



THE OFFICE OF BLACK MINISTRIES OF ETHNIC CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

at the Episcopal Church Center
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*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.
(Colossians 3:15)*

FROM THE MISSIONER'S DESK

This newsletter is to give an insight into what has been happening at the Office of Black Ministries.

My ministry as Missioner began on February 17, 2004. There to welcome me among other Church Center staff was LaZette Mc Cants, Administrative Assistant and the Right Reverend Arthur B. Williams, Jr., Interim Director of Ethnic Congregational Development.

At a meeting with several of my colleagues at the Church Center we pledged to support one another in our work for the good of the whole church. The Offices of Congregational Development, Women's Ministry, Youth Ministries, the Peace and Justice Office and the Missioners of Ethnic Congregational Development have begun to explore ways in which we might work collaboratively.

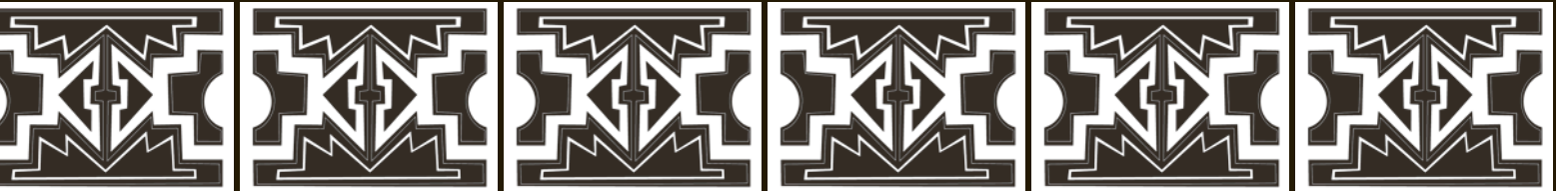
Since beginning on February 17, I have been attending meetings, conferences and workshops. I have visited many congregations, preached and celebrated the Holy Eucharist and have lead workshops. More importantly, I will continue to listen to those I meet in my travels. Their insights provide valuable information that will help to inform the future work of the office.

My own vision supports ongoing programming for leadership development for clergy, lay and young people as a means to empowerment and increased representation on all levels of the church. The office will also focus on recruitment and work collaboratively with others to help build stronger congregations.

It is my joy and privilege to meet people and to hear their experiences and perspectives, their hopes and fears as they regard the church, and I look forward to working with all of you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a concern, questions or just to say hello.

You are in my prayers, as I hope you keep me in yours.

*Angela S. Ifill
Missioner*



A NOTE FROM THE DESK OF THE RT. REV. ARTHUR B. WILLIAMS, JR.

Interim Director, Ethnic Congregational Development

As many of you know - upon my retirement at the end of 2002 the Presiding Bishop asked me to join his staff part time with the task of appointing three Missioners to assume leadership roles in the Ethnic Congregational Development unit at the national church. The Rev. Angela Ifill (Black Desk), the Rev. Winfred Vergara (Asian American Desk) and Janine Tinsley-Roe (Native American Desk) have now been appointed to these positions and are busy at work. They join the Rev. Daniel Caballero (Hispanic Desk) and the team is now complete. I will continue at the ECC for another six months giving oversight as the Missioners familiarize themselves with their work in congregational development and advocacy and become an effective working unit. It has been a joy to come to know each one of them.

I take this opportunity to give a warm welcome to the Rev. Angela Ifill who began her work at 815 on February 17th. She has added immeasurably to the Ethnic Congregational Development mission since her arrival. Already in the short time she has been here she has established important relationships at 815 and around the church. She has energetically begun developing new programming and shaping an exciting vision for the Black Desk. Members of the newly formed Advisory Committee for Black Ministries have had two initial meetings with her and Chair Bishop Michael Curry. Great things promise to be in store for us under her leadership.

A special thank you goes to all members of the support staff who have maintained the ethnic ministries through this interim period. I have expressed my appreciation to each of them. LaZette McCants plans to leave her position in the Office of Black Ministries by mid July. I wish to say a special thank you to her for her support and her work during the three years she has been at 815 and particularly as my assistant since I have been on board as Interim Director of Ethnic Congregational Development. She has been the one to answer the phone when you've called and has given secretarial support to many programs, especially those which have continued in recent months between Black Missioners. Please join me in wishing her well.

It's been an interesting and fruitful eighteen months of ministry in retirement. See you at UBE in Cincinnati in July.

+Arthur B. Williams, Jr.

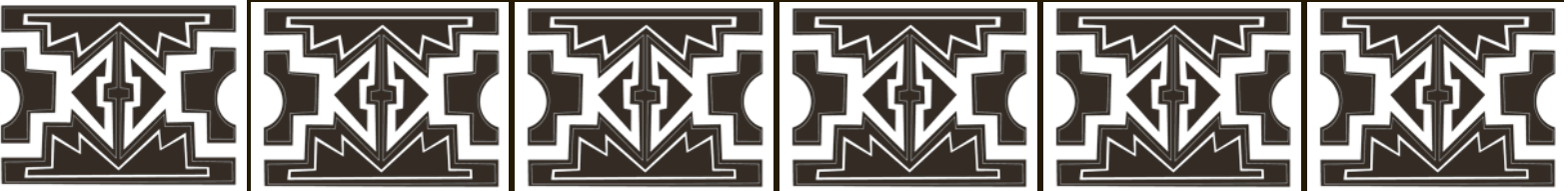
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

An Advisory committee has been formed to support the Missioner in her work. The details of its function will be discussed at the meeting on Monday, July 5 at the 2004 UBE Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio. Since being formed the committee has had two telephone conferences.

Membership includes The Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, Chair, The Rt. Rev. Orris G. Walker, Diocese of Long Island, The Rt. Rev. Arthur Williams, Jr., the Rev. Dr. Kortright Davis, Diocese of Washington, Dorothy Dottin, Diocese of Massachusetts, Carolyn Gaines, Diocese of California, John Harris, Diocese of Southern Ohio, Ora Houston, Diocese of Texas, the Rev. Deon Johnson, Diocese of Ohio, the Rev. Canon Nan Arrington Peete, Diocese of Washington, the Rev. Martini Shaw, Diocese of Philadelphia and the Rev. Bernard Young, Diocese of Long Island.

RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of the Recruitment, Training and Deployment



Program is to empower and encourage Black Anglicans to a vocation in ordained ministry. The program is designed to prepare Black Postulants and Candidates for ministry in the church, equipping them with history, mentors, and training from an Afro Anglican perspective.

The members of this committee include The Right Reverend Orris G. Walker, Bishop of Long Island, Chair, the Rev. Dr. Joy Browne, Diocese of Long Island, Antoinette Daniels, General Theological Seminary, Vivian Harrison, Episcopal Church Center, the Rev. Canon Fred Williams, Diocese of New York, the Reverend Preston Hannibal, Diocese of Washington, the Rev. Gregory Smith, Diocese of Philadelphia, the Rev. Dr. Sandye Wilson, Diocese of Newark, Julie Castillo, Episcopal Church Center, Richard Miller, Diocese of Florida, Patricia Simpson-Turner, Diocese of Chicago and the Rev. Angela Ifill, Missioner.

The committee met in Long Island on Thursday, July 3rd, to consider thirty-two applications for financial assistance. Scholarships were awarded to eighteen seminarians from seven seminaries. Others receiving scholarships include clergy in continuing education, students

at an Historical Black College, and other categories for study.

AFRO ANGLICAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Upwards of fifty vibrant youth excitedly descended upon the El Caribe Resort and Conference Center, in Daytona Beach, Florida for the 2004 Youth leadership S.O.U.L. (Spiritual Opportunities to Unite and Learn) Conference.

Nineteen adult and young adult chaperones attended the event which went from May 28-31. The conference was designed by a group of young people for those between the ages of fourteen and nineteen, and who are in high school.

Hosted by the Office of Black Ministries and the Office of Youth Ministries, the conference brought together young people from across the church representing six provinces. Among many, workshops were geared toward teaching engaging methods of Bible Study and developing key leadership skills. Through formal and informal discussions participants had the opportunity to celebrate cultural and spiritual gifts while having fun.

After several workshops,

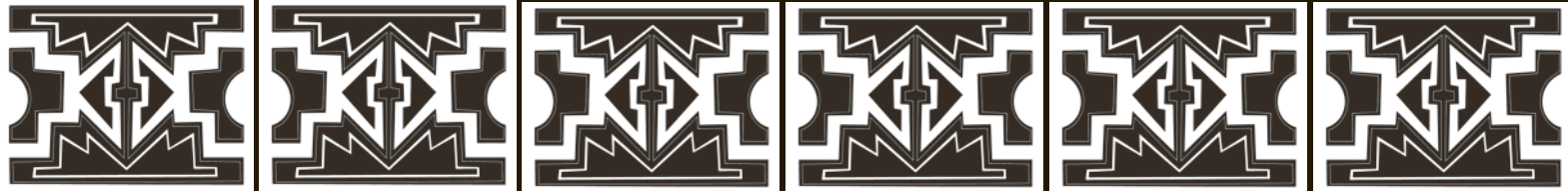
discussion groups and singing, the last night was a special event. It featured a semi-formal dinner at which the youth were appropriately attired, and were impressive in their presentation of the conferences they had planned and designed over the weekend. They were commissioned and sent off to claim greater visibility and voice within the church; in their parishes, dioceses and on a national level.

CONFERENCE FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF BLACK EPISCOPAL SEMINARIANS

The 2004 conference of the Organization of Black Episcopal Seminarians (OBES) was held from March 3-6, at the Episcopal Divinity School (EDS), Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Twenty four seminarians from nine seminaries shared their experiences of seminary, their expectations, hopes and fears for the future. The largely interactive event was keynoted by The Rt. Reverend Steven Charleston, President of the seminary.

Among numerous workshops, students experienced topics on Mission and Ministry, Anti-racism Issues, the History of



Blacks in the Episcopal Church and Practical Issues for Ministry. The group was addressed by the Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris at their annual meeting. Newly ordained clergy, the Reverends Deon Johnson, Assistant Rector, Christ Church, Shaker Heights, Ohio, Terrance Taylor, Youth Missioner, Diocese of Southeast Florida and Karen Coleman, transitional deacon, St. James Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts, shared the experiences of their new ministries with the group.

Other participating presenters included: The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Massachusetts, The Rt. Rev. Orris Walker, Bishop, Diocese of Long Island, the Reverend Canon Edward W. Rodman, Professor of Pastoral Theology, Episcopal Divinity School, the Rev. Canon Frederick B. Williams, Rector, Church of the Intercession, New York, the Rev. Karen Montagno, Dean of Students, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the Rev. Mark Bozzuti-Jones, Christ Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Following is a listing of the members of the class of 2004 and the seminaries from which they graduated. Steve Foster, General Theological Seminary, Paula Clark Green, Virginia Theological Seminary, Annemarie Jeffery, Virginia Theological Seminary,

Hyvenson Joseph, the Sewanee University of the South, Fulton Porter, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Willie Smith, General Theological Seminary, Stephanie Spellers, Episcopal Divinity School and Harold Lockett, Virginia Theological Seminary.

**(PLSE)
PASTORAL
LEADERSHIP
SEARCH EFFORT**

The Office of Black Ministries is actively engaged in supporting the work of the Pastoral Leadership Search Effort (PLSE). This is a dynamic initiative designed to encourage talented young people between the ages of 16 and 25 to consider ordained ministry as a vocational choice.

PLSE is a collaborative effort within the church and the Fund for Theological Education, and works in partnership with church leaders to identify, support and empower young people who express an interest in priestly or ordained ministry.

Please locate the materials sent to your parish and diocese and share them with your youth.

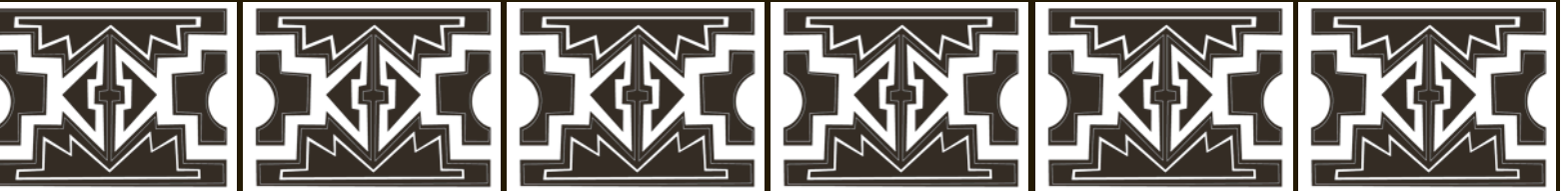
**CLERGY
DIRECTORY**

It seems that the clergy directory is a constant source of frustration for many. By reason of the ongoing deployment of clergy, the print directory is out of date almost as soon as it comes off the press. This directory is updated annually, and provides a hard copy for quick reference especially for those who do not use the electronic system. When your ministry takes you to a new location, please send us your new information. The office will ensure that your new assignment is up-dated electronically. The Office of Black Ministries will work to keep this directory as accurate and update as possible.

If necessary, please complete a new information form found at the Black Ministries booth at the UBE Conference and leave the completed form in the box provided for returns.

**DISCUSSION FOR
ACTION GROUPS**

We are looking to form Discussion for Action Groups in the following areas. If you have an interest in participating in any one of these groups please contact us at the office (800-334-7626 extensions 6084 or 5343).



- ♦ Global Mission
- ♦ Domestic Mission
- ♦ Training & Deployment Issues
- ♦ Youth Ministries
- ♦ Issues specific to Women
- ♦ Social Justice Issues

THE ETHNIC CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The Ethnic Congregational Development is comprised of Asian American Ministries, Black Ministries, Hispanic and Native American ministries.

As of this writing the missionaries for these ministries are in place as follows: Asian American Ministries, the Rev. Dr. Winfred Vergara, Black Ministries, the Rev. Angela S. Ifill, Hispanic Ministries, The Rev. Daniel Caballero Native American Ministries, Janine Tinsley-Roe.

The office invites all people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, and serves to enhance the ministry of all baptized persons through multiple services and resources available through our offices.

Our work encompasses the following biblical values and principles:

- ♦ Celebrate diversity

- ♦ Respect the dignity of every human being
- ♦ Provide a prophetic voice on social, culture, and economic injustices
- ♦ Sensitivity to racial, ethnic and women's issues
- ♦ Equip clergy and lay people including youth to be effective leaders to empower and transform communities and churches
- ♦ Overcome barriers and build transferable, replicable models for the whole church to move beyond maintenance to mission.

The four offices have begun conversations to seek ways in which we might work collaboratively.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to *Transformation & Renewal, Am I Called* and other conferences particular to the Black Church, this office supports and encourages participation in the following Congregational Development and Renewal Conferences offered by the Episcopal Church Clergy Renewal, Education and Discernment Opportunity, (CREDO), Clergy Leadership Project, (CLP), Upward Bound, Plant My Church and Start up, Start Over. Materials for the

Upward Bound Conference to be held in January, 2005 may be found at the Black Ministries Booth.

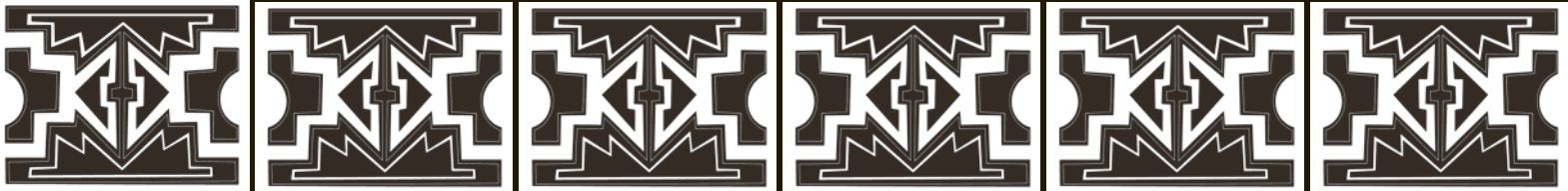
All of these events provide opportunities for both personal enrichment and learning, as we seek to develop strategies for renewed ministries and congregational development.

THE BLACK MINISTRIES WEBSITE

We invite you to visit our website at www.episcopalchurch.org and locate Black Ministries under the heading Leadership Resources. Currently, the website features information about upcoming events, reports on activities and provide other pertinent information. Your contributions to the site are invited. Please send us for posting, items of newsworthiness and interest to our constituents.

THE EPISCOPAL YOUTH EVENT

"Can you Catch the Spirit off the Beaten Path?" This is the question posed by the design team for the Episcopal Youth Event scheduled to be held in 2005.



Please encourage your young people to attend this very interactive National Event and offer your time as an adult chaperone. The conference will take place July 26 - 31, 2005 at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky. Brochures may be found at the Black Ministries Booth.

EPISCOPAL ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES (EAM)

It was my privilege to be a part of the 2004 Episcopal Asian American Consultation which was held in San Francisco from June 17-21. Approximately 160 participants attended the event which was co-chaired by the Reverends Bernard Young, Diocese of Long Island and Jerry Shigaki, Ethnic Missioner in the Diocese of Olympia.

The Opening Eucharist was celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Richard Chang, Diocese of Hawaii, with the Reverend Floyd "Butch" Gamarra, Diocese of Los Angeles, as preacher. The Welcome, and inspiring and challenging Opening address was given by the Reverend Dr. Fran Toy, President of the organization. In keeping with its theme "New Beginnings," small groups engaged in discussion

around the questions, "Where have we been?" "Where are we now?" "Where are we going?" and "How do we get there?"

It was the Reverend Canon Holly McClellan's task to weave the perspectives and comments from the various discussion groups, creating a tapestry against which the consultation could view its goals for the future.

A sumptuous banquet and gala was held in downtown Chinatown on Sunday, and on Monday at the closing Eucharist, the Rt. Reverend William Swing, Bishop, Diocese of California, installed the Reverend Dr. Winfred Vergara as Missioner for Asian Ministries. Dr. Vergara was preacher for the event.

FAREWELL TO LAZETTE McCANTS

After serving as Secretary for the Office of Black Ministries for the past three years, we bid a fond farewell to LaZette McCants. LaZette began her career at the Episcopal Church Center as a temporary employee three years ago, and was hired on a permanent basis after approximately nine months. LaZette has been a valuable asset to the Office over the years, especially

during the last one and one-half years when the missioner's position was vacant.

LaZette goes with all of our best wishes, and with God's blessings for her future endeavors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFRO-ANGLICANISM CONFERENCE
July 20-27, 2005
Toronto, CANADA

7TH TRIENNIAL CLERGY CONFERENCE
October, 2005

TRANSFORMATION AND RENEWAL CONFERENCE
November, 2005

EPISCOPAL YOUTH EVENT (E.Y.E)
July 26-31, 2005

CONTACT INFORMATION

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