

Minutes of Black Deputies Meeting
Absalom Jones, Atlanta
May 21-22, 1976

Attendance: Rev. Cecil H. Cowan, Henri A. Stines, Harold L. Pilgrim, Charles K. Baker, Rev. St. Julian Simpkins, Martha Wilson, Walter D. Dennis, Marion H. Jackson, Charles L. Hopkins, Harry J. Bowie, Frank Turner, Ed. Rodman, Rev. Joe Green, Dr. Earl H. McClenny, Byron Rushing, Clarence Mixon, Richard Bowden, Frank Wood, Earl A. Neil, Dr. Prezell Robinson, Decosta Mason, Michael Randolph, Dean Quinland Gordon, Marjorie Rudd.

4:00 p.m. Meeting opened with Prayer.

Dean Gordon: Spoke on A.J.T.I., growth and progress over the past three years, six students this year and hopes of twelve seminarians in 1977 class.

Treasurer of U.B.E., Dr. McClenny: Fund raising campaign most gratifying. Black Churches response great.

Introductions of persons present took place.

President of U.B.E., Joe Green: Spoke of the few black deputies this year (28), and the need for us to know the issues to plan strategy and elect our people to policy making positions in the church structure.

Black Desk, Frank Turner: Spoke on the importance of meetings such as these. If we hadn't, our programs may have been cut out all together at the last Convention, however we must do something different than last time to avoid any misunderstanding among ourselves. Deputies elected Paul Washington as their convener and chairman, however U.B.E. had elected a new president who felt he should have had that responsibility. We must also address ourselves to the churches overseas who really didn't have a place to go at the last Convention.

Staff at 815, Ed. Rodman: Offered his help in anyway needed eventho he has a different boss. Last Convention he worked for Bishop John Burgess, this time John Coburn. We must make sure we are not competitive with each other, (U.B.E. and the Black Caucas) as we need support of all blacks. As long as we understand the work of the two separate functions and not compare or compete with each other we can do great things.

Important Notations:

- (1) U.B.E. and Black Caucas should compliment each other. There is nothing in U.B.E. by-laws that President can't succeed himself.
- (2) Support in the House of Bishops necessary. Bishop Burgess is retired, will help as much as possible but we need support of the sitting Bishops such as John Walker, Quintin Primo, Harold Wright.

Important Notations cont'd:

- (3) There has never been a black clergy elected to Ex. Council. Joe Green has been nominated and needs as much exposure as possible.
- (4) Who do we present as Vice-President for the House of Deputies, remembering the power of the Fourth Province.
- (5) Opening service of Convention will be a Prayer Service. Eucharist will be the middle Sunday of Convention when the prayerbook revision should be already decided.
- (6) Chairman of Dispatch of Business makes the decision when the election of the Vice-president of the House takes place. If he is elected at the beginning of the secessions, his term runs to the end of Convention with an election at the end beginning a new term. Usually they alternate between clergy and lay representation.
- (7) Union plans to run Dr. Charles Lawrence as president of House. Too much leadership from Province 4 may be of help to us in getting him elected.
- (8) Black Caucus meets everyday at Convention.

Break for Dinner.

Evening Secession, May 21, 1976

Issues before Convention:

- (1) Women's ordination: Resolutions this year will go to the committee on Ministries. Whatever we say about the ordination we must be careful not to alienate other black deputies nor so keen on the subject for their assistance in priority issues facing us as black folks.
- (2) Prayer Book: Blue book already issued, if passed, trial use is over and this will be the beginning of the process. It takes two Conventions to be official.
- (3) Structure (voting procedure): This will come up thru out Convention. We are an assembly of Dioceses, not representative. Preferential voting now is the way votes are counted except in elections, where the secret ballot is used.
- (4) Sexual preference: (Homosexuality) This may be linked to Women's ordination to cloud the issue.

Our position: We are not even on the agenda and should be taken just as seriously as all these issues.

OUR ISSUES:

- (a) Urban Ministries, (b) Black Colleges, (c) Future of Absalom Jones,
- (d) Budget concerns

Committees of Convention: Work of the Convention is farmed out to committees. People speak at open hearings or you may appear before these committees. From these hearings resolutions are framed reflecting what is said. Serving on such committees are more important than appearing before it.

Staffing at Convention: We should take advantage of black people at the Convention wherever possible. Lloyd Casson, Byron Rushing and Frank Turner as well as Ed Rodman have offered their assistance at Convention. There is a need for two rooms at Convention, one to socialize and the other to caucuses. The cost would run about \$3000. Therefore each deputy has been asked to give at least \$100 to cover expenses. All checks should be sent to Dr. Earl McClenny, treasurer of U.B.E. Joe Green was asked to send a letter to the black bishops informing them of our decisions at this meeting. He also is to get in touch with Leona Bryant as our liaison to the Ninth Province and overseas diocese and invite them to our caucus the second day of Convention.

Empowerment:

A restructuring of the Ethnic Section at '815', coming out of a committee from Church in Society was explained to us by Martha Wilson of Executive Council. It consists of a wheel that includes (Economic affairs, Multi Ethnic, New Issues, Urban, Social Justice, Asian, Blacks, Hispanic, Hunger, Housing) in the outer circle and the Governing Committee in the next inner circle, (one voice from each group) being a part of the center circle, (Coalition for Human Need) headed by Bishop Martin. He would have some power over the operation and staffing of the unit, something he doesn't have now.

Comments: The rank and file Episcopalian feels he has no say or voice in some empowerment, this wheel makes it possible for local churches to be involved. Why is Hunger on wheel as it would be funded from P.B. fund or will it? P.B. appoints persons to the Commission of the Coalition for Human Needs. All staff persons would be under Bishop Martin. Indians have asked to be moved out of 815 structure and have applied to be a part of Coalition 14 and a separate General Convention Committee. If you are on the wheel, you should be able to get all you can plus whatever you can get on your own without one interfering with the other.

ACTION: Joe Green was asked to see if Marcus Cummings could get any information and clarify Hunger's position on the wheel and its power of vote in the Coalition.

St. Julian Simpkin's Motion:

Joe Green be leader of Black Caucus at Convention. Marcus Cummings be floor manager with an amendment to have two assistants instead of one, passed.

Motion carried and Jessie Anderson and St. Julian Simpkins will be the two assistant floor managers.

Dean Gordon Motion:

Byron Rushing be consultant to the floor manager. Motion passed.

Prezell Robinson (Colleges)

The Episcopal Church's lack of awareness to it's truly success story by pulling away from the higher education of blacks as no longer a top priority or concern . In Houston the three colleges received one million, \$875,000 in 1974, \$802,000 in 1976, and in the proposed budget for 1977 only \$702,000. Where are the areas in the budget we can tap if we continue to be short. The colleges need to be restored to the one million level, therefore we will ask that \$300,000 be put back in the budget for these colleges. Other denominations are giving much more. Prezell Robinson was asked to get figures of other denominations givings to their black colleges so that a package can be prepared for all deputies. Dr. Robinson suggests we push for the \$300,000 restoration and also work toward the faith giving fund Endowment.

Dean Gordon (A.J.T.I.)

Is in battle to get in budget. They were to receive six years solid funding and at the end of that time they would be reconsidered. The time will be up at the Convention, however they only received part of the committed monies. Bishop Walker believes we can get the money for A.J.T.I. without it coming to the floor of Convention.

NOTATIONS:

Some positions to shoot for: Vice-President, (Charles Lawrence), Executive Council (Joe Green), Church Pension Fund (St. Julian Simpkins), General Theological Seminary (Bishops Harold Wright and Martin). We need someone on Program and Budget.

Write to the Secretary of Convention at 815 Second Ave, New York, N.Y. for "Journal of General Convention". (Zip 10017)

What to do when we leave this meeting:

- (1) Get a special representative to Convention if possible.
- (2) Speak out on issues at Provincial Meetings coming up.

Steering Committee will meet with Charles Lawrence.

First meeting of the Black Deputies in Minneapolis will be at the Lemington Hotel, Saturday evening at 8:30 p.m. on the 11th of September.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment 2:15 p.m.

Address;

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Secretary for Black Deputies Meeting
(Mrs.) Majorie Rudd

Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society