

A Study Guide

for



***“BEYOND NEW WINE:
TOWARD A 21ST CENTURY BLACK PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH GROWTH STRATEGY”***

October 10, 2000

QUESTIONS FOR BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS:

We ask sessions of Black Presbyterian Congregations to hold a one-day retreat to study this "Focus Paper" and develop their plan of action for church growth and National Black Presbyterian Caucus chapter development. Such questions as the following may be addressed:

1. What would you add to or delete from this "Focus Paper?"
2. What are the opportunities for Membership Growth in Your Community?
3. What are the challenges your congregation must overcome in order to realize its potential for growth?
4. What ministries or programs beyond worship must your leaders put in place to nurture spiritual growth for members and leaders of all ages?
5. How can your leaders get the necessary training in witnessing and other forms of evangelism to reach persons who are not members of a church?
6. What other form of leader development is needed?

Please forward your reflections, comments and suggestions to the Black Presbyterian Church Growth Committee (BPCGC) c/o Eleanor Doty, NBPC Secretary at: edoty@att.net or 7940 Briar Brook Court, Dallas, TX 75218. And, please plan on participating in detailed discussions and action planning at the National Summit for Black Presbyterians to be held in conjunction with the 34th Annual NBPC Convention, April 25-29, 2001 in Los Angeles, Calif. Please forward responses to "Beyond New Wine" no later than February 15, 2001.

Questions For Black Presbyterian Congregational Leaders: (Cont'd.)

7. What would be necessary for your congregation to become a tithing church?
8. What can your congregation do to increase the affirmation and use of Black Presbyterian Clergy Women?
9. What would be necessary to motivate your leaders to become active in a local and regional National Black Presbyterian Caucus Chapter?
10. What support do your leaders want from their local National Black Presbyterian Caucus Chapter?
11. How is your congregation fighting to overcome the effects of racism? How should the national caucus address the issues of racism?
12. How have you addressed the issue of racism with respect to your presbytery?

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QUESTIONS FOR BLACK PRESBYTERIAN STAFF:

We are aware that Middle Governing Body and General Assembly staff members are meeting on November 2000. One topic they will discuss together is "Is this New Wine?" We ask them to also include a discussion of this focus paper ("Beyond New Wine") and formulate a report for the Comprehensive Church Growth Strategy which outlines the roles of General Assembly and Middle Governing Body staff in supporting church growth and National Black Presbyterian Caucus chapter development. The following questions are offered as suggestions for consideration in the discussion:

1. What would you add to or delete from the Focus Paper "Beyond New Wine?"
2. What are the major resources, opportunities and challenges congregational leaders face in their consideration of church growth?
3. What would you like to see included in a Comprehensive Black Presbyterian Church Growth Strategy?
4. What roles do (and can) staff members in your positions play to support Black Presbyterian church growth and NBPC chapter development?
5. What are some of the most blatant manifestations of racism in the PCUSA and how would you address them?
6. Identify ways to assist congregations to be more receptive to female clergy leadership?
7. Is there a need for non-geographic presbyteries and why?

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QUESTIONS FOR NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS LEADERS:

National Black Presbyterian Caucus leaders are a major resource for both church growth and chapter development, which are to each other as hand and glove. They serve as both initiators and support persons for congregations. They work with congregations and within the Presbyterian connectional system on behalf of congregations. The Black Presbyterian Church Growth Committee (BPCGC) is asking local and regional chapter leaders to meet (in person, if possible; otherwise, via conference calls) to develop a report presenting suggestions for the Black Presbyterian Church Growth Strategy. The following questions might be used as guidelines for your discussions:

1. What would you add to or delete from local and regional chapter development?
2. What opportunities and challenges for church growth do you see for the congregations in your Caucus chapter?
3. What is your chapter currently doing to support church growth? What else can you do?
4. What help do you need from other parts of the Caucus or denomination?
5. What are the most blatant manifestations of racism in the PCUSA and how would you address them?
6. Identify ways to assist congregations to be more receptive to African American Female leadership.

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**QUESTIONS FOR BLACK PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL FACULTY,
SEMINARIANS AND OTHER LEADERS:**

We are inviting Black Presbyterian faculties and seminarians to reflect on this paper either, as individuals or in a group. The following questions are offered as suggestions for your discussions.

1. What would you add to or delete from the Vision Statement?
2. How do you see your role in church growth and NBPC chapter development?
3. What would you like to see included in a Comprehensive Black Presbyterian Church growth Strategy and NBPC Chapter Development?
4. Are there curriculum resources available to assist congregations in implementing aspects of the Focus Paper?
5. What are some of the most blatant manifestations of racism in the PCUSA and how would you address them?
6. Identify ways to assist congregations to be more receptive to African American Female Clergy leadership.

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