

# **A Service for Organizing and Chartering A New United Methodist Congregation**

**July 30, 2017 11:30 AM**

**Presiding: Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen, Assistant to the  
Superintendent of the Ohio River Valley District  
of the West Ohio Conference of the United  
Methodist Church**

**Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, West Ohio Conference  
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We are Professing Members of the United Methodist Church (UMC) which is a mainline Protestant denomination with 12.6 million members and a major part of Methodism. The Mission of the UMC —“... is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs.”

With at least 12.6 million members as of 2016, the UMC is the largest denomination within the wider Methodist movement of approximately 80 million people across the world. At least 5 million of those members are from African nations where it is a fast growing church and faces daily the adversary. In the United States, the UMC ranks as the largest mainline Protestant denomination, the largest Protestant church after the Southern Baptist Convention, and the third largest Christian denomination.

From our beginning 400 years ago on August 25th, 1619 at Old Point Comfort as Africans in the USA and then, after passage of the 14th amendment to the US Constitution, as American citizens of African Heritage called African Americans or Blacks, we have played a vital role in the development of the USA.

Furthermore, in 2005, the nations of the African Continent through their Intergovernmental organization called the African Union defined the African Diaspora (AU) as “... peoples of African descent and heritage living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship, and who remain committed to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union.” In 2012 The AU expanded, in writing but not in fact, its membership to those who do not live in its established 5 regions to a 6th region – the African Diaspora. Now in 2019 they have said for us to organize ourselves, in the USA that is 47M people of African Descent.

Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) is the organized African American caucus of the United Methodist Church. BMCR represents and is dedicated to more than 2,400 African American United Methodist congregations and approximately 500,000 African American members across the United States. Since its 1967 inception in Detroit, BMCR has consistently been the voice of Black United Methodists and an advocate for the growth and development of black churches. When The United Methodist Church was formed in 1968, the caucus effectively lobbied for the creation of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race and the desegregation of The United Methodist Publishing House.

We worship in local church of the UMC called Keys of the Kingdom UMC, a new start congregation. We understand idea for an ethnic caucus that addressed the concerns and needs of the Black constituency of the newly merged United Methodist Church emerged in 1967 from conversations between the Rev. James Lawson, Dr. Negail Riley, Rev. Marshall Hodge, Dr. Gilbert Caldwell, Bishop Woodie W. White and Ms. Minnie Stein. In March 1968 a National Conference of Negro Methodists was convened and adjourned as Black Methodists for Church Renewal. It was at this conference that the words “Our time under God is now,” were spoken by Dr. Ernest Smith. Those prophetic words later became the motto of BMCR, and they are as relevant today as when they were uttered over 50 years ago.

We do this action in this historic year of 400 years of our people in the USA and believe it is now our time under God now to grow our congregation and past time for the people of African Descent in the USA to unite. We do so in alignment with the theme of this year's BMCR conference "The Journey Continues: Celebrating Our Faith, Hope, and Renewal."

The Social Principles (¶¶ 160-166) provide our most recent official summary of stated convictions. The Resolutions recorded in the Book of Resolutions expand on the Social Principles. These Resolutions are the official statements of The United Methodist Church that we use to build our actions on.

We at the Keys of the Kingdom UMC through our chapter of the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) plan to implement them at local level.

Our strategy for those churches willing to join in Civil Society Working Groups based on the Universal Periodic Review (#UNUPR) of the United States of America (#USA) in 2020.

For us, at the local church level, it is based organized around organizing at the grassroots around a model that empowers solutions in fact based on public-private partnerships that leverage the national capacity of the church. We Understand that the General Conference entrusts to the General Board of Church and Society responsibility to implement the Social Principles (§ 004, 2012 Book of Discipline). Furthermore, we understand that “In order that we may faithfully implement the Social Principles in the worldwide United Methodist Church, Church and Society seeks a process that will theologically and ethically strengthen their world-wide relevance and encourage greater implementation of the Social Principles.”

Having read the working papers on the new Social Principles to be introduced for vote in 2020 we subscribe to the thoughts given in the working papers, “ We encourage the church to advocate and work for social structures and compensatory programs to redress long-standing, systemic social inequities. We affirm the right of persons in members of historically underrepresented racial and ethnic communities access to equal and equitable opportunities. and We further believe private and public economic enterprises must take responsibility for the private and social costs, i.e., the larger societal impacts, of doing business.”

The operational statement for this ask of the Church is based on the Friends of the African Union on this past Juneteenth (June 19th, 2019), were we pledged,

“We as Citizens of the United States of America who are decedent from Africans made new citizens in 1868, 150 years ago, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish equality of justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the equal blessings of liberty to ourselves and our future generations, do ordain as organized civil society and establish this month a working group to establish a 150 year (2019-2169) #150BlackFolksPlan that is to deliver its work by August 25th 2019. This date is the 400th year anniversary of the landing of the first Africans in the English colonies in 1619 at Fort Comfort, which would later become part of the state of Virginia, one of the founding states of the United States of America. The current over 37 million Americans who are Decedents of America’s African slavery who were born here. For the most part, we are the product of intentional disconnect from the lands that our ancestors. They were sold from and experienced the “door of no return” and or were born as the product of our slave masters, like the Jefferson males, who raped their women slaves and then enslaved their children and grandchildren. We now have a chance to address that legacy through our actions in the creation of the African Diaspora Directorate.”

I look at our chapter of the BMCR would be promoting the Church to form Civil Society Working Groups at district levels on the Universal Periodic Review of the United States of America in 2020. As the church is in consultative status with the UN ECOSOC the local church than create solutions for the USA, instead of restating our Human Rights problems. My church will do this in support the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its application to Africans in the African Diaspora in the USA and their condition worldwide as stated by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent Report on the USA in 2016.

It is our plan to have at least 400 Working Groups that are founded by UMC Congregations to respond to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (#UNUPR) of the United States of America (USA) in 2020 by August 25th 2019.

Which will be based on the UN authorized joint venture submission in 2014 with New Future Foundation, A CSO in ECOSOCC Status (UN DOCUMENT #JS51\_UPR22\_USA\_E\_Main) on the #UNUPR of the USA in 2015 that included the creation of a public-private partnership with the Executive and his agencies like HUD and the agent of the US Treasury the Federal Reserve.

We propose this #150BlackFolksPlan as a solution for the USA as detailed in the Civil Society Organizations Friends of the African Union Concept Note for the 24th Session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. In 2014 the theme of our joint venture FAU/NFF Universal Periodic Review program was based on "Money for main street, not just wall street. A capital solution to 400 years of injustice.". We have updated it as the #150BlackFolksPlan, a solution under relevant international human rights instruments, in particular, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. We do so bearing in mind that the USA, a founding member of the United Nations (UN) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, practiced from its formation, in its constitution of 1788, human slavery for 76 years as a nation.

We use August 25th 2019 to present the framework for the #150BlackFolksPlan as a solution to the results of the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of African slavery that was legal from 1789 to 1865 and in the 170 years (1619 - 1789 ) in the progenitors to the 13 English colonies that made up the USA. It is to be a solution, de jure & de facto, of institutionalized racial & economic discrimination, by the governments of the USA at all levels and the private sector on Americans of African Descent from 1868. **We will use updated answers to the 2015 #UNUPR of the USA and current tools such as the \$90B in Bank based Community Benefit Agreements and Opportunity Zones as a basis to present in December to the working group of The UN International Decade for People of African Descent our solution.** It will be a solution that will be a stimulus to the American Economy that local churches can sign onto that -

- (1) is judicious & addresses solutions to lead poisoning in 7M African American dwellings;
- (2) answers under the control of our Federal Executive Branch to the statements in the interagency response set forth by the US State Dept. to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of the USA in 2015 that said "Civil Rights, Ethnic, & Racial Discrimination" is the number one human rights problem in the USA;
- (3) draws on already established Executive authority & market infrastructure;
- (4) helps the other Americans through indirect associations by creation of supportive ancillary jobs & entrepreneurial opportunities thereby supporting the advancement of the American people as a whole, and;
- (5) is just adequate enough to implement real changes that reverse long-standing conditions caused by systemic de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination, as documented in depth elsewhere, that provides a means from 2019 to 2169 to address these issues.

**Member churches will be able to say we are the path for change and you should look at us as your house of worship because we are the change agent church with the global infrastructure to not only talk the talk but walk the walk.** We ask the Church to have a representative on a working conference call next week that would talk about how through the General Board of Church and Society we can start this process. **At the very least as our church as a joint venture in United Methodist Church United Nations Office at Church Center for the United Nations so as to submit solutions aligned with the thoughts expressed in this document on this day, the founding of the United States of America in 1788.**

Ref.: FAU Concept Note for the 24th Session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

Friends of the African Union (FAU), which is an [Ohio non-reporting unincorporated association](#) (2012), and the [Cincinnati Empowerment Corporation](#) (1999) which does business as FAU Global Operations Center (2019) and its public beneficiary company [FAU EDcorp, Inc.](#) (2016) and Friends of the African Union smartWISE Economic Development, Inc. (2018) is proposing solutions to problems experienced by the African Diaspora in the USA during the [International Decade for People of African Descent](#) through the creation of the African Diaspora Directorate.

The African Diaspora Directorate (ADD) is to be a new unit of FAU designed to serve as a catalyst to facilitate the involvement of African Diasporan peoples around the world in the affairs of the [Africa Union](#). ADD is proposed to have four divisions (1) the Secretariat of the African Diaspora's Economic, Social and Cultural Council (2) the Civil Society Division (3) Diaspora Division and the (4) Operations Division. The African Diaspora's Economic, Social and Cultural Council, which is composed of civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-state organs is to be established in the USA by August 25<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The creation of the ADD Operations Division coincides with a [Big Data Revolution](#) that has the capacity to both uplift and injure people of African descent, both individually and systemically. This division will work, in 2019, with The Working Group of Experts of the People of African Descent to examine aspects of these issues, facilitate public debate, and promote engagement by varied stakeholders with a focus on Hamilton County Ohio in the United States.

We will use an in-depth study of Hamilton County Ohio to create a framework to study the human rights situation of people of African descent in the United States of America.

We address the question in the [United Nations Concept Note 24th Session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent](#) 25-29 March 2019 in its Request for data-guidance note, "What data, analysis and studies exist on the composition of the population; the human rights situation; and on measures to address racial disparities and provide redress and remedy for racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, Afrophobia and related intolerance and historical injustices constituting crimes against humanity." using these sources"

1. [US Census Bureau Profile America Facts for Features](#): CB19-FF.01 FEB. 26, 2019
2. The UN HRC's 2015 Universal Periodic Review (#UNUPR) of the USA as part of the Second Cycle with a date of consideration: Monday 11 May 2015 - 9.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and [our Friends of the African Union New Future Foundation solution response](#) uUN Doc JS51\_UPR22\_USA\_E\_Main

3. Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent - visit to United States of America, 19-29 January 2016 ([A/HRC/33/61/Add.2](#))
4. Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights - Mission to the United States of America ([A/HRC/38/33/Add.1](#))
5. Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention - Mission to the United States of America ([A/HRC/36/37/Add.2](#))
6. Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children - Mission to the United States of America ([A/HRC/35/37/Add.2](#))
7. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association - Mission to the United States of America ([A/HRC/35/28/Add.2](#))
8. [Congressional Black Caucus](#) Report (2017) [We Have A Lot To Lose: Solutions To Advance Black Families In The 21st Century](#)
9. [An Overview of Black or African American Population Statistics](#) Greg Pewett Training Specialist, Education and Training Branch Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office U.S. Census Bureau November 2016
10. [The State of Black America](#)®, the National Urban League's seminal annual publication now in its 41st edition (2017)
11. [The State of Black Cincinnati 2015: A TALE OF TWO CITIES](#) by the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio
12. [Black Dollars Matter: The Sales Impact of Black Consumers](#), Nielsen Homescan, Total U.S., for the 52 weeks ending Dec. 30, 2017.
13. [Plan Cincinnati](#) (2012) a City Planning Guide
14. [Cincinnati Empowerment Zone Plan](#) Application (1999)

We acknowledge that our cumulative gross product is over [\\$1.2 Trillion Dollars](#) but also accept that African Americans continue to lag behind their white counterparts.

When it comes to equal access to [employment](#), [housing](#), [education](#), and other areas like the fact that of the USA's [2.6M African American owned businesses](#) less that 122k employ more than 1-person African American have gaps because of historic racism that can be quantified.

Friends of the African Union on this day of this [Historic Black History Month](#), February 28th, 2019, pledge, "We as Citizens of the United States of America who are decedent from Africans made new citizens in 1868, 150 years ago , in order to form a more perfect Union, establish equality of justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the equal blessings of liberty to ourselves and our future generations, in the USA and throughout the world, do ordain as organized civil society and establish this month a working group to establish a 150 year (2019-2169) [Black Folks Plan](#) (#2019BlackFolksPlan) that is to deliver its work by August 25th 2019. This date being the 400th year anniversary of landing of the first Africans in the English colonies in 1619 at [Old Point Comfort](#), which would later become part of the state of Virginia, one of the founding states of the United States of America."

We do this work now after 400 years in the English Colonies as a solution to the results of the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of African slavery in the USA for 77 years (1788-1865) and the 168 years (1619 - 1787) in the progenitors to the 13 English colonies that made up the United States of America. It is a solution to the effects subsequently de jure & de facto of racial & economic discrimination on the descendant Americans of America's African slavery as detailed in this proposed body of work for the Working Group of Experts of People of African Descent.

From our beginning 400 years ago on August 25th, 1619 at [Old Point Comfort](#) as Africans and then as African Americans (1868) we have played a vital role in the building of the USA and now it is time we rebuild our global community, first in the USA, then in unity with the African Diaspora and by 2020 in the [Nations of the current African Union](#).

FAU recognizes that becoming Americans did not create economic opportunity, rather the laws and policy decisions passed by local, state, and federal governments actually promoted the discriminatory patterns that continue to this day in the practice of institutionalized racism on Americans of African Descent. We will build a solution for that called the #2019BlackFolksPlan.

The #2019BlackFolksPlan is to be a solution based on our work presented to the [Working Group of Experts of People of African Descent in 2017](#) to provide a solutions to the practice of institutionalized racism in government and business on the descendant Americans of African heritage from 1868 through today and as important their effects subsequently de jure & de facto of that racial & economic discrimination.

[Hershel Daniels Junior](#), Chairman, Friends of the African Union