

THE UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS

An Opportunity For Christian Action

A POSITION STATEMENT

The Union of Black Episcopalians, formerly the Union of Black Clergy and Laity is an organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. Concerted efforts are directed toward the involvement of black people in the total life of the church — on every level and in every way — mission, stewardship, evangelism, education, sharing, liberation, empowerment. To translate these words into action is the Christian commitment of all Episcopalians and at all levels of the Church's mission. Black people must be involved in the decision making process of General Convention, in the choices made in dioceses and parishes and certainly in the heart and minds of men and women and especially black people.

One of the major reasons for the existence of the Union is to institute and exert an all out effort to eradicate every vestige of racism within the church and wherever it may exist. The viability of the Episcopal Church will depend to a degree and extent churchmen are able to contribute to that viability.

SOME IMPORTANT CONCERNS THAT REQUIRE THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE UNION:

- The Ordination of Women
- The Revision of the Book of Common Prayer
- The Development of a Viable and Relevant Program of Christian Education
- The Recruitment of Clerical and Lay Leaders
- The assurance of representation on Executive Council with seat, voice and vote
- The assurance of adequate financial support for the three predominately Black Colleges
- The resolution of the Problems of Church Unity
- The development of a resource bank of skilled Black Churchmen to aid in the development of effective programs in problematic areas on all levels
- The employment of more Black people on the staff of Executive Council and especially in decision making positions
- The expansion, financially and otherwise of the programs assigned to the Coordinator For Black Ministries



This folder is published by the Union Of Black Episcopalians. Gifts to the Union are used to extend the program of the Union and are tax exempt. For further information about the Union, kindly write to the President, The Right Reverend John M. Burgess, 401 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Connecticut 06511 or Dr. Earl H. McClenney, Treasurer, Forest Hill, Box 87, Lawrenceville, Virginia 23868.



Bishop Allin

- The Union of Black Episcopalians is doing much to broaden the mission of the Episcopal Church and adding great strength to the Church's experience of community. Both the coordination and communication within the Church have benefited since the organization of the Union of Black Episcopalians. Through the efforts of the Union, a greater and more accurate image of what the Church is meant to be has been projected to the world. The worthy efforts of the Union of Black Episcopalians well deserve the support of the rest of the Church.

John M. Allin, Presiding Bishop



Bishop Burgess

- The Union of Black Episcopalians provides a fellowship and a forum for often isolated predominantly black congregations and Afro-American communicants, as well as for Episcopalians of African descent in the Ninth Province, Liberia and Haiti. The Union's voice is heard and increasingly heeded in the councils of our Church, a reminder that ours is a pluralistic church in a pluralistic world.

Dr. Charles R. Lawrence, President
The House of Deputies

- The Union of Black Episcopalians has two functions: 1. It enables the black Churchman to become involved in the total witness of the church within its own life and that of society. 2. It enables the Church to understand the nature of its mission to all people, and to count the cost of such evangelism in terms of financial resources and personal spiritual growth.

Right Reverend John M. Burgess, Retired Bishop of Massachusetts
and President, Union of Black Episcopalians

- A small, but creative force in the life and work of the Episcopal Church. A beacon which reminds the Church of its calling and destiny.

Dr. Frank D. Turner, Executive Coordinator For Black Ministries



Dr. Charles R. Lawrence



The Reverend
Dr. Frank Turner



Dr. George Thomas

□ The Union of Black Episcopalians provides an opportunity for black people to respond without reservations and with intelligence to evidences of racism in Church and Society. The Union also seeks to find young men and young women who may have an interest and the desire to become a priest or give his or her life to the Christian ministry.

Dr. George Thomas, President, Voorhees College

□ The Union of Black Episcopalians serves as a strong voice in the Episcopal Church to foster and promote Black leadership at every level of the Church's operation;

To inculcate a spirit of pride in the heroic work of our clergy and laity at the congregational level;

To work for the preservation and extension of Black institutions of the church; To promote a model of unity for other minority groups in their struggle for full participation and self-realization in the life and work of our Church.

I am proud to be a member of this organization and encourage all Black Episcopalians to increase its effectiveness by becoming a member of this most important Union.

Dr. Prezell R. Robinson, President, Saint Augustine's College



Dr. Robinson

□ The Union of Black Episcopalians is an organization that is representative of the interests and welfare of Black Episcopalians. It serves to present the viewpoint, and call attention to the special needs of Black Episcopalians. Through the UBE, we can speak as one voice.

Dr. James A. Russell, Jr., President, Saint Paul's College



Dr. Russell

□ The Union of Black Episcopalians is an extension of the voices of Absalom Jones and his followers as they cried out against the injustices in Church and State during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. In response to the denial of participation in Diocesan affairs in 1849, because the Assembly declared that it was not expedient to allow Blacks to participate, the Vestry of Historic St. Thomas' Church, Philadelphia, responded, "Expediency is no plea against the violation of the great principles of Charity, Mercy, Justice and Truth." The Union is that Twentieth Century voice.

The Rev. Robert E. DuBose, Jr., D.C.L.
Rector, Historic St. Thomas' Episcopal Church



Reverend
Robert E. DuBose, Jr.

□ The Episcopal Church, through the action of many dioceses, has embarked on "Venture in Mission." The most fertile field for mission is at home. The Church cannot expect to successfully proselytize abroad, until it reaffirms and demonstrates its Christian commitment at home. The Union of Black Episcopalians assists the Church in these endeavors, enhancing its viability and contributing to its vitality by (1) functioning as a forum for and encouraging full participation in church life by Black Churchpeople and (2) serving as a direct communication link between the national Church and Black Churchpeople.

Dr. Deborah Harmon Hines, Ph.D., Meharry Medical College



Dr. Deborah H. Hines

□ There must be total involvement of all of God's people in the fulfillment of His mission.

Dr. Earl H. McClenney, Treasurer of The Union



Dr. McClenney

THE UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS — AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

