

# PROGRESSIVE



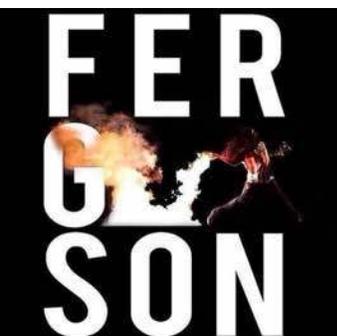
*Voice*

A Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE No 9 - FALL 2014

## The Ferguson Issue

**TO ALL PNBC CONSTITUENTS:** as part of my pledge to lift our voice on behalf of the voiceless, this bulletin is sent to inform you of how we are involved in speaking to the situation in Ferguson, MO as a result of the police murder of Michael Brown on Saturday, August 9, 2014.



Attached you will see a letter signed jointly by African-American denominational leaders. The conference call that pulled us together and the letter were initiated and crafted by the African-American Clergy Network led by PNBC icon Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. and former president, Dr. T. DeWitt Smith, Jr. This letter was delivered to Congressman Emanuel Cleaver (D) representing the 5th District of Missouri which includes Ferguson, MO. This letter is intended to demonstrate to him and the people of Ferguson and the entire district that they have the collective support of the African-American faith community.

You will note that we are asked to contribute to the funeral expenses for Mr. Brown. If you want to make a contribution towards this effort, please forward your gift to PNBC Headquarters right away with MICHAEL BROWN written on the left hand corner of your check.

I have been in communication with PNBC pastors in the area and urged them to support Reverend Sharpton's rally for unity on Sunday, August 17th.

Also, I have been in touch with the Progressive State Convention of New York through President Marcus Ware to urge them to participate in the march on Staten Island, NY at 12 noon to commemorate the life of Eric Gardner and to protest police brutality. Mr. Gardner as you know was also a victim of police murder.

The larger social justice issues in both these unfortunate incidents are police brutality and disrespect for the lives of Black people. We will continue to address these issues as an ongoing part of our social justice message.

**YOUR SERVANT,  
DR. JAMES C. PERKINS,  
PRESIDENT PNBC**



## Progressive National Baptist Convention Elects Rev. Dr. James C. Perkins as 20th President

**Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Rev. Dr. James C. Perkins, Senior Pastor of Greater Christ Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, was elected as the 20th President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC)** by delegates attending the 53rd Annual Convention. States Perkins, "I am honored to be elected as president of this historic organization. I look forward to serving our pastors and churches and to making our voice heard on the critical issues of our time." Dr. Perkins's goals for the PNBC include returning the denomination to its roots as "a premiere prophetic Christian body that proclaims the gospel's social justice message." In 1961, PNBC started as a movement which reflected the religious, social, and political climate of the time. Its mission was to transform the traditional African American Baptist Convention as well as society. The formation of the convention was wrapped up in the Civil Rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s struggle for freedom for African Americans. It was PNBC that provided a denominational home for Dr. King and many of the Baptist leaders in the Civil Rights Movement. In concert with the denomination's historical ideologies, Perkins has created a mission statement that is relevant for a 21st-century African American community and will drive his strategic goals.





# The Ferguson Issue

*Joint Statement of Heads of Historic African American Church Denominations, Independent Churches, the National African American Clergy Network, and Faith Partnerships, Inc.*

*Regarding The Brutal Killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri*

In light of the long and bloody trail of lynchings, deaths, and killings of African American youth from Emmett Till, to Trayvon Martin, to Michael Brown, and scores of others throughout our nation, we call for action, justice, and the transformation of our society. While Michael Brown is physically dead, justice must not be buried with his young body.

The following is a statement regarding the untimely and unjust killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, who is spiritually "our child," and a child of the African American and concerned American community. We stand in solidarity with the suffering community of Ferguson, Missouri, and

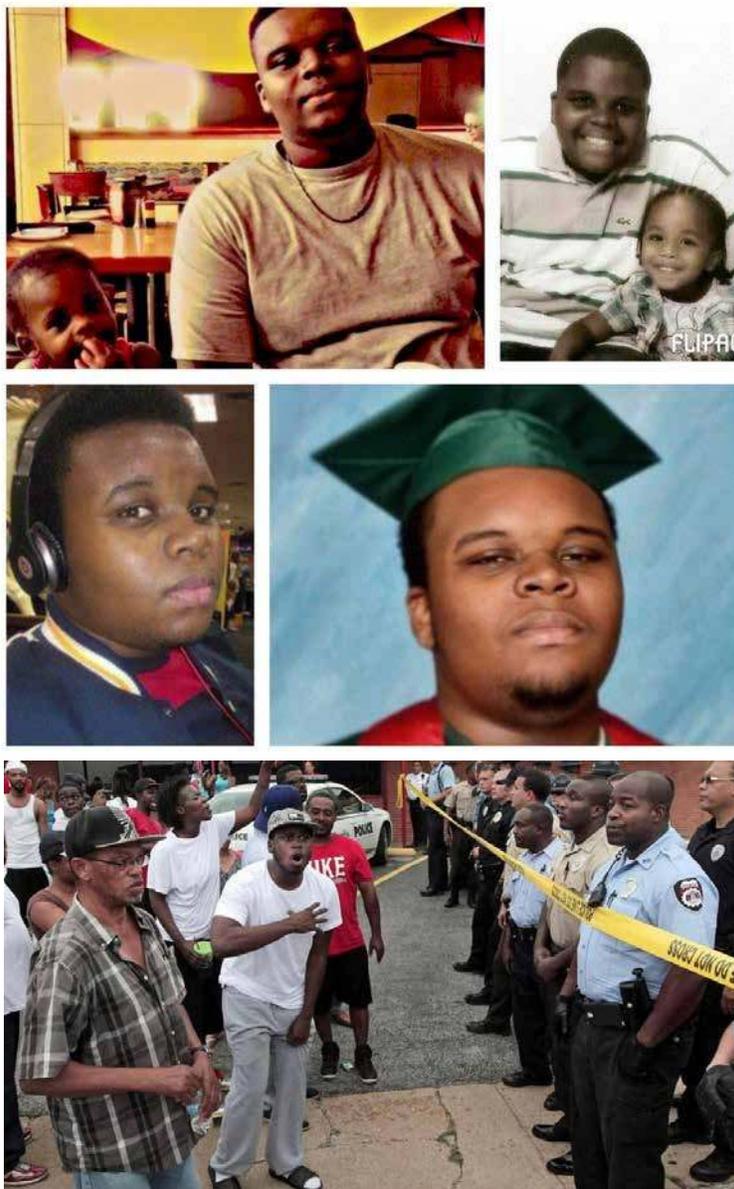
speak in the spirit of redeeming love, nonviolence, and reconciliation.

In light of the injustice perpetrated by the Police Department of Ferguson, Missouri, the cover up, and late release of the "shooting"

policeman's name, we recommend the following actions as a **Joint Statement of heads of historic African American Church Denominations and Independent Churches, the National African American Clergy Network and Faith Partnerships Inc.**, concerned clergypersons of color, minorities everywhere in America, and clergy of goodwill.

We express our moral outrage at the lack of justice, and issue an immediate call for true justice in the untimely death of Michael Brown. Mr. Brown was a promising African American male in Ferguson, Missouri, who will be buried at the time he was scheduled to enter college.

We share an appreciation for the work done by Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, clergy, legal experts, and all people of goodwill, who are working to resolve the inequities of this senseless murder. We lift our voices as well against the senseless murders of so many young black youth and men, from Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin, now Michael



now Michael Brown and nameless unarmed others who have been cut down in their prime for being “young, gifted, and black”.

We are family-oriented in our values in the African American community and believe that every child is our child. We embody the famous African proverb, “it takes a village to raise a child.” As such, Michael Brown has been and is our child, now in death as he was in life in Ferguson, Missouri. We, therefore, pledge to **help the Brown family - Michael's biological family of origin - with burial costs.** We also support the establishment of an Educational Memorial Fund in Michael's name...so that he, and young men like him, will not be forgotten.

We will remember prayerfully all the young men who have lost their lives in senseless killings by insensitive and unenlightened police, who fail to properly protect and serve, and who are untrained in community relations, lacking in cultural competency, or have chosen to pull a trigger prematurely, rather than exercise good judgment.

We request a meeting with United States Attorney General Eric Holder in support of his efforts to bring an end to this brutal pattern of injustice.

We call on all churches in the faith community, especially those representing the African American Diaspora, to hold Memorial Services this Sunday or next Sunday in honor of the memory of Michael Brown, in accordance with church calendars. We call for an end to the cutting down of precious God-created lives like his and so many others.

All active denominations and non-denominations in the Faith Community must “push” for robust voter education, voter registration, and voter participation beginning in 2014. This ensures that elected officials who choose to do wrong can be replaced by those who will represent the preservation of life in ethnic communities where a disproportionate amount of killings, unsubstantiated sentencing and jail time are unwarranted means for perpetuating racism and bias against ethnic minorities.

As a move toward community reconciliation, we urge that all charges be dropped against those who protested and were arrested for exercising their First Amendment Rights to lawful assembly.

In order that all of these actions are promptly accomplished, we pray to God that “justice roll down like water and righteousness as an ever-flowing stream” - Amos 5:24.

This document is signed by...

**Conveners,**  
*Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner,*  
**Co-Chair, National African American Clergy Network**

*Dr. T. DeWitt Smith, Jr.,* **Co-Chair,**  
**National African American Clergy Network**

*Dr. Otis Moss, Jr.,* **Chairman, Faith Partnerships, Inc.**

**African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.)**

*Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath*  
*President, Council of Bishops*

*Bishop Reginald T. Jackson,* **Presiding Bishop**  
**Office of Ecumenical and Urban Affairs**

*Bishop Cornal Garnett Henning, Sr. (Retired,*  
*A.M.E.)*

**African Methodist Episcopal Zion (A.M.E. ZION)**

*Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.,* **Senior Bishop**  
**Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.)**

*Bishop Lawrence L. Reddick, III,*  
*Senior Bishop*

**Church of God in Christ (C.O.G.I.C.)**

*Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.*  
*Presiding Bishop*

**Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, International**

*Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr.*  
*Presiding Bishop and Founder*

*Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III*  
*Presiding Bishop-Elect*

**National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.**  
*Dr. Julius R. Scruggs,* **President**

**Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (P.N.B.C.)**

**Dr. James C. Perkins, President**

**Independent Church Leaders**

*Dr. Cynthia D. Hale,* **Pastor**  
**Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA**

*Dr. Frederick Haynes,* **Pastor** **Friendship-West Baptist Church, Dallas, TX**

*Dr. Otis Moss, III,* **Pastor**  
**Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL**

*Dr. Raphael G. Warnock,* **Pastor** **Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA**



Join Rev. Al Sharpton  
& the Family of Eric Garner

# MARCH FOR JUSTICE

# WE WILL NOT GO BACK!

**START TIME:** SATURDAY, AUGUST 23  
12:00 noon (arrive promptly at 11:00 a.m.)

**LOCATION:** STATEN ISLAND  
Intersection of Victory Boulevard & Bay Street

*Complimentary transportation on  
Justice Caravans from Brooklyn end of  
Verrazano-Narrows Bridge at 10:00 a.m.  
(further details to be announced)*

**TRAINS TO S.I. FERRY:**

- to Bowling Green
- to South Ferry
- to Whitehall Street/South Ferry



## COMPLETE SCHEDULE:

Time	Event	Location
10:00 am	Justice Caravans depart	Brooklyn end of Verrazano-Narrows Bridge
11:00 am	March assemblage	Intersection of Victory Boulevard & Bay Street in Staten Island (site of Eric Garner murder)
12:00 pm	March begins	
1:00 pm	March concludes and rally begins	Intersection of Hamilton Avenue and Richmond Terrace (site of Staten Island Police Department)
3:00 pm	Dispersal	

FOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KIRSTEN FOY at [kfoy@nationalactionnetwork.net](mailto:kfoy@nationalactionnetwork.net) or call 877-626-4651

