

# 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. Contrary to the belief of many, its membership is not limited to black people. However, its 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 hearts 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 Executive For 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 Reverend Joseph N. Green, Jr., Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, Norfolk, Virginia 23504 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

□ 1. Affirms the Black experience and Black presence as one of the historical realities of the Episcopal Church. 2. Affirms the Episcopal Church as a community which is enriched by its cultural and ethnic diversity. 3. Validates the need for power in the decision-making processes of the Church, at all levels. 4. Identifies critical issues which the whole Church must face. 5. Gives praise to God for spiritual anchors in rough seas and for the Incarnate Lord who abides with the oppressed and leads us on.

Richard B. Martin, Executive For Ministries



Bishop Martin

□ 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.

John M. Burgess, Retired Bishop of Massachusetts



Bishop Burgess

□ 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.

Frank D. Turner, Executive Coordinator For Black Ministries



Reverend  
Frank Turner



Dr. Graham

□ As I review the philosophy and goals of the Union of Black Episcopalians, I fervently believe that it is essential and appropriate for Black Churchmen to have some viable means of communicating their particular problems and concerns to the Church.

To firmly establish changes necessary for developing total Christian attitudes among all the peoples of the Church, Black laypeople and clergy must have some official organ through which they can be permitted to express their opinions and concerns on crucial issues. In bringing about sincere efforts of change on the part of the Church in becoming the strong Christian force for effective unity among all of its members, the Union of Black Episcopalians has been most effective. **Harry P. Graham, 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.

**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.

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



Dr. Russell

□ If the Episcopal Church is to survive as a Church having Ethnic minorities, a concerted effort must be made to point out the racism in it and remove it. I consider the Union of Black Episcopalians essential to this task. If this Church is to be true to its calling as a witness to the Christ in the world then it must have the input of the Black Institution, the Black Church and the Black Clergy. It is the Union that must be the catalyst in making this happen.

**Joseph N. Green, Jr., Rector, Grace Episcopal Church and President of The Union**



Reverend Green

□ A serious commitment to the Christian ideal of "One Family in Christ" would clearly indicate a need to support the stated goals of The Union of Black Episcopalians with all available time, talent and treasure as each of us seeks to express our own ministry in the world.

**Myrtle M. Gordon, Vice President of The Union**



Mrs. Gordon

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

**Earl H. McClenney, Treasurer of The Union**



Dr. McClenney

THE UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS — AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

GOOD SHEPHERD . HOLY CROSS . ST. ANDREW'S . ST. MARK'S . CHRIST CHURCH . ST. AUGUSTINE .  
 CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION . ST. MATTHEW' CHURCH . ST. PAUL'S CHURCH . ST. LUKE'S CHURCH . ST.  
 ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH . ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH . ST. CYPRIANS . ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST . ST. SIMON  
 ST. TIMOTHY'S . CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD . ST. CYPRIAN'S CHURCH . GRACE CHURCH . HOLY CROS  
 MESSIAH . ST. ANDREW'S . ST. BARNABAS . ST. EDMUND'S . ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S . ST. GEORGE'S . ST.  
 TRINITY . CHURCH OF THE HOLY REDEEMER . CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY . ST. AUGUSTINE'S MISSION . ST.  
 ST. PHILIP'S MISSION . ST. SIMON'S CHURCH . ST. ANDREW'S . ST. ANN'S . ST. CYPRIAN'S . ST.  
 ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST . ST. MARK'S . ST. JOSEPH'S . ST. STEPHEN'S . ST. PAUL'S CHURCH . S  
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 ST. AGNES' . CHRIST CHURC  
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 ST. TITUS . CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY . CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER . ADVOCATE . CALVARY . HOUSE  
 CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER . ST. MATT  
 ST. SIMON THE CYRENIAN . EMMANUEL  
 ASCENSION . CHRIST CHURCH . ST. ANDREW'S . ST. CUTHBERT . ST. ANN . ST. MONICA . ST. PHILL  
 ST. ANSELM'S CHAPEL . CALVARY CHURCH . CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT . ST. PAUL'S . CHURCH OF THE HO  
 ST. MONICA'S CHAPEL . CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR . ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH . ST. PHILIP'S THE EVANGELIST  
 ST. PHILIP'S PARISH . ST. GABRIEL'S . ST. MATTHIAS . ST. STEPHEN'S . ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CH



## THE UNION IN ACTION

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