

# IN GOD WE TRUST

*Most of us are probably still in shock in the wake of Donald Trump being elected as the next president of the United States.* A person who brazenly assaulted every decent standard and American value in his run for the most prestigious office in the world, Mr. Trump has caused the world to wonder what kind of nation we are and what kind of nation we're going to be.

Mr. Trump unapologetically expressed racist comments towards African-Americans, Latinos, and Jews, assaulted and denigrated women, attacked Muslims and Pope Francis, threatened to cut the historic ties with our NATO allies, and kissed up to Russia!

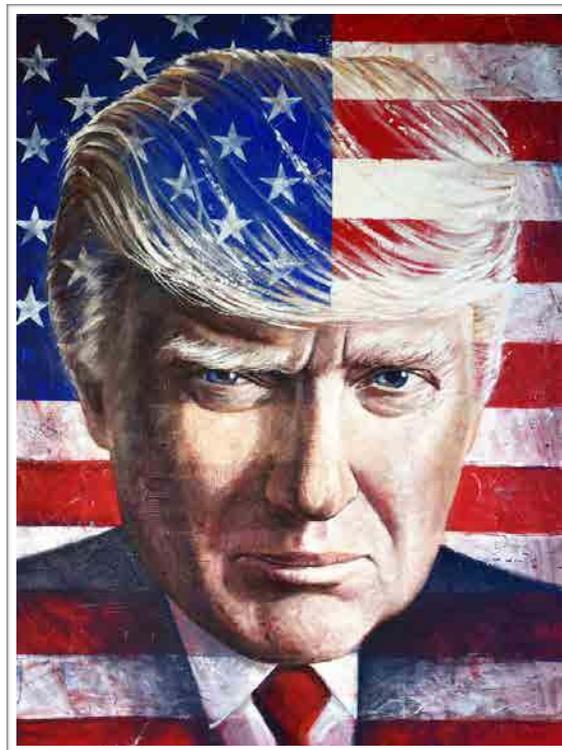
Yet despite these insulting campaign tactics, he still won through the electoral college (not the popular vote). The core thread that runs through all of these incidents is the bigotry and mean-spiritedness of Donald Trump and the millions of voters who supported him. Even though we're deep into the second decade of the twenty-first century, racism still "trumps" progress in America!

Some will say it's not about racism! I say it is! Ever since President Obama was elected in 2008, Republicans have been trying to discredit him and undermine his presidency.

Those who say Trump's election was about the economy and jobs, I say President Obama saved the economy from the worse condition we have experienced since the Great Depression. And, if the Republicans had not blocked and

obstructed him, he could have created millions of jobs by rebuilding the nation's infra-structure.

This is about racism! The CEO of Trump's campaign Steve Bannon has ties to white supremacist groups. The white nationalists have come out of hiding and proudly support Mr. Trump. The Ku Klux Klan and the Alt-Right applaud and support him. Though he feebly says he doesn't embrace these avowed racists, he still accepts their support.



No, at root, this is about racism! As shameful, disappointing, and frightening as it is, the fact is we've been here before. We thought America had come to a point where we were prepared to judge each other by the content of our character, but

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"race" outweighs every other factor in America!

The Trump election is an affront to the very principles for which the Progressive Convention was founded. And as our leaders of the past fought and gave their lives to make it possible for us to have the rights we deserve, we will fight to regain the Voting Rights Act, to end police brutality and mass incarceration, to retain affordable health care, and to provide a quality education for our children.



Our people are frightened. They don't know what to expect. But, as people of faith, we believe that it doesn't matter who is in the White House, God is still on the throne.

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God has always seen us through the challenging and difficult times in our lives and He will not leave us now. We trust God to lead us through the next four years.

God is not just the judge of our individual lives, He is also the judge of nations. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)

It is obvious that this is a time when we must pull together like never before.

The week of January 16-20, 2017, we will convene in our Midwinter Board meeting at the Virginia Beach Hilton Oceanfront, 3001 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA to address issues that are critical to all of us. Our theme for the week is: POST OBAMA: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

On Monday, January 16, 2017 at 7:00pm, we have our Martin Luther King, Jr. Empowerment Service. Our theme will be WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF CIVIL RIGHTS? Our speaker will be Dr. Eddie S. Glaude, Chair of the African and African-American Studies Department, Princeton University.

In this atmosphere where all of our rights are under attack, we have to develop a strategy to respond. Dr. Glaude is one of the great voices of our time speaking out on this issue. If you have not already done so, read his latest book **DEMOCRACY IN BLACK**. Read it before you come to the session so we can be prepared to have great dialogue with him.

He is also the professor who shook us up a few years ago when he said, "the Black Church is dead!" We will have the opportunity to ask him what he meant by that statement and determine if he has a point rather than simply be dismissive of him.

On Tuesday, January 17th, Dr. James H. Evans, pastor of the St. Luke Community Church in Rochester, NY and former president of the Colgate-Rochester Seminary will give us our theological discourse on HOW DO WE RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT?

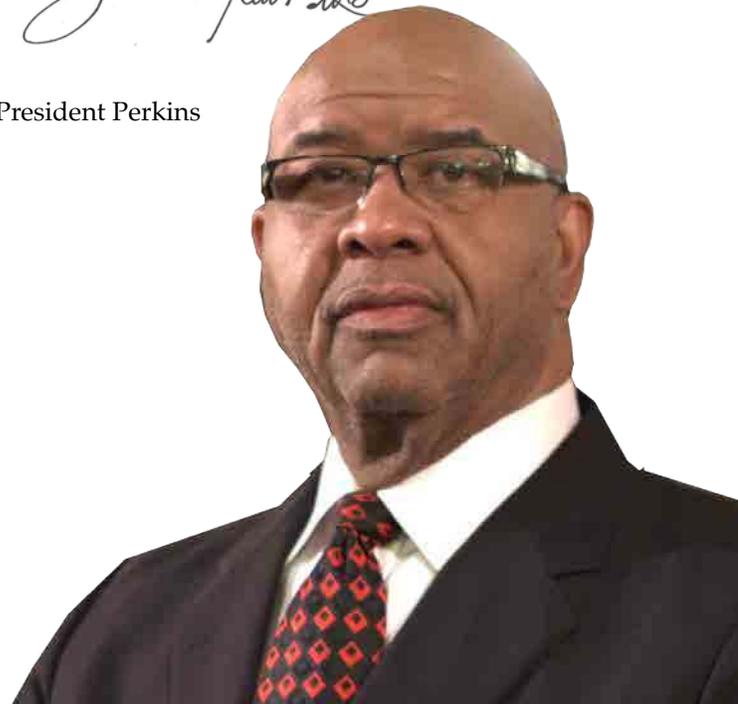
On Wednesday, January 18th, he will address the issue of ELIMINATING THE CAUSES OF POVERTY. And Thursday, January 19th, there will be a panel discussion entitled, A CONVERSATION BETWEEN BLACK LIVES MATTER AND THE CHURCH.

These will not just be sessions where we gather information, but in the afternoon each day, all of us will have the opportunity to participate in developing action plans that we can implement as a convention as well as take back home with us and implement through our churches.

Progressive, I say to you what the words of an old hymn admonished, "Be not dismayed, what e'er betide, God will take care of you."

God Bless. I look forward to seeing you in Virginia Beach.

President Perkins





## From the General Secretary's Desk

*As General Secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, THE most mission-minded and purpose-driven denominational communion in the nation, I count it a privilege and pleasure to stand with our visionary president, Dr. James C. Perkins, as we seek "to serve this present age" with excellence and distinction, and to assist him and our great convention in "Equipping pastors and churches to be effective in ministry and lifting our voice on behalf of the voiceless."*

The Headquarters staff has geared up for our Midwinter Board Meeting by preparing, mailing and posting on our website the pertinent details and everything you will need to register for the meeting. If you have not received yours in the mail, please visit our website at [www.pnbc.org](http://www.pnbc.org), or simply give us a call at 202-396-0558. One of the exciting highlights for this year will be our annual MLK Empowerment service on Monday night when our keynote speaker will be a former student of mine, Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr., whose books are must-reads and whose voice of socio-political critique is often heard on MSNBC.



When Progressive was birthed in 1961, PNBC became the nation's prophetic witness then, and PNBC must certainly be that prophetic voice NOW. However, as a leading denominational body, PNBC must not only be reactive to the social injustices of society, we must also be proactive in providing a model of organizational and financial integrity in a world where the Church has lost ground and is increasingly viewed with skepticism by the very people we are called to reach and serve.

In the wake of this year's presidential election, there is so much more now for which to become equipped in ministry and even more voiceless people for whom to speak. I have often stated that PNBC is more needed and relevant today than it was in its founding over 55 years ago. Although we have much to be proud of, there is so much more work to do. That is why I am so excited about our Midwinter Board Meeting. As you probably know by now, we will convene in Virginia Beach at the Hilton Oceanfront, during the week of January 16-20, 2017, and we will be hosted by the Rev. Dr. Joshua King and the Zion Baptist Church of Hampton, VA.

Towards this end, I wish to thank each of you who continue to support us with your financial resources. I am especially grateful for those of you who made individual contributions during our very first online giving campaign on #GivingTuesday. If you didn't get a chance to give a sacrificial gift immediately following the Thanksgiving holiday, you still have until December 31, 2016, to be counted among that number. *I would also like to thank our churches committed to the 1% model of financial stewardship conceived by our visionary founders.* If 100% of our member churches would make the 1% pledge, I have no doubt that PNBC could re-establish its position as one of the most fiscally sound denominational bodies in the nation. Your support will enable us to:

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- Operate headquarters with a balanced budget and potential excess revenue.
- Invest in our most important assets, our human resources, and prioritize staff education and training, adequate benefits, and periodic merit-based compensation increments.
- Allow us to exceed our voter registration goal of 200,000 new voters and to assist member churches in increasing voter education, voter participation and voter mobilization. (The mid-term elections in 2018, will be more critical to the progressive movement.)
- Continue collaboration and cooperation with like-minded ecumenical organizations and associations such as NEW BAPTIST COVENANT and the BAPTIST JOINT COMMITTEE FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, that will fortify our foundation, advance our mission, and maximize our potential.
- Continue the strong tradition of support for home and foreign missions in cooperation and collaboration with Lott Carey and National Baptist Convention of America.
- Expand disaster relief efforts in the wake of recent flooding caused by Hurricane Matthew in strong PNBC states such as North and South Carolina.
- Become a leader in and model for sustainability and alternative energy in partnership with Geostellar in providing community solar resources throughout the country.

We must never forget that we are the beneficiaries of a great legacy of PROGRESSIVE leaders who loved the Lord and who led God's people with a servant's heart. We are also the children and grandchildren of those sainted souls who understood that PNBC is a God-inspired and God-infused denomination full of purpose, progress, and power! Let's resolve to make them proud of us!

SEE YOU IN VIRGINIA BEACH!!!





# MID-WINTER

## BOARD MEETING JAN. 16-20, 2017



### POST OBAMA: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



**HILTON VIRGINIA BEACH OCEANFRONT  
3001 ATLANTIC AVENUE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA**



**MONDAY, JAN. 16  
MARTIN LUTHER KING SERVICE  
DR. EDDIE S. GLAUDE, CHAIRMAN  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, PRINCETON, NJ**

## GUEST SPEAKERS



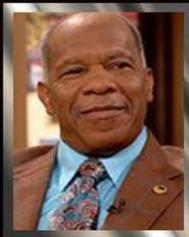
**TUESDAY, JAN. 17, 10 AM  
DR. LESLIE CALLAHAN  
PASTOR, ST. PAUL'S  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
PHILADELPHIA, PA**



**TUESDAY, JAN. 17, 7 PM  
DR. STEVE BLAND  
PASTOR, LIBERTY TEMPLE  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
DETROIT, MI**



**TUE, WED, THUR  
JAN. 17-19, 10 AM  
DR. JAMES H. EVANS  
FORMER PRESIDENT,  
COLGATE ROCHESTER  
DIVINITY SCHOOL,  
ROCHESTER, NY**



**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18, 10 AM  
DR. TIMOTHY STEWART  
1ST VICE PRESIDENT,  
PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL  
BAPTIST CONVENTION  
PASTOR, BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH  
NASSAU, BAHAMAS**



**THURSDAY, JAN. 19, 10 AM  
DR. WILLIAM HOLMES ROBINSON  
PASTOR, THE OLIVET  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
FAYETTEVILLE, GA**

### THE PANEL DISCUSSION: A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND BLACK LIVES MATTER

**DR. FREDDIE HAYNES, PANEL MODERATOR  
DALLAS, TX**

**REVEREND WALLACE BAXTER  
WASHINGTON, DC**

**DR. LISA D. JENKINS  
HARLEM, NY**

**REVEREND ANTONIO D. PROCTOR  
MACON, GA**

**REVEREND ELIJAH ZEHYOUE  
WASHINGTON, DC**

**DR. JAMES C. PERKINS  
PRESIDENT, PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL  
BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.**

