



NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

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November 28, 2017

Dear Members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Community,

In July 2017, at its 44th Biennial Convention, I was elected President of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus. My name is Rev. Thomas H. Priest, Jr., member at large, New Hope Presbytery, Raleigh, North Carolina. I am humbled by the opportunity to unify our collective voices to achieve the full participation and representation of Caucus members in the emerging life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The National Black Presbyterian Caucus has a rich history of witnessing to God's radical hope that we love one another as we realize God's creation of an egalitarian community of love, peace and inclusion. As President, my goal is to continue the rich legacy of the Caucus, increase the participation and representation of its members in the governance of the church and promote and strengthen its Black congregations.

Elder Stefanie Lewis, chairperson of our membership committee along with Elder Rosy Latimore, Co-Chair of our 2019 Biennial Convention and Rev. Estelle Aaron, Director of Chapter Development will be reaching out to you inviting you to join the National Black Presbyterian Caucus. I encourage you to accept this opportunity to share your gifts, ideas and voice to help guarantee a future of inclusion and the realization of the beloved community for our legacy.

This church-wide effort to increase the witness and involvement of Presbyterians is needed to facilitate the change required to achieve the mission of the Caucus. The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. We are faced with a reality of a declining membership, continued marginalization of our members, and living in a society where acts of hatred threaten the unity of the church. Solutions to combat these intrusive evil forces require our collective voices.

Therefore, my sisters and brothers in Christ, I invite you to join the National Black Presbyterian Caucus and together, sharing our collective voices, gifts and passions we will help realize God's beloved community. Please accept my sincere thank you for considering this invitation. I look forward to working with you as we labor together in God's vineyard.

In God's Radical Hope and Love,

Thomas H. Priest, Jr.

Thomas H. Priest, Jr.
President