under the theme, “It’s Time to Evaluate,” your 2026 Annual Convention’s programming will perpetuate your legacy of advancing equity and opportunity to empower our communities.

For those who are visiting Washington, DC, I hope you will have an opportunity to experience the city’s rich history, vibrant culture, and many landmarks that tell the story of our ongoing pursuit of equality.

On behalf of the nearly 700,000 residents of Washington, DC, you have my heartfelt thanks for your leadership and service to our communities and best wishes for a successful and memorable event.


Muriel Bowser
Mayor, Washington, DC





65TH ANNUAL SESSION

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

— WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA —

JULY 19–23, 2026



SHILOH
BAPTIST
CHURCH
EST. 1864

U STREET
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE TRAIL

Celebrating the legacy of
Black excellence, culture,
faith, and leadership
in the District of Columbia.
EST. 1920s

PNBC History



FREDERICK DOUGLASS
1818–1895
ABOLITIONIST • ORATOR • STATESMAN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

HOWARD
UNIVERSITY
1867

EMPOWERED BY THE PAST.
Advancing the Promise.

REV. DR.
DAVID R. PEOPLES
PRESIDENT

REV. DR.
KEITH W. BYRD, SR.
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

REV. DR.
JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

REV. THOMAS L. BOWEN
GENERAL SECRETARY

— FAITH • JUSTICE • ✝ LIBERATION • LEGACY —
PROCLAIMING CHRIST • TRANSFORMING LIVES • IMPACTING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1961

History of PNBC



The Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (PNBC) started as a movement which reflected the religious, social and political climate of its time. Its mission was to transform the traditional African American Baptist Convention as well as society. The formation of the convention was wrapped up in the Civil Rights movement and was begun by some of the same persons who were deeply involved in the freedom movement for African Americans in the United States. The need for a convention which would embrace tenure of office and leadership was a shared need among a cross section of Baptists.

From a religious perspective, churches from across the United States were suffering from an identity crisis fostered by racism, and conservative political policies and practices that supported segregation and U.S. apartheid. Theologians, seminary students and religious leaders were now openly questioning theological constructs and historical assumptions that were the basis for doctrinal practices that supported two societies in America: one White and the other Black. From a sociological perspective, the United States during the 60s was undergoing a massive social transformation. Movements of freedom and justice led by clergy and churchpersons throughout the United States began to spring up at every level and strata in society. African Americans who at one time accepted the status quo were now propelled into a whirlwind of change from those systems and structures that oppressed them. No structure was sacrosanct. Every African American institution was looked at with a critical eye. The institutional church was no exception. In a response to a letter sent out by the Rev. L. Venchael Booth, 33 delegates from 14 states met on November 14-15, 1961, at his church, the Zion Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Rev. J. Raymond Henderson, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles, California, presided over the meeting. As a result of this two-day intensive organizational meeting, the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. was formed.

As a result of the 1961 founding meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, Rev. T. M. Chambers was elected as its first President. Leadership from across the United States joined the Progressive Baptist family and spawned the Progressive National Baptist Movement. Issues of freedom, civil and human rights, and progressive ideas became the cornerstone for the convention. The PNBC became a new Christian movement which included an array of social and political concerns embodied in its founding principles of Fellowship, Progress, Service and Peace.

The PNBC movement supported Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s struggle for freedom for African Americans. It was the PNBC that provided a denominational home for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and many of the Baptist leaders in the Civil Rights Movement. They all became important forces in the life and work of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.

continued...



As a result of this involvement from members of the Civil Rights Movement, the centerpiece of the PNBC witness became one of social justice and human liberation as a mandate of the Gospel. In essence, the PNBC became a living African American Christian organism, vibrant with energy and committed to the social gospel for the transformation of U.S. society. From its very beginning, distinctive characteristics emerged that separated it from other African American Baptist Conventions: 1) Tenure in office, 2) a unified giving program and 3) kingdom priorities. The PNBC has grown from 33 members at its founding meeting to over 2.5 million members, (1.5 million in the United States and over one million around the globe). The PNBC is now organized into five regions. The regions include the Southern Region, the Southwest Region, the Eastern Region, the Midwest Region and the International Region. These regions meet once a year to carry out the programs of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

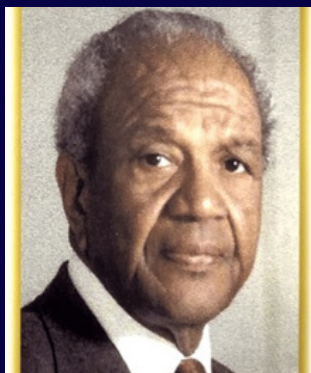
Civil Rights Advocacy and Activism

In no area is the stewardship of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., more radiant than in the struggle for civil rights and human rights. The Convention was organized at the height of the Civil Rights Movement and the career of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Progressive National Baptist Convention was formed to give full voice, sterling leadership and active support to the American and world fight for human freedom. The convention was the convention-denominational home and platform for the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who addressed every annual session of the Convention until his death in 1968. In his valedictory of that year, President Gardner C. Taylor said, "As we remember Dr. Martin King's trials and triumphs, we remember our part in them. Progressive Baptists may take justifiable pride in the unassailable fact which must now forever be true, that when he had no spiritual (denominational) home among Black Baptists, cast out from the house of his Fathers, Progressive Baptist gave him a Black Baptist (denominational) residence. You provided him with an address in the community of Black Baptists. Let angels record that truth and let succeeding generations bring their gratitude to your tent door."

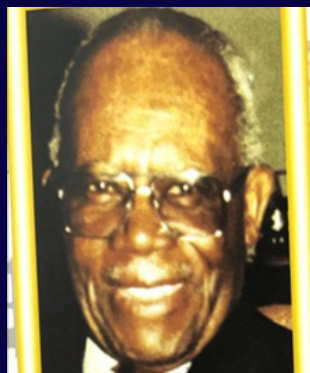
New generations of Progressive Baptists are continuing the struggle for full voter registration, education and participation, affirmative action against all forms of racism and bigotry, Black economic empowerment and development, equal educational opportunity, freedom of religion by the restraint of all Governmental authority and dictation in matters of faith, conscience and the church, the abolition of South African apartheid and the realization of universal human rights and total human liberation. At all annual and adjourned sessions there is scheduled a huge and impressive civil rights celebration, featuring a National civil rights leader to inform the constituents of the Convention of current issues and challenges, inspire them to continue and increase their participation in the struggle and garner fresh human and financial resources to advance the cause of full and total human rights.



Rev. T.M. Chambers
1st President
1961 - 1966



Rev. Dr. Gardner C. Taylor
2nd President
1966 - 1969



Rev. Dr. Emory Searcy
3rd President
1969 - 1970



Rev. Dr. E.L. Harrison
4th President
1970



Rev. L. Venechael Booth
5th President
1972 - 1974



Rev. Dr. Nelson Smith
6th President
1974 - 1976



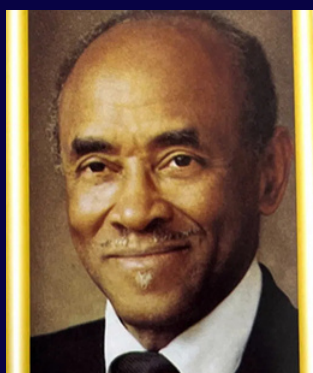
Rev. Dr. Thomas Kilgore
7th President
1976 - 1978



Rev. Dr. William A. Jones, Jr.
8th President
1978 - 1980



Rev. Dr. Ralph Canty
9th President
1980 - 1982



Rev. Dr. Charles W. Butler
10th President
1982 - 1984



Rev. Dr. Marshall Shephard
11th President
1985 - 1986



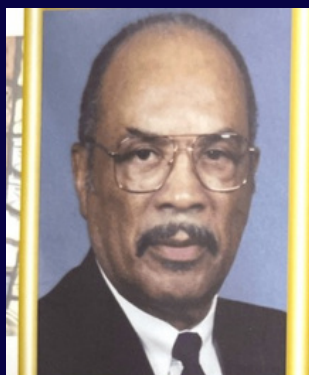
Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr.
12th President
1986 - 1988



Rev. Dr. Fred C. Lofton
13th President
1988 - 1990



Rev. Dr. Charles G. Adams
14th President
1990 - 1994



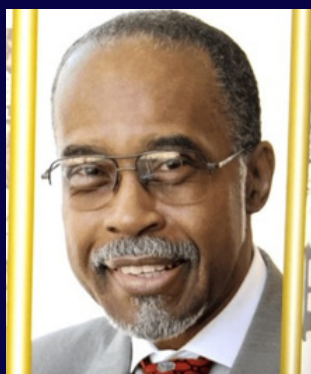
Rev. Bennett Walker Smith
15th President
1994 - 1998



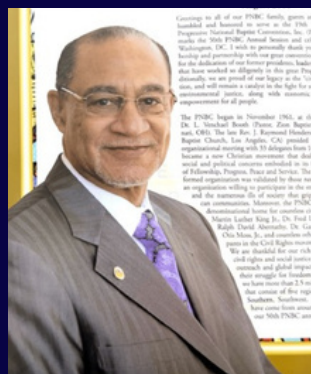
Rev. Dr. C. Mackey Daniels
16th President
1998 - 2002



Rev. Dr. Major L. Jemison
17th President
2002 - 2006



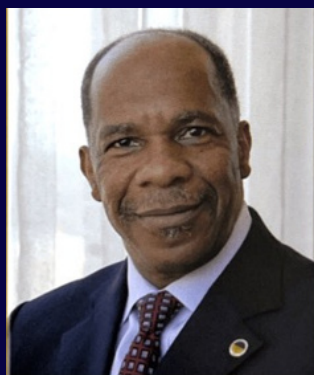
Rev. Dr. T. Dewitt Smith
18th President
2006 - 2010



Bishop Carroll Baltimore
19th President
2010 - 2014



Rev. Dr. James Perkins
20th President
2014 - 2018



Rev. Dr. Timothy Stewart
21st President
2018 - 2021



Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples
22nd President
2021 - Present



65TH ANNUAL SESSION

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

— WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA —

JULY 19-23, 2026

Highlighted Events



SHILOH
BAPTIST
CHURCH
EST. 1864

WASHINGTON, D.C.

U STREET AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

Celebrating the legacy of
Black excellence, culture,
faith, and leadership
in the District of Columbia.
EST. 1920s

HOWARD
UNIVERSITY
1867

MARCH
— ON —
WASHINGTON
FOR JOBS
& FREEDOM
AUGUST 28, 1963

FREDERICK DOUGLASS
1818 - 1895
ABOLITIONIST • ORATOR • STATESMAN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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65th ANNUAL SESSION



65th ANNUAL SESSION
GALA

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF
THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

Special Musical Guest
Brian Courtney Wilson

&
TENURED SERVICE OF
PRESIDENT, REV. DR. DAVID R. PEOPLES
&
FIRST LADY DR. MARGARET PEOPLES

SUNDAY, JULY 19TH - 6:00PM
THIS WILL BE A TICKETED
EVENT.
\$125.00

THE OMNI SHOREHAM HOTEL
2500 CALVERT STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 20008



Progressive National Baptist Convention

FAMILY COMEDY NIGHT
SUNDAY, JULY 19TH - 9:00PM
Free Admission

65th Tim Shropshire

ANNUAL
JULY 19TH - JULY 23RD SESSION

Omni Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, District of Columbia, 20008

REV. DR. DAVID R. PEOPLES, PRESIDENT
REV. DR. KEITH W. BYRD, SR., 1ST VICE PRESIDENT
REV. DR. JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT
REV. THOMAS L. BOWEN, GENERAL SECRETARY

WWW.PNBC.ORG

65th ANNUAL SESSION

Progressive National Baptist Convention

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS NIGHT

MONDAY, JULY 20TH - 5:00 PM

Dr. Marcus D. Cosby

65th

ANNUAL SESSION

JULY 19TH - JULY 23RD

Omni Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, District of Columbia, 20008

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REV. DR. JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT
REV. THOMAS L. BOWEN, GENERAL SECRETARY

WWW.PNBC.ORG



65th ANNUAL

JULY 19TH - JULY 23RD

IT'S TIME to EVALUATE SESSION

Pre 65th Annual Session Musical with
Internationally Known
Gospel Recording Artist
Donald Lawrence and Company

Free Admission
July 20th - 7:00 PM

Omni Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, District of Columbia, 20008

REV. DR. DAVID R. PEOPLES, PRESIDENT
REV. DR. KEITH W. BYRD, SR., 1ST VICE PRESIDENT
REV. DR. JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT
REV. THOMAS BOWEN, GENERAL SECRETARY

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65th
ANNUAL
SESSION

Progressive National Baptist Convention

OPENING MORNING SESSION

TUESDAY, JULY 21ST - 10:00AM

Rev. Marissa R. Farrow

65th
ANNUAL
JULY 19TH - JULY 23RD SESSION

Omni Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, District of Columbia, 20008

REV. DR. DAVID R. PEOPLES, PRESIDENT
REV. DR. KEITH W. BYRD, SR., 1ST VICE PRESIDENT
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65th
ANNUAL
SESSION

65th
ANNUAL
SESSION



PROGRESSIVE
NATIONAL BAPTIST
CONVENTION, INC.

Women's LUNCHEON

Tuesday, July 21st

12:30 PM

Omni Shoreham Hotel

Cost: \$105.00

Ticket Purchase: PNBC.org

*Join us for an afternoon of
fellowship, inspiration, and celebration.*



Dr. Thelma Dixon
Vice President at Large,
Women's Department

Speaker:
**Congressman
James E. Clyburn**

Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples, *President*
Rev. Dr. Keith W. Byrd, Sr., *1st Vice President*
Rev. Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson, *2nd Vice President*
Rev. Thomas L. Bowen, *General Secretary*

65th ANNUAL SESSION

Progressive National Baptist Convention

LATE NIGHT PREACHER
TUESDAY, JULY 21ST - 9:00PM

Dr. E. Dewey Smith, Jr.

65th
ANNUAL
JULY 19TH - JULY 23RD **SESSION**

Omni Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, District of Columbia, 20008

REV. DR. DAVID R. PEOPLES, PRESIDENT
REV. DR. KEITH W. BYRD, SR., 1ST VICE PRESIDENT
REV. DR. JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT
REV. THOMAS L. BOWEN, GENERAL SECRETARY

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Progressive National Baptist Convention

GARDNER C. TAYLOR HOUR
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22ND - 12 NOON

Dr. Gina Stewart

65th
ANNUAL
JULY 19TH - JULY 23RD **SESSION**

Omni Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, District of Columbia, 20008

REV. DR. DAVID R. PEOPLES, PRESIDENT
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65TH ANNUAL SESSION

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

— WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA —

JULY 19-23, 2026

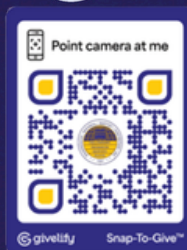
Departmental Programs

SHILOH
BAPTIST
CHURCH
EST. 1864

WASHINGTON, D.C.

U STREET
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE TRAIL

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EST. 1920s



MARCH
— ON —
WASHINGTON
FOR JOBS
& FREEDOM
AUGUST 28, 1963

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1818 - 1895
ABOLITIONIST • ORATOR • STATESMAN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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GENERAL SECRETARY

FAITH • JUSTICE • ✝ LIBERATION • LEGACY

PROCLAIMING CHRIST • TRANSFORMING LIVES • IMPACTING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1961

Wednesday / July 22, 2026

8:45AM - Congress of Christian Education Commencement

Rev. Dr. Clifton Caldwell, Presiding
Vice President at Large

Processional Staff and Instructors
Call to Worship
Scripture Class Real Talk
Prayer of Invocation Class—900.10
Pledges
 Bible Class “No Cap”
 Christian Flag Class – 409.16
 US Flag Class-Action Plan for Healing

Greetings Dr. Randy Ware, *Vice President*

Sis. Walette Stroud,
Christian Education Executive Director, PNBC

Rev. Thomas Bowen
General Secretary, PNBC

Dr. David People, *President PNBC*

Music

Introduction of Officers Sis Mary Ann Tibbett
Director General PNBC

Offering Minister Marsha Earl,
Deputy Director General, PNBC

Congress Recap/Overview Sis. Cheryl Davis-Reeves, *Assistant Dean, PNBC*

Dean’s Report Sis. Camille Burse, *Dean, PNBC*

President’s Observations
and Reflections/ Meditation Dr. Clifton Caldwell
Vice President at Large,
Congress of Christian Education, PNBC

Special Presentation

Closing remarks

Benediction Deacon Regina Gibson

Recessional

Tuesday / July 21, 2026

DAY ONE

Angelina Fox (TN)
2nd Vice President, Presiding

Devotion..... Indiana/Tennessee

GREETINGS, FELLOWSHIP, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Adoption of Program

Opening Remarks

Diane Clements Walton (IL), President

Review: CPR and First Aids Victoria Jackson (TN)

PRESENTATIONS: WHO IS IN CHARGE?

1. Vaccines, Vaccinations & Immunizations..... Diane Clements Walton (IL)

2. The White House New Dietary Guidelines Elaine Lee (IN)

Closing Prayer..... Birdie Morris (IN)

Wednesday / July 22, 2026

DAY 2

Elaine Lee (MI), Presiding
1st Vice President

Devotion..... Illinois/Michigan

Business Period:

Reports:

Slate

Finance Report

Budget

The State Presidents UPDATES

Open Discussion: Women's Health Round Table

Vice President's at Large Annual Address
Diane Clements-Walton (IL)

Greetings.....Rev. David People (KY), President

Dr. Keith W. Byrd, Sr., (DC) 1st Vice President

Dr. Jacqueline Thompson (CA) 2nd Vice President

Closing Prayer..... Birdie Morris (IN)



Laymen's Department 64th Annual Session
July 19-23, 2026

Theme: "It's Time to Evaluate"

1 Corinthians 15:8-22

Sub-Theme: "We are better together"

Hebrews 10:24-25

Foreword

Praise be to God for all the good things HE has done for the Laymen of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. How truly blessed are the men and women who have been associated with the Laymen's Department. From the beginning, God has sent Laymen to carry the torch of Fellowship, Progress, Service and Peace. Some of the names are noted in this program. God has taken them from the dusty struggles of time to inherit the gleaming heights of eternity. As others continue the journey, we are very fortunate to have men and women who have tough minds, tender hearts, diligent hands and unlimited energy. We thank God for allowing us Laymen to be of service to humanity, supporters of our convention and keepers of the dreams of those great men of God on whose shoulders we stand. We were created as kings, to reign in Christ Jesus over the triple kingdoms of spirit, soul, and body, to the glory of God the Father. As we celebrate our 64th Anniversary in the year of our Lord, 2026, we thank God for HIS steadfast faith, unmeasurable love, limitless mercy, gracious grace and saving blessings



It's Time!

**"To evaluate – our
privilege to serve and
our fervent defense of
the faith"**
1 Corinthians 15:8-22

REV. DR. DAVID R. PEOPLES
PRESIDENT

DR. KEITH W. BYRD, SR.
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

DR. JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

REV. THOMAS BOWEN
GENERAL SECRETARY

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

Greetings Brethren:

Welcome to our 65th Annual Session of the Progressive National Convention, Inc. and the 64th Session of the Laymen's Department, we are looking forward to additional successes as we gather in the Nation's Capital.

Almighty God has been mighty good to us as Laymen as we have traveled from city to city promoting fellowship, service, progress and peace. We have been diligent in spreading the Good News to the needy, the disenfranchised, the lost and to anyone who does not know Jesus. We have now arrived in DC more than ready for the assignment.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Deacon Benjamin F. Johnson (NC) for giving me my start as a Laymen many years ago as well as those on whose shoulders I now stand. Never forget from whence you came.

Faithfully serving,

Deacon Melvin L. Smith, Jr.
Vice President-at-Large, PNBC Laymen



PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.
601-50TH STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20019
(202) 396.0558 or (800) 876.7622 TOLL FREE
WWW.PNBC.ORG

NATIONAL OFFICERS

President.....	Deacon Melvin L Smith, Jr (DC)
First Vice President.....	Deacon Jimmy L Harrington (SC)
Second Vice President.....	Deacon Michael Maxwell (TN)
Recording Secretary.....	Deacon Robert Borrum (MS)
Assistant Recording Secretary.....	OPEN
Corresponding Secretary.....	Deacon Michael Maxwell (TN)
Assistant Corresponding Secretary.....	OPEN
Treasurer.....	Deacon Calvin Larts (MD)
Financial Secretary.....	Deacon Wallace Turman (AL)

Regional Vice Presidents-at-Large

Eastern.....	Deacon Calvin Larts (MD)
MidWest.....	Deacon George Williams (IN)
Southern.....	Deacon Michael Maxwell (TN)
Southwest.....	Deacon Michael Johnson (CA)

History of the PNBC Laymen

Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. Laymen are celebrating their 64th Year of service to God, our beloved convention and to fellow laypersons in the year of our Lord and Savior, 2025. With the blessings of God and the movement of some courageous men, the Laymen's Department was organized in 1962 and was one of the first departments authorized under the banner of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, INC. Deacons John Hunter, (DC), Nehemiah Taylor (DC), Chester Dixon (IL), Hugh Morris (NJ), Brothers Roy Riser (IL) and E. Person were present at the inception of the PNBC Laymen's Department. Deacon Chester Dixon (IL) was elected as the first President of the Laymen's Movement (the name was later changed to the Laymen's Department. This historical event took place at the Union Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania during the week of September 4-9, 1962.

Some of President Dixon's officers were:

First Vice President.....	Deacon Hugh Morris (NJ)
Second Vice President.....	Brother Roy Riser (CA)
Treasurer.....	Brother E. Person

The Laymen were endowed with wisdom, stamina and have given themselves to the work that God has ordained for them to perform in support of this great convention. The confirmation of our Laymen's growth, both spiritually and financially, is evidenced in the increased membership, glowing fellowship and sterling accomplishments over the years. As the Laymen have grown in wisdom and stature in their various communities, working with local churches, clergy and laypersons (male and female), their posture has been enhanced as a national body.

In the early days of the Laymen Movement, the brothers held their meetings in the hotel room of one of the Laymen. There, they began to organize as a department of the parent body. This also commenced the beginning of better meeting locations.

One of the highlights of the early days was a dinner sponsored by the Laymen's Department. A noted civic leader or an elected official was invited to speak. This usually happened on Monday night before the official opening session of the Convention.

Gradually after much prayer and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, the Laymen continued to make progress as a force in the Convention. A class was designed to meet the hunger and thirst of the Laymen to gain knowledge and wisdom in performing their duties as deacons with distinction. The class enabled the men to be able to share best practices as we performed as servants of God and in support of our pastors, churches and communities.

Deacon Chester Dixon encouraged the brothers to organize Laymen groups in their own churches. Deacons Taylor, Hunter and Wilson organized the DC Laymen. The seed for a great national organization of Laymen continued under the leadership of Brother Roy Riser (CA), Deacon John Hunter (DC) and Dr. Ernest Ross (GA), who encouraged fundraising with the help of Robert Horton (MI) who helped establish the Monday Night Banquet. Deacon Nehemiah Taylor (DC) was the mover behind the Queens Contest that was very fruitful for the Laymen's Department. Deacon Roosevelt Demus (AL) started a special class for Laymen. Deacon Cyprian Belle, Sr (NY) helped charter the course for Laymen lapel pins and the \$1 Per Week Club. His widow, Sister Anna Belle contributed \$ 52.00 many years in recognition of her husband.

Recognizing the steadfastness and power of these men of God, the parent body began to request our help and support on special projects. In October 1980, under the leadership of Deacon Carey Howard (GA), the DC Laymen with support from the PNBC Laymen's Department decided to be responsible for the renovation of the Harrison (Trades) Building near the PNBC Headquarters and Nannie Helen Burroughs School. The building has been used for various city and national functions. Presently, a private day school for youth with learning abilities occupies the building.

Deacon Benjamin F. Johnson (DC) became the first four-year President of the Laymen's Department. He led the department with distinction and is still sought after by Presidents of the PNBC for his wise counseling and keen insight into PNBC business.

In 1993-1994, the Laymen's Department added another dimension of service with Street Ministry in every city where the parent body met. The Evangelistic arm of the Laymen afforded men and women the opportunity to canvas local communities seeking to offer Christ to those who had not made a commitment to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Laymen would hand out religious tracts, pray with people, direct them to a local church and invite them to become workers in the body of Christ. We would also invite them to come and attend the

various sessions of the PNBC Convention. Also needed items for survival – food, health items, blankets, etc., - were provided for the needy.

One of the most notable projects that was completed by the Laymen was the installation of the Wrought iron fence around PNBC Headquarters. Rev. Dr. Charles Adams, 14th PNBC President, endorsed the project and donated the first \$ 1,000 setting the construction on a successful course. Laymen have always been instrumental in providing other support to PNBC Headquarters and staff.

In recent years, the Laymen have added a new facet of services to its agenda in an ever-changing World. We heeded the clarion call to wake a nation through our Social Justice programs and Voter Rights presentations. At these settings notable professionals – lawyers, social scientists, youth advocates and workers who deal with individual adjudication hold a forum to discuss and address issues that affect us locally, regionally, national and racially. We believe these issues can benefit by helping to better be prepared and aware of social justice issues, possibly prevent false incarceration and improper treatment of our black brothers and sisters.

Additionally, to form a stronger bond, the Laymen host a luncheon in the host city of the Convention, when practical, to forge a closer and dynamic relationship among the brethren. On the last night of the Parent Body Session, you can always count on the Laymen, who are Deacons, to support in the serving of Holy Communion.

As in any movement, there have been a few men who have provided distinguished service and leadership to the Laymen cause and to convention goals. We remember those Laymen on whose shoulders we stand and acknowledge them for their selfish and dedicated service. Deacon Clarence Horton (MI), Deacon Everette Burwell (DC), Deacon Nehemiah Taylor (DC), Deacon John D. Hunter (DC), Deacon Roosevelt Demus (AL), Deacon William Agee (MI), Deacon Alfred O'Neil (DC), (first Laymen to pray during an annual session parent body meeting), Trustee Thomas Blackmon (DC), Deacon Cyprian Belle (NY), Deacon Ben Winslow (NV), and the Distinguished Gentleman from North Carolina from by way of DC, Deacon Benjamin Johnson, to name a few.

The torch of leadership and services continues with men like Deacon Clarence Robertson (NY), Rev. Thurman Caldwell (MO), Deacon Osie Jackson (DC), Deacon Maurice Williams (NC), Deacon Michael Johnson (CA), Deacon George Williams (IN), Deacon Wallace Turman (AL) and the torch has now been passed to Deacon Melvin L. Smith, Jr. (DC). Our steadfast support will continue.

In this 64th year of service, we add another name to the list of Distinguished Laymen. The name Of Deacon Leonard R. Sanders (MD) will be included with these men of distinction. Deacon Sanders has served with great distinction at the local, regional and national level as National Secretary, Treasurer and Special Assistant to several Presidents.

The Laymen of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. are endowed with vision, an abiding faith, and a never-ending trust in our God, and we give ourselves to the work that God has ordained for us in this great convention. With the blessings of God and His Divine Guidance, women, the support of our spouses, our pastors and churches and our beloved convention, the Progressive National Baptist Convention Laymen will continue to do the will of the Master as servant leaders forging the way for the next generation of Laymen. "We will secure our future: Pray - We are a people of progress"

The Laymen have proudly served with distinction throughout this Convention. We encourage men in every city and state to consider becoming a part of God's workmen.

"If God before us, who can be against us"

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Laymen's Evangelistic Outreach

DEACON JIMMY HARRINGTON (SC), PRESIDING
DEACON MICHAEL MAXWELL (TN) CO-PRESIDER

1:00 pm

CONGRESS CLASSES

5:30 PM

MISSIONS NIGHT
(SPECIAL Program)

TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2026

**Congress Classes
7:00 AM – 9:45 AM**

OFFICIAL PNBC 64TH ANNUAL SESSION OPENING

2:00 PM
DEPARTMENT MEETING

DEACON MELVIN L. SMITH, JR. (DC), PRESIDING
VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE, PNBC LAYMEN

DEVOTIONS..... ALL REGIONS

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS DEACON ROBERT BORRUM (TN)
RECORDING SECRETARY

MINUTES OF THE 63rd ANNUAL SESSION..... DEACON ROBERT BORRUM (MS)

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION DEACON JIMMY L. HARRINGTON (SC)
FIRST TIME ATTENDEES..... LAYMEN FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

ANNUAL SESSION OVERVIEW..... DEACON MICHAEL MAXWELL (TN)
LAYMEN SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEACON MICHAEL JOHNSON (CA) (EVANGELISM
OUTREACH..... DEACON MICHAEL MAXWELL (TN)
(SOCIAL JUSTICE DEACON MAURICE WILLIAMS (N
NOMINATING/ DEACON MICHAEL JOHNSON (CA)
ELECTIONS..... DEACON EDWARD TURNER (NY)
SOUVENIRS DEACON MAURICE WILLIAMS (NC)
OTHER COMMITTEES

A LAYMEN'S MESSAGE (TBA)

OPEN DISCUSSION/COMMENTS

CLOSING PRAYER

REGIONAL CAUCUSES 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026

2:00PM - 4:30PM

DEPARTMENT MEETING

DEACON JIMMY L. HARRINGTON (SC), PRESIDING
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, PNBC LAYMEN DEPARTMENT

DEVOTIONS..... ALL REGIONS

SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM

DEACON MAURICE WILLIAMS (NC), FACILITATOR

UNFINISHED BUSIBESS

FINAL FINANCE REPORT DEACON WALLACE TURMAN (AL)

ANNUAL SESSION IN REVIEW DEACON MICHAEL MAXWELL (TN)

SUMMARY OF MINUTES DEACON ROBERT BORRUM (TN)

IN MEMORIAM

STATE OF THE LAYMEN ADDRESS

DEACON MELVIN L. SMITH, JR. (DC)
VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE

PRESENTATIONS

REMARKS REV. DR. DAVID R. PEOPLES

DEACON MELVIN L. SMITH, JR (DC)
Vice President at Large, Laymen

CLOSING PRAYER 2026

HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS

The men of the Laymen's Department have served as elected officers and in appointed positions in this convention. Because of the proximity of PNBC Headquarters and the ability to account for Convention finances, many of our early Treasurers have been from the DC Metropolitan area. These include:

Elected Office

Deacon John D. Hunter (DC)	Treasurer
Deacon Everette E. Burwell, Sr.	Treasurer
Deacon Lonnie Kemp (DC)	Treasurer
Deacon Leonard R. Sanders (MD)	National Secretary and Treasurer
Deacon Maurice Williams (MD)	Treasurer
Deacon Willie H. Griffin (VA)	Treasurer
Deacon Calvin Larts (MD) T	Treasurer and Trustee

Appointed Positions

Deacon Benjamin F. Johnson (NC)	President's Task Force
Deacon Maurice Williams (MD)	PNBC Budget Committee
Deacon Melvin L. Smith, Jr. (DC)	PNBC Community Development Corporation
3Deacon Leonard R. Sanders (MD)	Special Assistant to the President/General Secretary

The Laymen have also served in many and varied positions at the local, state and regional levels of the Convention.

The Laymen's Department Presidents from 1962 to Current Date:

1962 – 1967	Chester E. Dixon, Chicago, IL
1967 – 1969	Roy Riser, Los Angeles, CA
1969 – 1971	John D. Hunter, Washington, DC
1971 – 1973	Ernest B. Ross, Atlanta, GA
1973 – 1975	Nehemiah Taylor, Washington, DC
1975 – 1977	Roosevelt Demus, Montgomery, AL
1977 – 1979	Cyprian Belle, Sr. Brooklyn, NY
1979 – 1981	Carey Howard, Atlanta, GA
1981 – 1983	Willie G. Ray, Detroit, MI
1983 – 1985	Theodore Wilson, Washington, DC
1985 – 1987	Everette E. Burwell, Sr., Clarksville, VA
1987 – 1989	Samuel L. Richardson, Oklahoma City, OK
1989 – 1991	Bennie Slate, Detroit, MI
1991 – 1995	Benjamin F. Johnson, Washington, DC

1995 – 1999	William White, Oakland, CA
1999 – 2003	Thurmond Caldwell, Kansas City, MO
2003 – 2007	Wilmer Jones, New Orleans, LA
2007 – 2011	Clarence Robertson, New York, NY
2011 – 2015	Michael A. Johnson, Los Angeles, CA
2015 – 2019	George Williams, Hammond, IN
2019 – 2023	Wallace Turman, Huntsville, AL
2013 – Present	Melvin L. Smith, Jr., Washington, DC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks and appreciation are extended to everyone who helped in the completion of the information contained herein. Large or small, a little help is better than none.

It takes good teamwork to get a good job done. Go Team.

We salute Deacon Benjamin F. Johnson and Deacon Leonard R. Sanders for providing historical information.

Lastly, I want to thank Deacon Jimmy Harrington, Deacon Michael Maxwell and all regional Vice Presidents-at-Large for their efforts in their respective regions to ensure that our 64th Annual Session will be successful.

Trusting in God,

Deacon Melvin L. Smith, Jr.

Deacon Melvin L. Smith, Jr.
President, PNBC Laymen



Pastor's & Minister's Division

Progressive National Baptist Convention

65th Annual Session | July 19-23, 2026

Washington, DC

Tuesday, July 21, 2026 (8:00-10:00 a.m.)

Check In: Rev. Dr. Jamie Eaddy

The Focusing Question for our Gathering Discussion: Rev. Dr. Gary Simpson and
Rev. Donna Owusu-Ansah

Tuesday, July 21, 2026 (2:30-4:30 p.m.)

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Adolphus Lacey

Presentation: Dr. Raquel Lettsome

Wednesday, July 22, 2026 (8:00-10:00 a.m.)

Preacher: Rev. Maureen Gerald

Presentation: Dr. Kenneth Ngwa

Wednesday, July 22, 2026 (1:30-3:30 p.m.)

Preacher: Rev. Jeffrey L. Williams

Practicum: Dr. Kenneth Ngwa



Rev. Dr. Jamie Eaddy

Rev. Dr. Jamie Eaddy is a womanist pastoral theologian, thanatologist, chaplain, grief doula and poet committed to justice-rooted care. Founder of Thoughtful Transitions, LLC and The Ratchet Grief Project®, she guides communities — especially the disenfranchised — to befriend grief and lament as sacred, liberating, and generative spiritual practices.



Rev. Dr. Adolph C. Lacey

The Reverend Dr. Adolphus C. Lacey is pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, where his visionary leadership has helped shape a more just, inclusive, and community-centered ministry. Under his pastorate, Bethany has expanded its witness through gender-inclusive ministry, the ordination of its first female minister, the integration of women into the diaconate, partnership with Pride in the Pews in affirmation of the LGBTQ+ community, and the launch of the T.R.I.U.M.P.H. mental health ministry. A pastor, theologian, professor, author, and activist, Dr. Lacey is committed to building congregations and communities that embody faith, compassion, and courageous public witness.



Rev. Dr. Raquel S. Lettsome

The Reverend Raquel St. Clair Lettsome, Ph.D. is the Professor of New Testament and Womanist Biblical Interpretation at Eden Theological Seminary (St. Louis, MO). She is also the Founder & President of RSL Ministries (www.rslministries.com), a 501(c)3 organization, where she works with faith leaders and lay people to interpret Scripture more effectively for preaching, teaching, and living. Affectionately known as "Rev. Raquel," Dr. Lettsome is committed to excellence and loves to help people move forward in their lives and ministries.



Dr. Kenneth Ngwa

Kenneth Ngwa is the inaugural Donald Casper Professor of Hebrew Bible and African Biblical Hermeneutics at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. Previously the John Fletcher Hurst Professor of Hebrew Bible at Drew Theological School, Ngwa carries multiple passions for biblical studies, spiritual growth, whole person health, and flourishing. Born in Cameroon, Ngwa earned his Master of Divinity in Cameroon (1994), and his Master of Theology (2000) and PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary (2004). He is the founding director of the Religion and Global Health Forum (RGHF) – an organization that examines the intersections of spirituality, faith, medicine, and health.



Rev. Jeffrey L. Williams

Pastor Jeffery L. Williams was licensed to preach at the early age of 14, at the Rock of Ages Baptist Church, Greenville SC. Pastor Williams was ordained in 2006. Currently Pastor Williams serves as the Pastor of the Golden View Baptist Church in Fountain Inn, SC. Pastor Williams is a member of the Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc, South Carolina E&M Baptist Convention, and The Baptist Ministers' Fellowship of Greenville & Vicinity. Most of all Pastor Williams is a prolific preacher who is saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost and fire that is proclaiming to the world "He who the Son sets free is free indeed. He is happily married to Lady Monique Barksdale Williams and to this union they have four sons Noah, Eden, Prince Judah and Micah.



**Rev. Donna Owusu-
Ansah**



Rev. Maureen Gerald



Rev. Dr. Gary Simpson

Wednesday / July 22, 2026

**2:00PM - STATE PRESIDENT DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL MEETING**

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Call to Order - President

Song

Opening Prayer

Devotional Meditation (TBA)

Introductions

Business Period

A. Departmental Concerns

B. Departmental Recommendations

The Spoken Word (TBA)

Adjournment

We Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Us."

64th Annual session Women's Department

Dr. Thelma Dixon – Presiding
Vice President at Large

Monday July, 20, 2026 11:00AM - 12:30PM

A Call to Order/Opening Statement.....Dr. Thelma Dixon, VP at Large
Praise and Worship Spiritual Life Unit
Welcome to First timers.....Kimberly Tomlin 2nd Vice
Update for Mannie Helen Burroughs School Sis. Hycia Johnson/Jamison



Business Session

“Honoring Our Legacy — Building Our Future”

What keeps younger women from joining?

What would make us more welcoming?

Are we open to change?

What traditions must stay — and what can evolve? (changing over time)

How can we personally invite 3 younger women to join this year?

Closing Remarks /AdjournmentPresident Dixon

Women's Department Annual



Tuesday July 21, 12:00 P.M.

2nd Vice President Kimberly Tomlin - Coordinator
(Program under separate cover)

64th Annual Session Women's Department
Dr. Thelma Dixon, Vice President at Large – Presiding

Tuesday July,21, 2026 2:30PM - 4:30PM

Call to Order/Opening Statement VP at Large Dr. Thelma Dixon

Moments of Silence

Acceptance of Agenda Sis. Sherl Streeter, Program Chair
Praise & Worship Spiritual Life Unit
Greeting Washington D. C. Representative
Roll Call of Officers Sis. Delores Scott, Secretary
Welcome/First Timers Kimberly Tomlin 2nd Vice President

Approval of Minutes – Mid-Winter Board, 2025

Report Updates:

Finance-/Budget Sis. Brenda Cherry
Special Project Sis. Betty T. Chandler
Progressive Day of Prayer Corrine Skerrit
Scholarship Committee Lillian Wormley Scales
MLW Scholarship Luncheon Arlene Tyler

Worship In Song

Mobile Outreach Rev. Melissa Paige, Chair
Dept. Annual Luncheon.....Kimberly Tomblin 2nd VP
Women's Dept. Seminar.....Rev. Sylvia Coleman
Nominating Committee Sis. Henrietta Scott
Units in Action..... Valeria Robinson 1st VP

Teamwork
Announcements
Closing Prayer
Adjournment

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

64th Annual Session Women's Department in Session

The President's Hour, Dr. Thelma Dixon

2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

1st Vice President Sis. Valarie Robinson, presiding

Music Prelude



Processional **“We Have Come this far by Faith”**
Officers, Former Presidents, Regional Presidents, Chairs, Special Guest

Moments of Silence

Devotional Spiritual Life Unit
Greeting Washington, DC. Representative
Worship in Music **“Hear the Call Progressive Women”**
Presentations: Local Outreach Rev. Melissa Paige, Chair
Special Project (Mercy Ships) Sis. Betty Chandler, Chair
Presentation - Love & Sunshine Unit Sis. Gloria Staples, Chair
Special Appeal Rev. Maria Newton Tabon'
Introduction of President Dr. Lucious Dixon
Selection Women's Choir of PNBC Women's Department

President's Stewardship Report/ Message

Vice President at Large Dr. Thelma Dixon

Worship in Songs Women's Choir of PNBC Women's Department

Receiving President's Report

Special Presentations

Closing Remarks

Sounding of the Gavel VP at Large Dr. Thelma Dixon

Closing Prayer



USHERS DEPARTMENT
Sister Patricia Sewell (WVA),
Vice President at Large

Monday, July 20, 2026

4:30 -5:30 PM Department Executive Board Meeting
5:30 – 6:30 PM Ushers Orientation
7:00 PM..... Convention Program

(Ushers on Duty)

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

2:30PM

Official Call to Order/Opening Statement

Sister Patricia Sewell (WVA), Presiding
Vice President at Large

Devotional Period **Chaplain**

Jeanette Conley (SC)

Assistant Chaplains

Cynthia Drew (CA) &

Deacon Debra Hicks (MI)

Reading and Adoption of Program Beverly Duckett (IN)
2nd Vice President

Welcome Carolyn Dudley (DC)
Milliceson Hayes (MD) Alt.

Response Kathy Island (CA)

Welcome Newcomers & Recognition
of Local, State, & Regional Officers Sister Verdell Beckman,
1st Vice President

Reading of the Minutes Milliceson Hayes (MD)

Financial Report..... Martha Borrum (MS)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

History of Ushers Department Margaret Black (MI)

By Laws Frances Shepherd (CA)

Wellness Carolyn Dudley (DC)

Budget Verdell Beckman (SC)

Ministry of Ushering Gertha Wright (NY)

Instructions & Drilling Pauline Allen (NY) Instructor

Assistant Instructor Orlando Epting (CA)

Usher's Choir Ella Carr (IN)

Ushers Fellowship..... Mattie Williams (IL)

Announcement and Remarks Patricia Sewell (WV)
Vice President at Large

Closing Prayer Chaplains

6:30 PM..... Ushers on Duty

Late Night Preaching Ushers on Duty

Regions _____

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

2:00PM

Sister Beverly Duckett (IN), Presiding
2nd Vice President

Devotion Chaplains
Jeanette Conkley (SC)
Cynthia Drew (CA)

Reading of the Minutes Milliceson Hayes (DC)

Financial Reports Martha Borom (MS)

Nomination Report Formal Ushers Vice Presidents

Daniel Martin (TX), Mattie Williams (IL) David Montgomery (SC)
Shirley Davis (IN) & Ella Carr (IN)

MEMORIAL PERIOD

Barbara Wells (CA)
Kathy Island (CA)

Midwest Region, Eastern Region, Southern Region, Southwest Region, International Region

PRESIDENTS HOUR

Sister Verdell Beckman, Presiding
1st Vice President

Fellowship Luncheon Mattie Williams (IL) (Chair)
Special Program Sonya Morris (IN) (Co-Chair)
Introduction of the President..... Brother Daniel Martin (TX)
Usher's Choir Sister Ella Carr (IN)
Annual Address..... Sister Patricia Sewell (WVA)
Vice President at Large - Ushers Department

Announcements/Remarks Sister Patricia Sewell (WVA)

Closing Prayer..... Chaplain



65TH ANNUAL SESSION

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

— WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA —

JULY 19–23, 2026

Daily/Nightly Programs

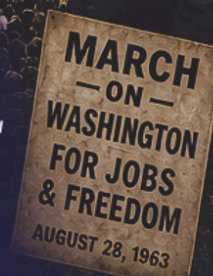


SHILOH
BAPTIST
CHURCH
EST. 1864

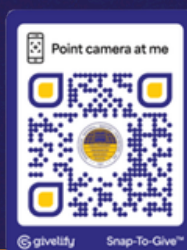
WASHINGTON, D.C.

U STREET
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE TRAIL

Celebrating the legacy of
Black excellence, culture,
faith, and leadership.
in the District of Columbia.
EST. 1920s



FREDERICK DOUGLASS
1818–1895
ABOLITIONIST • ORATOR • STATESMAN
WASHINGTON, D.C.



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY
1867

EMPOWERED BY THE PAST.
Advancing the Promise.

REV. DR.
DAVID R. PEOPLES
PRESIDENT

REV. DR.
KEITH W. BYRD, SR.
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

REV. DR.
JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

REV. THOMAS L. BOWEN
GENERAL SECRETARY

52

FAITH • JUSTICE • ✝ LIBERATION • LEGACY

PROCLAIMING CHRIST • TRANSFORMING LIVES • IMPACTING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1961



Sunday Laymen's Preacher

REV. DR. THOMAS BANNISTER, III

The Reverend Dr. T. Ashby Banister III is the son of Deacon Thomas A. Banister, Jr. and the Reverend Iris J. Banister of Rochester, NY. He is a 1998 graduate of Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. After attending the Divinity School at Duke University, earning a Master of Divinity in 2003, he completed doctoral studies in ministry at Virginia Union University's Samuel D. Proctor School of Theology in May 2010. In 2011, Dr. Banister furthered his studies at Oxford University's prestigious Proclaimer's Place Program, an intensive study with some of the brightest minds from around the globe in the Christian church today. As a result of his participation, he was selected by committee to preach for the United Kingdom's first African American Preaching Festival, a celebration designed to expose Europe to the power and artistry of Black preaching.

Dr. Banister has humbly served the Temple Memorial Baptist Church, one of High Point, North Carolina's historic congregations, since 2006. Prior to this assignment he served as youth pastor and associate musician at the Union Baptist Church, Durham, NC. Under his supervision and spiritual guidance there were over 250 youth and twenty-seven volunteers in the youth ministry at UBC. He simultaneously worked as an adjunct instructor in the Human Sciences Department at North Carolina Central University where he taught and counseled college students in a variety of disciplines.

With an insightful, vision-oriented approach to ministry, and a charismatic leadership style, Dr. Banister is dedicated to spreading the good news of the Gospel in whatever vineyard he is placed. He has been faithful to the gospel ministry since 1994, and was ordained by the American Baptist Churches, Inc. in 2004 at Union Baptist Church, Durham, NC. He also enjoys membership as a brother of the Eta Rho Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Above all other accomplishments, Dr. Banister is proud to be husband to the Rev. Dr. Tarsha Wiggins-Banister, and together they are the proud parents of two daughters, DeMaris, age 23, and DeMia, age 15

Sunday / July 19, 2026

3:00PM - Laymen's Evangelistic Outreach Service

Deacon Melvin L. Smith, Jr. (DC), Presiding
Vice President at Large - PNBC Laymen's Department

DevotionsAll Regions

Selection..... MCBC Praise Team

WelcomeDeacon Melvin L. Smith, Jr. (DC)

The Value of My Education.....Jayani Paris Lee
Isle of Patmos Baptist Church

Thomas B Hall
Mount Carmel Baptist Church

PresentationsDeacon Jimmy L Harrington (SC)
Deacon Michael Maxwell (TN)

Offering.....Deacon Wallace Turman (AL)
Deacon Michael Johnson (CA)
Deacon Robert Borrum (MS)

Introduction of The PreacherRev. Roshawne B. Harrod
Rev. David Harrod

Selection(s)

Proclamation of The WordRev. Dr. T. Ashby Banister, III
Pastor, Mount Carmel Baptist Church
Washington, DC

Call to Discipleship.....Rev. Dr. T. Ashby Banister, III

RemarksDeacon Melvin L. Smith, Jr. (DC)
Vice President At Large, Laymen

Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples (KY)
President, PNBC, Inc

Benediction



Sunday Gala Speaker

REV. SHAVON ARLINE-BRADLEY

Reverend Shavon Arline-Bradley serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), bringing more than two decades of dynamic leadership and expertise across the fields of healthcare, diversity, equity, inclusion, government affairs, and executive strategy. With over 21 years of professional experience, Rev. Arline-Bradley is a respected voice at the intersection of public health and social justice.

She is also the Founding Principal and Chief Executive Officer of R.E.A.C.H. Beyond Solutions, a consulting firm specializing in public health, DEI strategy, political and organizational development, risk management, government relations, and technical assistance. Under her leadership, the firm has become a trusted resource for institutions and organizations seeking transformative change rooted in equity and impact.

Rev. Arline-Bradley's commitment to public service was exemplified during her time in the Obama Administration, where she served as Senior Advisor and Director of External Engagement at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the 19th U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy. Prior to that federal appointment, she held key leadership roles at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) headquarters, serving as Executive Vice President of Strategic Planning and Partnerships and previously as Chief of Staff.

A proud native of southern New Jersey, Rev. Arline-Bradley holds a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and a Master of Public Health from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. She earned her Master of Divinity from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, where she was also ordained as a minister. Her pursuit of continued professional development led her to complete an Executive Certificate in Business Management from Howard University and an Executive Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Rev. Arline-Bradley is deeply grounded in her faith and family. She is a devoted wife to Andrew Bradley and a loving mother to their two children. She also enjoys all things sports, music, and traveling—especially to relaxing resort destinations.

Monday / July 20, 2026

5:30PM - Evangelism & Mission Night Service

Dr. Yashika Tippet, (IL), Worship Leader

Call to Worship	Rev. Debra Davis, (IL)
Scripture	Rev. Sharon Weeks
Opening Prayer	Rev. Marques Fletcher
Music Ministry	
Greeting	Pastor Tony Wise, (OK)
Mission Department Greeting	Rev. Charles W. Bynum (DC)
Award Presentation	Lady Merdean Gales & Sis. Smith <i>The Bennett Walker Smith, Sr. Award</i>
The Evangelism Strategic Plan	Pastor Terry D. Streeter (DC)
Offertory Period	Rev. Jeffery Williams (NC)
Introduction of the Preacher	Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples
Music Ministry	
Evangelism Message	Rev. Dr. Marcus Cosby <i>Senior Pastor, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Houston, TX</i>
The Invitation to Discipleship	
The Benediction	

Monday / July 20, 2026

7:30 PM - PNBC Musical

Dr. Clark Joseph & Lady Merdean Gales
Musical Hosts

Devotional Leaders – Eastern Region

Praise & Worship	Brother Maurice Griffin <i>National Worship Leader, PNBC</i>
Call to Gather	Rev. Dr. Dyheim T. Watson <i>Senior Pastor, First Nazarene Baptist Church Philadelphia, PA</i>
Scripture Reading	Rev. Dr. Clarence E. Wright <i>Senior Pastor, Love Zion Baptist Church Philadelphia, PA</i>
Prayer	Rev. Dr. Michael C. Harris <i>Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Passtown Coatsville, PA</i>
Selection	Voices of PNBC
Welcome	Rev. Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson, Second Vice President <i>PNBC, Inc. Senior Pastor, Allen Temple Baptist Church Oakland, CA</i>
Music	Elder Mario Webb & <i>The New Covenant Gospel Choir Lexington, KY</i>
Greetings	Rev. Dr. Keith W. Byrd, Senior, First Vice President <i>PNBC, Inc. Senior Pastor, Zion Baptist Church Washington, DC</i>

Cheerful Giving

Music Dr. Clark Joseph - National Music Director, PNBC
Maurice Griffin - National Worship Leader, PNBC

Introduction of Guest Psalmist Lady Merdean Gales

Worship in Song Minister Donald Lawrence & Company

Invitation to Christian Discipleship Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples, President
PNBC, Inc.
Senior Pastor, Imani Baptist Church
Lexington, KY

Program Announcements..... Pastor Jeffery L. Smith & Lady Heather G. Smith
Program Co-Chairs, PNBC, inc.
Senior Pastor & First Lady
Bethlehem Temple Missionary Baptist Church
Chicago, IL

Benediction Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples, President
PNBC, Inc.
Senior Pastor, Imani Baptist Church
Lexington, KY



Monday Late Night **BISHOP RUDOLPH MCKISSICK, JR.**

Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Jr., is Senior Pastor of the Bethel Church, located in Jacksonville, Florida. Bethel is the oldest existing Baptist church in the state of Florida, founded in 1838. Under Bishop McKissick's leadership, the church has experienced exponential growth to over 6,000 active disciples. Bishop McKissick has established himself not only as a prolific proclaimer but also as an academician, teaching as an adjunct professor at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Religion at Virginia Union University. Bishop McKissick is also the author of several books as well as an accomplished musician with several national, critically acclaimed music projects.

Bishop McKissick has been afforded many national platforms for proclamation, among them being the morning preacher at the prestigious Hampton University Ministers and Musicians Conference as well as the featured conference preacher in the evening; the conference preacher at the John Malcus Ellison Convocation at Virginia Union University (Now the John Ellison/Miles Jones Convocation) and being inducted into the Morehouse School of Religion Board of Preachers.

Bishop McKissick also serves on various boards, which include being a board member of the National Action Network, founded by Rev. Al Sharpton, the Board of Trustees of Florida State College at Jacksonville and the Advisory Board to the President at Virginia Union University. Bishop McKissick holds a bachelor's degree from Jacksonville University with a double major in the field of music: one in Opera and the other in Sacred Church Music, with a minor in pipe organ performance. He holds the Master of Divinity Degree from The School of Theology at Virginia Union University, now the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Religion at Virginia Union University, and the Doctor of Ministry Degree from the United Theological Seminary. Bishop McKissick was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from both Bethune Cookman University as well as Virginia Union University. He is also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., as well as Sigma Pi Phi Boule (pronounced BOO-LAY).

He is married to the former Kimberly Joy Nichols, Executive Pastor of The Bethel Church, and they are the proud parents of three beautiful children; Jocelyn, Janai (pronounced JANAY) and Joshua

Monday / July 20, 2026

9:30PM - Late Night Worship

Monday, July 20, 2026

Moderators Department

Rev. Cornell Sampson, Presiding

1st Vice President

PNBC Moderators Department

Scripture.....Rev. Justin Kidd, IN

Prayer

Worship in Music

Cheerful Giving

Introduction of SpeakerRev. Cornell Sampson

Sermonic Selection

PreacherBishop Rudolph McKissick, Sr. Pastor
Bethel Baptist Church
Jacksonville, FL

Tuesday Plenary

Marissa R. FARROW

● **REV. MARISSA R. FARROW, A NATIVE OF BALTIMORE, MD, WAS BORN ON JUNE 19, 1989, TO BISHOP ROBERT E. FARROW AND EVANGELIST JACQUELINE FARROW, PASTORS OF MT. CALVARY CHURCH & MINISTRIES, WHERE SHE WAS LAUNCHED INTO MINISTRY.**

● **ON MARCH 4, 2007, MARISSA BEGAN HER PUBLIC MINISTRY, PREACHING HER INITIAL SERMON ENTITLED "THE UNSHAKABLE CALL."**

● **AFTER A FEW YEARS OF TRYING TO "FIND THE RIGHT PACE," SHE BEGAN HER ACADEMIC JOURNEY AND CURRENTLY HOLDS A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE IN SALISBURY, NC, AND A MASTERS OF DIVINITY DEGREE FROM THE SAMUEL DEWITT PROCTOR SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY. SHE IS ALSO A PROUD SPRING 2015 INITIATE OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.**

● **SINCE HER ORDINATION IN 2013, ELDER FARROW HAS SERVED UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF THE REV. DRS. FLOYD AND ELAINE FLAKE AT THE GREATER ALLEN A.M.E. CATHEDRAL OF NEW YORK AS A PREACHING ASSISTANT, SPECIAL OUTREACH PROJECT COORDINATOR, AND SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR.**

● **HAVING BEEN BLESSED BY GOD WITH EXPONENTIAL DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY, SHE CONSIDERS HERSELF BLESSED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ALL ACROSS THE WORLD, MUCH OF IT BEFORE THE AGE OF 30. BRINGING HER TO SHARE FOR EVENTS SUCH AS: INTERNATIONAL PASTORS AND LEADERS CONFERENCE, THE INTERNATIONAL AIM CONVENTION FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST INC., GUEST SPEAKER AT THE FINAL 3 WOMAN THOU ART LOOSED CONFERENCES FOR BISHOP T.D. JAKES, & ONE OF THE YOUNGEST MORNING PREACHERS FOR THE DISTINGUISHED 110TH HAMPTON UNIVERSITY MINISTERS CONFERENCE.**

● **SHE HAS ALSO BEEN BLESSED TO CARRY THE GOSPEL ACROSS THE NATIONS TO NIGERIA AND LAGOS, WEST AFRICA, DUBAI, AND LONDON, ENGLAND, AS WELL AS MULTIPLE APPEARANCES ON THE WORD NETWORK.**

● **SHE IS THE AUTHOR OF THREE BOOKS: DELIVERED FROM DYS-FUNCTION: A 7-STEP GUIDE TO A BETTER YOU, THE AMAZING WEIGHT, AND MOST RECENTLY "THE MORNING CUP," A 21-DAY PRAYER DEVOTIONAL INSPIRED BY FROM HER GROWING #VIRALPRAYERCOMMUNITY, REACHING OVER 1.1 MILLION VIEWS MONTHLY. SHE IS ALSO OWNER OF BROWN BY MARISSA, A CHRIST CULTURED, FASHION BRAND.**

● **SHE IS A PRaiser, PRAYER WARRIOR, PREACHER, PODCAST HOST, PRODUCER AND THE PROUD "BFF" TO HER "GOD GIFT" SHAMOL-ALI AND, SHE IS JUST GETTING STARTED.**

Tuesday | July 21, 2026

10:00AM - Plenary Session

Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples, Presiding
President, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
Sr. Pastor, Imani Missionary Baptist Church, Lexington, KY

Devotional Leaders – Southwest Region

Praise & Worship Dr. Clark Joseph, PNBC Director of Music
Bro. Maurice Griffin, PNBC Worship Leader

Call to Gather Rev. Dr. Ryan B. Small
Senior Pastor, Greater New Jerusalem Baptist Church
President, Progressive Baptist State Convention of California
Los Angeles, CA

Scripture Reading Rev. Dr. Lee Cooper
Senior Pastor, Prospect Baptist Church
Oklahoma City, OK

Prayer Rev. Dr. Earl Payton
Senior Pastor, Sun City Baptist Church
El Paso, TX

Music Voices of PNBC

President's Statement & Official Sounding of the Gavel
Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples, PNBC President

Presentation of the Program Rev. Jeffery & Lady Heather Smith
Program Chairpersons

Greetings

Host Committee Greeting Dr. Rodney Teale
Director of Finance, PNBC, Inc.
Sr. Pastor, Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church
Washington, DC

City of Washington, DCMayor Muriel Bowser (tentative)

Judson PressDr. Cheryl Price, President
Judson Press

Convention Business

PNBC Nominations Slate.Dr. Arthur Carson
Chair, Nominations Committee

Dr. Stanley Smith
Chair, Credentials Committee

Explanation of Voting ProcessRev. Charles C. Adams
Chair, Elections Committee

GreetingsPastor Jamal Harrison Bryant
*Senior Pastor,
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA*

Cheerful Giving

MusicDr. Clark Joseph
National Music Director, PNBC

Maurice Griffin
National Worship Leader, PNBC

Introduction of the PreacherRev. Dr. David R. Peoples
*President, PNBC, Inc
Senior Pastor, Imani Missionary Baptist Church
Lexington, KY*

The WordRev. Marissa Farrow
*Senior Pastor, Mt. Calvary Church & Ministries
Baltimore, MD*

Invitation to Christian DiscipleshipRev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson
*2nd Vice President, PNBC, Inc
Senior Pastor, Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, CA*

Program Announcements.....Pastor Jeffery L. Smith & Lady Heather G. Smith

BenedictionRev. Marissa Farrow

Tuesday / July 21, 2026

7:30 PM - Youth & Young Adult Program

Moniece Johnson
Mistress/Master of Ceremony

Praise and Worship/Liturgical Dance Youth and Young Adults

Welcome Moniece Johnson, 2nd Vice President
Clark Road Missionary Baptist Church
Gary, Indiana

Scripture Reading Kay'den Purnell

Prayer Dominique Bynum

Musical Selection Youth and Young Adults

Young Adult Annual Address Rev. Maisha Lindsey
Hartford Missionary Baptist Church
Detroit, MI

Cheerful Giving

Musical Selection Youth and Young Adults

Youth Annual Address..... Loryn Meeks, Youth President
Greater White Stone Missionary Baptist Church
Memphis, TN

Presentation of Scholarship Recipients Rev. Angela Riley
Youth Director
True Faith Community Baptist
Antioch, CA

Musical Selection Youth & Young Adult Choir/
Liturgical Dance
Featuring Maranda Curtis

Worship Experience with Maranda Curtis

Altar Call

Closing Remarks..... Rev. Angela Riley

Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples
22nd President, PNBC
Senior Pastor,
Imani Missionary Baptist Church
Lexington, KY



Tuesday Late Night **REV. DR. E. DEWEY SMITH, JR.**

Dr. E. Dewey Smith is the Senior Pastor/Teacher of The House of Hope Atlanta, The House of Hope Macon, and The House of Hope WestPointe – one church in three locations. A proud native of Macon, GA, he has been a minister of the gospel for more than 30 years. He commenced his preaching ministry at age 17 and his pastoral ministry at 19.

Smith is a learned man. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College, in Atlanta, GA; graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Master of Science degree from Amridge University in Montgomery, AL; and earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. Additionally, he was inducted into the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Board of Preachers at Morehouse College as a “Distinguished Preacher” and received the prestigious honor of having his portrait displayed in Morehouse’s International Hall of Honor.

Pastor E. Dewey Smith has always had a passion to redress those things that plague the community and burden the people he serves. Throughout his ministry he has been heavily involved in prison reform, re-entry programs, mental health care, human services and community development. In 2013, he launched The Tabitha’s House, a non-profit organization that provides housing, counseling and support to young girls rescued from human trafficking. Dr. Smith loves the arts and is professionally involved in music, media, film and television production. His first solo project, “God Period,” was named one of the top albums of 2021 by Billboard. His first single, “Your Presence Is A Gift,” scored #1 on the Billboard Gospel Airplay Charts. He is a 2022 Stellar Award winning solo artist, two-time Dove Award nominee, and an American Music Awards nominee. His sophomore solo album, “Songs Daddy Used To Sing,” will be released Fall 2025, and is a stellar tribute to his deceased father, as well as classic Gospel Music. Smith is also the Founder/Overseer of the “Ambassadors Assembly,” a network of over 300 pastors and leaders from across the globe. An ecumenical fellowship, Ambassadors Assembly provides ministry oversight, comprehensive ministry strategies, and parachurch support to churches and leaders throughout the world.

Dr. Smith is married to the lovely, former Andrea Fambro, his best friend of over 30 years. They have been blessed with two sons, Kamari Elijah and Kylen Isaiah.

Tuesday / July 21, 2026

9:30PM - Late Night Worship

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Moderators Department

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Anderson, Presiding

Vice President at Large

PNBC Moderators Department

Scripture..... Rev. Akin Royal, NY

Prayer

Worship In Music

Cheerful Giving

Introduction Of Speaker..... Rev. Dr. Kenneth Anderson, CA

Sermonic Selection

Preacher Rev. Dr. E. Dewey Smith
Senior Pastor
House Of Hope
Atlanta, GA



Wednesday Gardner C. Taylor Hour

REV. DR. GINA M. STEWART

The Reverend Dr. Gina Marcia Stewart is a pastor, preacher, visionary, builder, mentor, adjunct professor, and daughter of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. She has led the congregation of Christ Missionary Baptist Church since March 1995. She is a native Memphian and "daughter" of CMBC, where she was baptized and mentored for ministry by her predecessor and former pastor, the Rev. Eddie L Currie. On March 4, 1995, she was elected by majority vote to serve as the pastor of CMBC. She is the first African American female elected to serve an established African American Baptist congregation in Memphis and Shelby County.

Under Dr. Stewart's leadership, CMBC has experienced significant numerical, physical, and financial growth. The church offers more than fifty ministries that are intended to minister to the spirit, soul, and body of every person and lead to personal transformation. Dr. Stewart is a 1978 graduate of Memphis Catholic High School. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Marketing in 1982 from the University of Memphis. In 1989, she received a Masters of Education in Administration and Supervision from Trevecca Nazarene College in Nashville, Tennessee. She received the Master of Divinity degree from Memphis Theological Seminary in May 1996. Dr. Stewart also attended the Harvard Divinity School Summer Leadership Institute for Church-Based Community and Economic Development (2000). She received the Doctor of Ministry degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 5, 2007. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in African American Preaching at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dr. Stewart is the founder of Greater Works Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to philanthropy and ministry development. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is a former member of the Advisory Board for The African American Pulpit, The National Civil Rights Museum, and Bread for the World. In September 2015, she released her first book entitled *We've Got Next: HERstory in HIStory*.

Wednesday / July 22, 2026

10:00AM - Plenary Session

Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson, Presiding
2nd Vice President, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
Senior Pastor, Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, CA

Devotional Leaders – Southern Region

Praise & Worship Dr. Clark Joseph, PNBC Director of Music
Bro. Maurice Griffin, PNBC Worship Leader

Call to Gather Rev. Dr. Mary Moss, Senior Pastor
St. Alma Baptist Church
Lakeland, LA

Scripture Reading Rev. Dr. Michael L. W. Moore, Senior Pastor
Metropolitan Baptist Church
Memphis, TN

Prayer Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Fair, Senior Pastor
Mountain Grove Missionary Baptist Church
Travelers Rest, SC

Music Voices of PNBC

Greetings

David C. Cook Mrs. Sharon Gilbert

Convention Business

PNBC Nominations Slate Dr. Arthur Carson
Chair, Nominations Committee

Explanation of Voting Process Rev. Charles C. Adams
Chair, Elections Committee

Cheerful Giving

Music Dr. Clark Joseph
National Music Director, PNBC

Maurice Griffin
National Worship Leader, PNBC

Gardner C. Taylor Hour

Introduction of the Preacher Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples, President
PNBC, Inc.
Senior Pastor, Imani Missionary Baptist Church
Lexington, KY

The Word Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart
Senior Pastor, Christ Missionary Baptist Church
Memphis, TN

Invitation to Christian Discipleship Rev. Dr. Keith Byrd
1st Vice President, PNBC, inc.
Senior Pastor, Zion Baptist Church
Washington, DC

Program Announcements Pastor Jeffery L. & Lady Heather G. Smith

Benediction Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart
Senior Pastor, Christ Missionary Baptist Church
Memphis, TN



Thursday Plenary

REV. DR. RALPH DOUGLAS WEST

Ralph Douglas West is the Pastor and Founder of The Church Without Walls (Brookhollow Baptist Church, Houston, Texas). He first preached as a sixteen year old in his native Houston. The Church Without Walls began with 32 members and now embraces thousands of families meeting each Sunday. Pastor West is affectionately known as Pas.

Pastor West holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Samford University's Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, AL; a Master of Divinity degree with Biblical Languages from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, TX; and a Bachelor's Degree in Religion and Philosophy from Bishop College, Dallas, TX. Pastor West has also completed advanced studies at Cambridge and Oxford Universities and received an Honorary D.Div. degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center at Morehouse School of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia and Paul Quinn College, Dallas, Texas.

Although Pas can boast of a number of degrees, honors and associations, those who sit under his preaching would most aptly describe his attitude using Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 2:1.

"When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."

—1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Thursday / July 23, 2026

8:30 AM - Plenary Session

Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples, Presiding
President, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
Senior Pastor, Imani Baptist Church, Lexington, CA
Devotional Leaders – Midwest Region

Call to Gather Minister Maisha Lindsey
Hartford Memorial Baptist Church
Detroit, MI

Scripture Reading Rev. Dr. Albert Manson, Jr.
Senior Pastor
Solomon Temple Missionary Baptist Church
St. Louis, MO

Prayer Elder Renee Holloway
New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church
Chicago, IL

Music Voices of PNBC

Cheerful Giving

Music Dr. Clark Joseph, National Music Director, PNBC
Maurice Griffin, National Worship Leader, PNBC

Introduction of the Preacher Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples, President
PNBC, Inc.
Senior Pastor, Imani Baptist Church
Lexington, KY

The Word Dr. Ralph West
Sr Pastor, Church Without Walls
Houston, TX

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Lord's Supper
Installation of New PNBC Officers
Benediction



65TH ANNUAL SESSION

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

— WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA —

JULY 19-23, 2026

President's Night



SHILOH
BAPTIST
CHURCH
EST. 1864

WASHINGTON, D.C.

U STREET
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE TRAIL

Celebrating the legacy of
Black excellence, culture,
faith, and leadership
in the District of Columbia.

EST. 1920s

HOWARD
UNIVERSITY
1867

MARCH
— ON —
WASHINGTON
FOR JOBS
& FREEDOM
AUGUST 28, 1963

FREDERICK DOUGLASS
1818-1895
ABOLITIONIST • ORATOR • STATESMAN
WASHINGTON, D.C.

EMPOWERED BY THE PAST.

Advancing the Promise.

REV. DR.
DAVID R. PEOPLES
PRESIDENT

REV. DR.
KEITH W. BYRD, SR.
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

REV. DR.
JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

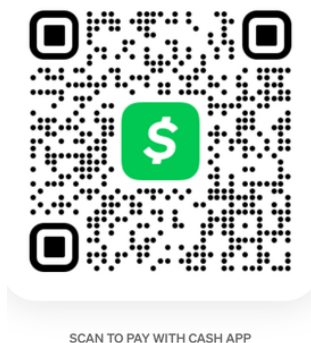
REV. THOMAS L. BOWEN
GENERAL SECRETARY

FAITH • JUSTICE • ✝ LIBERATION • LEGACY

PROCLAIMING CHRIST • TRANSFORMING LIVES • IMPACTING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1961



**President David R. &
First Lady Margaret M. Peoples**



David Peoples
\$DavidRPeoples

President's Night

Wednesday / July 22, 2026

7:30PM - President's Night

Dr. Keith W. Byrd, Sr. Presiding
1st Vice President, PNBC
Sr. Pastor Zion Baptist Church, Washington, DC

Praise Team and Dance Ministry
Bro Maurice Griffin (CA) and Lady Talisha Davis (FL)

Call to Worship Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson
2nd Vice President, PNBC
Sr. Pastor Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, CA

Anthem — “All Hail The Power” Dr. Clark Joseph
PNBC Minister of Music and
PNBC Mass Choir (TX)

Scripture Rev. Dr. Tyrone Jones IV
Vice President at Large
Eastern Region
Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church, Guilford, MD

Prayer Rev. Dr. Larry McCray
Senior Pastor
Tabernacle Baptist Assembly
Forrestville, MD

Greetings

Music Minister Patrick Lundy
& The Ministers of Music

Video Presentation Bro. McCray

President's Night

Election ResultsDr. Arthur Carson
Chair of Nominations (GA),

Dr. Stanley Smith Chair of Credentials (GA),
Dr. Christian Adams, Chair of Elections (MI)

Video Presentation Memorial Tribute Sis Lois Delk
Queens, NY

(Video only with soft instrumental music)

Music Patrick Lundy
& The Ministers of Music

Love offering Pastor Jeffery L. Smith
Senior Pastor,
Bethlehem Temple Missionary Baptist Church
Chicago, IL

Introduction of President Rev. Dr. Kip Banks
Senior Pastor,
East Washington Heights Baptist Church
Washington, DC

Music Patrick Lundy
& The Ministers of Music

Proclamation of the word..... Rev. Dr. David R. Peoples
22nd President, PNBC
Senior Pastor,
Imani Missionary Baptist Church
Lexington, KY

Call to Christian Discipleship Rev. Thomas Bowen
General Secretary PNBC
Washington, DC

Doxology

Benediction and Closing of 65th Annual Session

Rev. Dr. David R Peoples, President PNBC



65TH ANNUAL SESSION

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION

— WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA —

JULY 19–23, 2026

Congress Classes



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CHURCH
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FREDERICK DOUGLASS
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PRESIDENT

REV. DR.
KEITH W. BYRD, SR.
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

REV. DR.
JACQUELINE A. THOMPSON
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

REV. THOMAS L. BOWEN
GENERAL SECRETARY

77

FAITH • JUSTICE • ✝ LIBERATION • LEGACY

PROCLAIMING CHRIST • TRANSFORMING LIVES • IMPACTING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1961

PNBC Congress Classes 2026

1. God Is in Control

Class #: 2005.2

Instructor: Dr. Yashika Tippet

Objective: In today's world, new sources of anxiety and fear confront us almost daily. As a result, many believers live under a constant cloud of apprehension and fear. This class the students will focus upon the fact that things may be out of control, nothing catches the Father off guard. The One who created everything can be trusted to provide for our needs. Regardless of our circumstances, the Lord is with us to encourage and strengthen us as He leads us to victory.

2. IT -Technology and AI – How to use Technology and AI in the church

Course # 669.6

Age: 12 to Seasoned Adults

Instructor: Rev. Jeffery Williams

Objective: This class explores how technology and artificial intelligence can be used as effective tools for ministry while staying rooted in biblical values. Participants will learn practical ways to use technology and AI to enhance worship, teaching, communication, outreach, and administration in the church. The class will also address discernment, ethics, and responsibility—helping leaders and members understand how to use modern tools wisely, creatively, and purposefully to support the mission of the church without replacing the heart of ministry: people, prayer, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

3. Estate Planning/Wills

Course #: 6800

Instructor: Attorney Nadine Nunn, ESQ

Objective: There are various levels of estate planning. Some key components consist of the following:

- Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Designation of Funeral Representatives
- Deed (Lady Bird or Trusts)
- Wills

Estate planning is one of the most important (and complicated) financial decisions a person can make, made even more difficult by the emotions driven by contemplating one's own mortality, according to the Wall Street Journal and New York Times. The objective to estate planning is to record a plan for distributing your life's assets upon your demise. It encompasses elements of money, taxes, family dynamics and emotions. Our culture must take control of our financial futures, preserve cultural legacies, and contribute to the unity and purpose of our communities. This process also enhances generational wealth.

4. Power of Reconciliation

Course #: 409.12

Instructor: Rev. Grady Kelly

Objective: Provide students with the knowledge that reconciliation in a religious context: that restore broken relationships and promote peace and justice; in the Christian faith and is associated with Jesus' death and the message of healing and peace that he brought to humanity. The goal of reconciliation is to transform people from enemies of God into saints, and to achieve this, Christians are called to be ambassadors of reconciliation

5. Real Talk from the Savior Lips – Matthew 5:11-15

Course #: 127.14

Instructor: Dr. Michael Harris

Objective: This class dives into Jesus' honest and powerful words from the Sermon on the Mount, where He teaches what it truly means to follow Him in a challenging world. Using Matthew 5:11–15, students will explore how to handle criticism and opposition with faith, why being different for Christ matters, and how to live as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Through real-life discussion and practical application, this class encourages believers to stand firm, stay bold, and shine for Jesus—letting His truth guide their words, actions, and daily lives.

6. Be On Guard

Course #: 1600.2

Instructor: Pastor Ryan Smalls

Objective: The church of today faces various physical threats. Perhaps directed towards the leader, or if a member is facing threats from someone, the church needs to serve as a refuge spiritually and physically. This class will offer suggestions to assist those who are charged with the responsibility of protecting the church. This is not a self-defense class, but a class that will allow the students to return back to their respective churches with information to keep people safe in the custody of sanctuaries with tools to manage unruly guests and respond to threats.

7. Sunday School Teacher Training

Course #: 524.2

Instructor: Dr. Terry Streeter

Objective: In this course we will explore the various textbooks used for Sunday School. We will also assist the teachers in creating an exciting lesson plan for their students each Sunday. In this class the offerings of commentaries and resources to enhance the teaching and preparation are vital. This class will allow teachers to learn from each other if success is planted in certain areas versus others. The goal is to have the teachers to be encouraged to continue this labor with excitement.

8. Solving Church Conflict

Course #: 409.16

Instructor: Dr. Terrell Brown

Objective: They say that “Church Hurt” is the worst form of hurt. This course will explore some of the solutions to implement in the areas of the most frequent issues of contention. This gathering will be deemed a safe space for those who are carrying the burden of delayed reconciliation and uncertainty for their worship community. The broad array of issues will assist the students to start the process of healing to be an effective Christian and church member.

9. The Assist: Associate Ministers are the Point Guards of Worship

Course#: 900.10

Instructor: Dr Felix Williams

Objective: This class is for associate ministers and clergy who have the privilege of being a servant to the church and the pastor. In this class the student will be able to better understand the role of the pastor to the people and the associate to the pastor. The student will also be equipped with the best information that assists the pastor to be the BEST pastor they can be. From sermon “do’s and don’ts” to managing the spiritual energy during the worship service. The student will understand the effect of their assistance

Congress Classes

and their unique gift offered to the ministry under the umbrella of the lead minister/pastor. This class will also be a good class for those who feel “Called” to ministry.

10. Where Do I Fit Here: Exploring Identity and Engagement as Contributors to Sense of Belonging in Multi-generational Congregations

Course # 914.6

Instructor: Rev. Milian Scott

Objective: This course will address necessary measures to foster sense of belonging in congregations of varying age groups that is believed to help membership retention. It will be designed to include explorations of individual personhoods in addition to collective church identities. The course will also offer interventions that allow participants to explore their individuality while in a faith walk process (such as surveys and personality assessments). It encourages unity among church bodies with engagement efforts to equally distribute the workload of the church by inviting new members and promoting the work of auxiliaries and ministry groups. Thus, will offer opportunities to fit together by way of service alongside one another. Perhaps it will set a model for use in their respective congregations.

11. Hidden Figures: Unnamed Women of the Bible

Course # 812.6

Instructor: Dr. Robin Moore

Objective: The course will focus on nameless women who overcome shame, condemnation, and brokenness by encountering the power, grace, and love of Jesus Christ in their stories. We will experience how God reveals His beautiful redemptive story through the real lives of real biblical women who reflect many of the challenges faced by women today. Likewise, the course unfolds a discovery of how God relates to each one of us in our places of personal needs and struggles that are often hidden or masked.

12. No Cap: Living Truth in a Filtered World – Authentic Faith

Course #5000.2

Instructor: Apostle Cannon

Objective: This class challenges participants to live out a real, honest faith in a world shaped by filters, trends, and appearances. Using biblical truth as the foundation, students will explore what it means to follow Christ authentically—without pretending, performing, or compromising. Through scripture, open discussion, and real-life examples, the class encourages believers to align their words, actions, and values with God’s truth, stand firm in their identity in Christ, and reflect genuine faith both online and offline. This is about “no cap” living—faith that’s real, rooted, and unapologetically Christ-centered.

13. T.R.E.N.D.S – Teach, Respect, Engage, Navigate, Discuss, Structure

Course # 525.6

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Wilbur A. Whitehurst, Jr.

Objective: T.R.E.N.D.S. in Biblical Leadership is a course designed to help current and aspiring leaders grow in godly character and practical leadership skills. Using the acronym T.R.E.N.D.S., participants will explore what it means to be Teachable, show Respect, Engage with others, Navigate challenges, lead through Discussion, and build Structure in ministry and life—all grounded in Biblical truth.

14. Leading Through Transition

Course #900.16

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Micah R. Gaines

Objective: This class is an immersive course designed to equip pastors and preachers to lead faithfully through seasons of change in ministry and life. Over three days, participants will explore how biblical faith, pastoral wisdom, and adaptive leadership practices intersect during moments of uncertainty, disruption, and renewal.

This course helps pastors and leaders distinguish between change and transition, recognize the emotional and spiritual dynamics at work in congregations, and respond with clarity, courage, and compassion. Participants will reflect on their own leadership posture in times of transition while gaining practical tools for guiding others without losing vision, health, or hope.

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Understand transition through a biblical and pastoral lens
- Identify common challenges and resistance that arise during change
- Communicate stability, vision, and hope in uncertain seasons
- Lead congregations with emotional and spiritual intelligence
- Navigate transition in ways that foster growth rather than fear

All in all, this course is designed to prepare pastors and leaders to lead confidently in the “in-between” moments where God is forming what comes next.

15. Social Justice: From the Pulpit to the Pews

Course #: 5000.8

Instructor:

Objective: Students will understand the biblical foundation of social justice and learn how God calls believers not only to hear justice preached from the pulpit, but to live it out daily through compassion, advocacy, and Christ-centered action. By the end of this class, participants will be able to:

- Define social justice from a biblical perspective, using Scripture to distinguish God’s justice from cultural or political definitions (Micah 6:8; Amos 5:24).
- Identify Jesus’ teachings and actions that model justice, mercy, and love for the marginalized (Luke 4:18–19; Matthew 25:35–40).
- Explain the role of the church in addressing injustice, showing how preaching, teaching, and discipleship should lead to practical action (James 2:14–17).
- Recognize personal responsibility in living out justice, understanding that faith is demonstrated through everyday choices and service (Proverbs 31:8–9).
- Develop practical ways to move justice “from the pulpit to the pews” by applying biblical principles at home, school, church, and in the community.

Performing Arts Division

16. Praise Dance Ministry

Course #: 920.41

Instructor: Sis. Talisha Davis

Objective: The class will show the importance of creative dance within the ministry of the local church. It will also show how this medium can be used to enhance an appreciation for the fine art of dance from a Christian perspective.

Youth Division

17. Trolling for Jesus the Right Way

Course #: 314.10

Age: 14-17

Instructor: Rev. Maisha Lindsey

Objective: This class helps teens learn how to stand for Christ in a world driven by social media, opinions, and online influence. “Trolling for Jesus” isn’t about arguing or tearing others down—it’s about fishing for hearts the way Jesus did. Students will explore how to represent Christ with wisdom, courage, and love both online and in real life. Through scripture, real-life scenarios, and honest discussion, teens will learn how to respond instead of react, speak truth without hate, and use their voices to point others to Jesus—without compromising their faith. Matthew 4:19 or Colossians 4:6)

18. Building a Framework with The Carpenter

Age: 8-13

Course #: 301.6

Instructor: Sis Donita Coney

Objective: This class invites children to walk alongside Jesus—the Carpenter from Nazareth—as they discover who He is and how He lived. Through Bible stories, hands-on activities, games, and discussion, students will learn about Jesus’ life, His teachings, and His love for others. Each lesson helps kids understand how Jesus builds strong hearts, kind attitudes, and faithful lives, just like a carpenter builds something to last. Along the journey, children will learn how to follow Jesus daily by loving God, serving others, and growing in faith.

19. I Am a Part 4-7

Course #: 214.2.6

Instructor: Sis. Adrienne Journey

Objective: This class is to let the littlest of our church know that they too have a place in the ministry of the church. We want our babies to know that they are not overlooked, and their contributions are just as important as everyone else’s.

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