

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HBCUs

Members

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, D.Min., Chair	Pennsylvania, III	2021
Scott E. Evenbeck, Ph.D., Vice-Chair	New York, II	2021
Martha Bedell Alexander, Ed.D.	North Carolina, IV	2021
The Rev. Canon James G. Callaway, D.D.	New York, II	2021
Joel L. Cunningham, Ph.D.	Tennessee, IV	2021
Canon Anita George, Ph.D.	Mississippi, IV	2021
The Rev. Canon Michele Hagans, D.Min.	Washington, III	2021
The Rev. Eugene Y. Lowe, Ph.D.	New York, II	2021
The Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman	North Carolina, IV	2021
The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley	South Carolina, IV	2022
Ms. Julia Ayala Harris, Ex Officio	Oklahoma, VII	n/a
The Most Rev. Michael Curry, D.D., Ex Officio	North Carolina, IV	2021

Changes in Membership

The Rev. Richard A. Burnett (Southern Ohio, V), added 9/2023

Representation at General Convention

Bishop Samuel Rodman, Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley and Dr. Martha Bedell Alexander.

Mandate

2015 - AN028

Resolved, That the Executive Council establishes a committee of Executive Council from the task group formed January 11, 2015 to continue to support and understand the role of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the important relationship with The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council charges the committee to explore and make recommendations to Executive Council by General Convention 2021 the long-term needs of the HBCUs to ensure access to students of color for future generations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council authorizes a budget up to \$15,000 for this triennium for the work of the committee with composition to consist of the current membership of the task group and that the committee may consist of eight to ten members jointly appointed by the Presiding Officers and provide to Executive Council an annual report at the June meetings of Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council expresses gratitude to the members of the task group for their contributions in forging an important relationship between TEC and the schools and requests a report of the accomplishments of the task group to date be prepared by the end of 2017.

Summary of Work

The work of the Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities Committee (HBCUs) has focused since our last report on seeking ways to strengthen the capacity of Saint Augustine's University and Voorhees University to fulfill their educational missions. The HBCUs Committee has met virtually thirteen times in the last two years. Our group has met in person once during this period on the Saint Augustine's campus in a meeting that also included Voorhees University's new dean of the chapel.

In addition to fund raising support, the HBUC's Committee is pleased to report that both institutions now have chaplains. The Rev. Hershey Mallette Stevens continues her ministry at Saint Augustine's University, having recently returned from parental leave. Voorhees University has recently announced the appointment of the Rev. Marie-Carmel Chery as Dean of the Chapel and Spiritual Engagement.

These appointments have each been completed with the cooperation and support of the cognizant diocesan bishops of the dioceses of North Carolina and South Carolina. Both Bishop Rodman and Bishop Woodliff-Stanley are members of the Committee.

Both Saint Augustine's and Voorhees Universities have emerged from the pandemic period with a revitalized focus and programming designed to transform lives and hopes of the students they are committed to serve. Voorhees has completed its SACS-COC accreditation, and embarked on new initiatives in the local community. St. Augustine's is making progress on plans to address deferred maintenance.

With the support of TEC office of development, both institutions have benefitted from increased support from the Absalom Jones Fund. We have also encouraged Voorhees and Saint Augustine's Universities to use the TEC development office for advice and support about other fund-raising opportunities in the church.

A highpoint in the Committee's efforts of making our HBCUs more known among Episcopalians came at the Episcopal Parish Network Annual Conference in Jacksonville in February 2023, which highlighted the two universities. The combined choirs from both universities gathered in Jacksonville to sing at the opening of the conference before Jon Meacham's keynote that recognized them. T.J. Houlihan, from the TEC development office collaborated to make the visit meaningful to the students, with hospitality assistance of Kurt Barnes, TEC's chief financial officer.

These two institutions carry forward historic commitments of TEC to address and redress the destructive and sin-filled consequences of racism in the church and in the USA. The HBUCs Committee and our two universities deeply appreciate the financial support that the GC has made in recent triennial budgets.

While Episcopalians can take pride in our continuing support, but budget allocations have remained flat in the last decade. It is time now to address this gap by increasing the annual grant to each school to \$500K per year for the next triennium. We come to this conclusion based on our assessment of the

history we outline in the supplemental materials, the commitment TEC is undertaking to reckon with this history, and the need these universities address to provide educational and life changing opportunity to students with limited means (demonstrated by their high Pell grant eligibility) and high hopes.

Given the particularly challenging contexts that private HBCU's continue to confront, we are forwarding to the budget committee the recommendation to address the budget and priorities committee about this substantial increase in the budget for the coming three years. After careful consideration, our committee recommends this request to provide additional TEC resources to support the core missions of our two remaining Episcopal HBUCs

Supplementary Materials

While not necessary, some groups may want to include supplementary materials. If you would like to do so, please be in touch with the GCO (gc.support@episcopalchurch.org) and we will advise you further. All supplementary documents must be approved and in a translatable form. For example, a copyrighted document would not be allowed unless written permission to publish were obtained by the group. Or, for example, supplemental material might not be included because it is provided as a PDF file, which cannot be translated.

Historical Episcopal Church HBCU role

In 1865, The Episcopal Church's General Convention organized the Protestant Episcopal Freedman's Commission (renamed the Commission of Home Missions to Colored People in 1868), to establish schools in the South that would provide higher education and religious instruction to African Americans.

The American Church Institute for Negroes (ACIN), founded in 1906, was renamed the American Church Institute (ACI) in 1961. It was established to coordinate church-affiliated schools and refocus attention on the educational needs of men and women of color. The ACIN administered schools and colleges dedicated to the education of African Americans in the South to fulfill the Church's mission to close the gap between educational opportunities for African Americans and whites. In 1924 the Institute agreed to support the college as its South Carolina member, beginning the Episcopal Church relation that continues today.

ACI began its work three years prior to the founding of the NAACP and dissolved three years after passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. During those years, ACI witnessed a major shift in American society's approach to rights for African Americans, from a "separate but equal" segregation-based policy, to a growing movement toward a racially integrated society at all levels, including education. While ACI's decision to cease its oversight of schools arose from concern that it was supporting segregated education, its positive contributions to higher education for African Americans remain. Since 1965 support for the remaining Episcopal HBCUs has been provided through General Convention allocations, drawing on remaining ACI endowments and general church funds.