



PHILADELPHIA BMCR CAUCUS

It's a blessing to be a blessing and serve as the Philadelphia BMCR Coordinator in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference (EPA). Our mission over this past year was to be intentional with engaging and connecting with our local churches and communities to continuously serve with the great purpose that BMCR was created for while also envisioning our future and strengthening our prophetic voice in the 21st Century. This has been carried out through various ministry events, networking, and much prayer.

We have expanded our local membership and held meetings in new locations, allowing us to fellowship with members of those local churches as well as serve as a resource in ministry partnerships. We have raised over \$5k for our Hurricane Relief fund and distributed funds to Puerto Rico, the Southeastern and South Central BMCR Jurisdictions. At our Annual Scholarship Luncheon we awarded 3 students with scholarships who all began their freshman undergrad year in August. In response to the "Call to Action" we have jointly worked with our conference in ongoing efforts to raise awareness and address systemic racism, white privilege, white supremacy, internalized oppression within our conference at all levels of the church (laity, clergy, and conference leadership) with the assistance of Dragonfly Partners, a consultant group that specialize in facilitating race relation dialogues with organizations.

Our local BMCR website (<https://www.epaumc.org/ministry/racial-ethnic/african-american/bmcr/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bmcrphila/>) launched in the Spring of 2018. Having an online presence has allowed for our churches to share in ministry with others beyond our local reach as well as be informed, and engage in opportunities of mission and ministry at greater levels.

Lastly, we are pleased with the movement of the EPA conference to reconcile its history of racism and injustices upon the black churches with the passing of Resolution 2018-25. This resolution eliminated prior balances as of December 2017 as a result of debts incurred (old buildings, apportionments, mergers, and other billings) for the 29 African American churches in our conference. We look forward to continuing to grow spiritually as advocates intentionally servicing our churches and communities in areas of social justice, education, outreach, and missions.

It is our prayer and practice to use the gifts God blesses us with as faithful stewards, love unconditionally, speaking God's words, serving with the strength God provides so that in all things God may be praised. Amen
(1 Peter 4:8-11)

To God be the glory!
Rev. Shayla L. Johnson