

PRESENTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL BLACK CHURCHES



BLACK

FAITH

*and Justice*

IDEALS

DR. W. FRANKLYN RICHARDSON, CHAIRMAN | DR. JACQUI L. BURTON, PRESIDENT

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL BLACK CHURCHES (CNBC)

The Conference of National Black Churches (CNBC) is comprised of the national leadership of the largest historically Black denominations in America representing more than 80% of African American Christians across this nation with a combined membership of over 25 million people and 31,000 congregation. CNBC's member denominations are:

- African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME)
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (AMEZ)
- Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME)
- Church of God in Christ (COGIC)
- National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (NBC USA)
- Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (PNBC)

In keeping with our mission to speak with a unified voice of Black religious bodies that seeks to improve the quality of life for African Americans, the Conference of National Black Churches presents “Ten Black Faith and Justice Ideals” for uniting and advocating for justice, freedom, healing, and empowerment.

## THE PURPOSE OF THESE FAITH AND JUSTICE IDEALS IS THREE-FOLD:

1. To identify the most urgent issues facing the Black community
2. To propose a united national plan of intervention
3. To organize, strategize, and mobilize for justice, equity, and liberation.

# 10 BLACK FAITH & JUSTICE IDEALS

We believe Black life must be valued and the humanity of all descendants of African descent must be affirmed to counter what Franz Fanon called “systemic negation.” Therefore, in the tradition of W. E. B. DuBois declaring the need for a one-hundred-year plan and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reimagining the United States by declaring “I have a dream” and inspired by Ella Baker empowering everyday people by advocating “Give the people light and they will find their way,” The Conference of National Black Churches presents “Ten Black Faith and Justice Ideals” for uniting and mobilizing to push for justice, freedom, healing, empowerment and flourishing.

We affirm our connection with Africans the world over, as well as former colonized peoples and commit to fighting for reparative justice that will begin the process of healing the world.



## 1 REPARATIONS

The biblical value of repairing damages to victims of exploitation through reparations is one vehicle of healing centuries of white supremacy and colonialism.

## 2 PUBLIC POLICY & VOTING

We recognize that public policy has personal and community consequences. Our communities have been crippled for decades by racist policies. We affirm the need to engage in creating and advocating for just policies and valuing the voice of our vote; and we call for a constitutional amendment guaranteeing and protecting the right to vote.

## 3 CONSTITUTIONAL/COMMUNITY POLICING

We want communities that are built from the bottom up, as opposed to being over policed from the top down. We, therefore, reject arbitrary “stop and frisk” policies and call for community policing in all local municipalities.

## 4 MENTAL HEALTH

Black people have suffered relentless and ongoing trauma at the hands of white supremacy and state sanctioned terror and must have access to mental health services beginning in pre-school.

## 5 ECONOMIC & DIGITAL EQUITY

Hundreds of years of structural racism have produced barriers to economic success. The Covid-19 pandemic made apparent to all, the great racial and digital divide. We call for the elimination of economic barriers and tech racial disparities that systematically obstruct full inclusion and participation within the U.S. digital economy and seek to close the gaps in wealth, employment, advancement, and income. We call for a concerted, sustained effort to build Black Tech Ecosystems that economically support Black churches, HBCUs, and other “critical black digital infrastructure organizations,” led by Black faith tech leaders, Black tech entrepreneurs, and Black tech social impact leaders. We stand against the economic exploitation of financial predators, bias algorithms, and digital exclusion. We call for the building of healthy economic, digitally empowered Black tech futures.

# 10 BLACK FAITH & JUSTICE IDEALS

## 6 BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH

We stand for Black women's health and call for targeted, culturally competent ways of insuring maternal health services that protect vulnerable Black lives.

## 7 EDUCATION

We affirm the equalizing power of education and call for equitable funding of public schools and our Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

## 8 GUN VIOLENCE

As servants of the Prince of Peace we stand against the proliferation of guns (weapons of mass destruction) and the violence that results. We call for a ban on all weapons of mass destruction and the investment in historically neglected communities that will allow people to thrive and be safe.

## 9 CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The criminal justice system has a history of being criminal and unjust to Black people. We call for a justice system that reimagines public safety and extracts all vestiges of systemic racism

## 10 ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE FREE OF RACISM

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane." As followers of the Great Physician, we call for the creation of healthy communities and equitable access to quality healthcare that is culturally competent and sensitive.

### SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III**  
National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.  
(NBCUSA, Inc.)

**Dr. Jacqueline A. Thompson**  
Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC)

**Bishop Thomas Brown**  
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME)

**Bishop Talbert Swan, II**  
Church of God In Christ (COGIC)

**Bishop John Bryant**  
African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME)

**Bishop Marvin Thomas**  
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME)

**Bishop Dennis V. Proctor**  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (AMEZ)

