

## **CNBC National Consultation Ad Hoc Committee Report to**

**the Conference of National Black Churches (CNBC)**

**December 14, 2017**

The 2017 National Consultation of the Conference of National Black Churches (CNBC) was held in Memphis, Tennessee on December 12 – 14, 2017. The Conference of National Black Churches (CNBC) is currently comprised of the national leadership of eight Black denominations that have a combined membership of over 20 million people and 30,000 congregations in the United States and the African Diaspora. The CNBC Board of Directors is made up of representatives from each of the member denominations.

This year, the theme was “Overcoming the Burden of Bias.” This consultation gave voice to the impact of implicit bias and how bias leads to discriminatory practices in nearly every facet of our society (i.e., education, health, politics, workforce hiring practices, economic development, housing, criminal justice etc.). More times than not, it is people of color and people of low socio-economic standing who suffer the consequences of bias, thereby, making it more difficult to achieve racial reconciliation among the masses.

These are the recommendations of the CNBC Ad Hoc Committee. We recommend that we call on our denominations and congregations to:

- 1) Advocate urgently against the tax reform bill, which contradicts God’s mandate to care for the poor, elderly, children and the most vulnerable. It provides benefits for the wealthy and corporations at the expense of “the least of these” and jeopardizes safety net programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Congressional representatives should be contacted immediately and urged to vote NO on the tax bill.
- 2) Advocate against predatory lending by:
  - a. Advocating for pay day lending rules that require lenders to establish a borrowers’ ability to repay the loan before granting the loan;
  - b. Advocating to limit the number of payday loans that can be taken out by a borrower within one year and insisting on rate caps that are consistent with the cap for military personnel;
  - c. Establish and implement more credit unions as another approach to offering sound financial resources;
  - d. Encourage and implement more financial literacy campaigns in our churches;
  - e. Support the New Abolitionism Campaign for Monetary Freedom that advocates moving from a debt base economy to a cash economy;
- 3) Advocate for the restoration of rights for formerly incarcerated citizens (returning citizens), rehabilitation programs, expungement where appropriate, and criminal justice reform;
- 4) Continue to advocate against any efforts to minimize or eliminate the Affordable Care Act;

- 5) Develop and participate in aggressive voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns (GOTV) for the mid-term and local elections next year (2018) and examine and implement successful strategies used in the Alabama special election for the United States Senate;
- 6) Advocate for higher education policies that ensure access to post- secondary education by supporting increased grant opportunities, reasonable student loan rates and loan forgiveness programs, especially in light of the new tax bill proposal that mitigates against this. Advocate for free tuition opportunities for post- secondary education in all states. Particular advocacy efforts should be focused on maintaining and strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), which are in jeopardy and under attack by this Administration;
- 7) Encouraging and inspiring young parents to introduce their children ages 0-3 with an engaging vocabulary, including a 30-million-word challenge, and nurture;
- 8) Hold schools accountable for meeting the civil rights of young people to be educated and support schools through tutoring, volunteering and encouragement.
- 9) Advocate against all efforts to undermine and cut programs that help the poor, and low-income children, the elderly and those most in need, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-food stamps), the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), famine relief, humanitarian aid, disaster relief and safety net programs for the most vulnerable.
- 10) Promote the advancement and implementation of a livable wage through local, state and federal legislation.
- 11) Advocate against and monitor over- policing, police violence against people of color, and white supremacist activities.
- 12) Advocate a move from a debt base economy to a cash economy.

#### **CNBC Ad Hoc Committee Members**

Rev. James T. Golden, Esquire, Social Action Director for the 11<sup>th</sup> African Methodist Episcopal (AME) District

Bishop Talbert Swan, Church of God in Christ (COGIC)

Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, 5<sup>th</sup> Christian Methodist Episcopal District

Rev. Dr. Charly Hames, Bebee Cathedral CME Church

Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune, Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice

Rev. Dr. Nelson B. Rivers III, Senior Consultant

**Rev. Dr. Gregory J. Jackson, Chair of the Committee** Mount Olive Baptist Church

*Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, Drafter*

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