



WHAT IS THE UBE?

THE Union of Black Episcopalians stands in the continuing tradition of more than 200 years of Black Leadership in the Episcopal Church.

Beginning with the establishment the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas by Absalom Jones in 1792 in the city of Philadelphia through the election of Barbara Harris as Suffragan Bishop of Massachusetts and the election of Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry there has always been a strong corps of Black Christians in the Episcopal Church. People like James Holly, Henry Delaney, John Walker, Tollie Caution, Charles Lawrence, Deborah Harmon Hines and countless others.

Organized in 1968 as the Union of Black Clergy and Laity, the Union is the proud inheritor of the work of these people and earlier organizations, the Convocation of Colored Clergy, the Conference of Church Workers Among Colored People, all dedicated to the ministry of Blacks in The Episcopal Church. The name was changed to the Union of the Black Episcopalians in 1971.

The Union of Black Episcopalians encourages the involvement of Black people in the total life of the church – on every level and in every way – mission, stewardship, evangelism, education, leadership, governance and politics. The Union is committed to help in the translating these words into Christian action for all Episcopalians and at all levels of the church's mission.

The Union of Black Episcopalians is a confederation of more than 32 chapters and interest groups throughout the continental United States and the Caribbean. The Union also has members in Canada, Africa and Latin America.

Chapters are the Union's strongest link in a ministry that function at the Diocesan, Provincial and National Church levels. Financial Support from the chapters and individual members are the chief support of the Union. The Union through the supervision of the National Board of Directors helps to organize chapters, but chapters are encouraged to develop their own local priorities and programs.

Highlights of the Union's program year is the Annual Meeting and Conference held in late June. The four-day conference is built around workshops on important issues and the business sessions where officers are elected, programs and projects are approved and the annual budget is set.

Throughout the year the Union sponsors informative programs such as **Talk2Talk** and **We're Talking Now**. The two programs provide a wide range of topics such as Mental Health, Voter Rights, Gun Violence, Social Justice Issues, Creation Care, and exposure to a host of new authors of color.

UBE is a Virginia nonprofit corporation; it is tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

You can help us accomplish our mission through donating, volunteering or becoming members.

Website: www.ube.org



WHAT SERVICES AND BENEFITS DO UBE MEMBERS RECEIVE?

Members of UBE receive: Networking opportunities • Dynamic in-person and virtual Conferences • Access to members only meetings, workshops, events, and virtual gatherings • Advance notice of Vocational Discernment Opportunities targeted to persons of color • Early Bird access to timely electronic Eblasts of news stories covering UBE's and The Episcopal Church's work on matters of race, justice, and Beloved Community • Partnership with an organization that values technology and the use of social media • Partnership values technology and the platforms to communicate matters of particular interest to persons of color through the legislative process of the General Convention •

Benefits of UBE Membership

Volunteer opportunities to exercise gifts, talents, and leadership through national committee and local chapter service • Eligibility for organizational awards and recognition • Voting privileges that give each member a seat at the table to make positive change within UBE • Weekly Prayer Line Gatherings • Monthly Bible Study • Mental Health Resources • Virtual encounters of the enlightening kind with *Talk2Talk* and *We're Talking Now* • Introduction to new authors of color and their publication • UBE's Monthly UBUNTU Newsletter • Annual Business Meetings and Conferences hosted by Local and Diocesan Chapters • and so much more.

Membership is open to all Episcopalians regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or age. For more information on how to join:

- Go to the UBE website at www.ube.org and follow the prompts.
- Go to the UBE website and contact your appropriate Regional Director
- Contact UBE Headquarters at leadership@theube.org or 703-461-1881
- Contact Deacon Linda Tardy Wilson, UBE National Secretary, at linda.wilson@theube.org

