

Black Church Master Plan Summary Points

If the United Methodist Church is to live into its stated vision of reaching more people, younger people and more diverse people, it will have to take seriously the demographic changes around us where these people are found. As a component of living into this vision, the Black Church Master Plan is presented as one step toward living into this vision by revitalizing and strengthening the historically Black churches in the Western North Carolina and beginning new churches or Fresh Expressions in these economically and racially diverse areas of the Conference. In order to make this vision a reality, the following framework and strategic plan is offered.

- A. Develop a strategic plan that focuses upon evangelism and outreach for starting and equipping new churches that reflect the models of Multicultural Churches utilizing the resources and strategies of the Mosaix Global Network and Liberating Churches that reflect Radical Equity, Social Transformation Contemplative Spirituality, and Base Ecclesiology.**
- B. Develop a culturally and demographically specific plan and resources to train and equip laity and clergy in leadership development that takes into consideration the historical experiences of Black clergy and their communities.**
- C. Revitalize historically Black churches by developing a plan to create strategic partnerships to assist existing Black churches develop and implement systems that will revitalize them and takes into account the historical experiences of Black clergy and communities of faith and the impact of racism upon them.**
- D. Develop a plan to foster Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Practices in light of the history and impact of the trauma of slavery and racism as experienced by Black persons in the United States, including within the church.**
- E. To develop a plan to reach out to children and youth and also provide for the spiritual formation and discipleship development of Black children and youth in light of what it means to live in a cultural environment that continues to marginalize persons of color.**