

FAITH-BASED Engagement

A Special Publication of the North Carolina Black Alliance

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www.ncblackalliance.org/Faith

OUR WHY

Black faith spaces have been at the forefront of the black liberation movement, from its roots in the “hush harbors,” where secret worship and anti-slavery resistance movements were formed, to its role in the Civil Rights, Voting Rights, and Black Power movements. This history has compelled us to work alongside faith-based organizations to create safe spaces, provide opportunities, and cultivate leadership skills for faith leaders to politically empower the communities that they serve. Luke 4:18 says, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”



Image 1: NAACP Souls to the Polls March, Wilmington, NC

The [NC Black Alliance](#) has tried to live out this scripture throughout our 15-year history by representing the most marginalized within the Black community. Through the development of our [Faith-Based program](#), we have advanced this work through our issue Id's surrounding Democracy Reform, Criminal Justice Reform, Environmental Justice and Economic Justice. Since we believe that Black faith spaces are still the epicenter of our community, our goal is to work with Black faith leaders throughout the state of North Carolina to build independent Black political power in local communities. Moreover, our faith program seeks to become a resource for Black faith leaders by providing training in the areas of community organizing, voter education, and skill development training to enhance their impact in empowering their community politically.

To join us in this effort, visit our website to sign-up for our newsletter, volunteer or donate to the North Carolina Black Alliance

Rev. CJ Brinson, MDiv
Faith-Based Engagement Director



SOCIAL JUSTICE CONCERNS

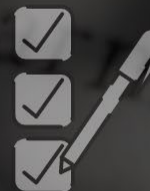
As I write to you, our community is still reeling from the effects of COVID-19, the injustice of racism and racial acts of violence, and most recently, many of us, if not all, have been occupied with the trial of Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis police officer who murdered George Floyd. Constantly we have in our faces and on our minds the plight of being black in America. It is a weight of consciousness that influences our thoughts and actions as we live out our individual and collective truth. As unnecessary as it seems in practicality, everyday people of color are forced to prove their worth and dignity to a country taken aback by nostalgic racism, suppression, and oppression.

Beyond comprehension are the low levels of racially motivated tactics used to restrict and potentially disinterest people of color and minorities from voting. As Georgia residents face the surge of newly implemented regulations that will infringe voter rights, other states must now confront the same problem. In North Carolina, our State Legislature is currently engaged in a redistricting effort, that without question, will impact local municipal elections in November 2021. Through the [CODE RED Redistricting](#) program, the NC Black Alliance is working diligently to ensure that you are informed on how to approach this issue within your congregation and local community. Therefore, organizations like North Carolina Black Alliance must have and maintain the support of community partners, faith leaders, and political allies. Together, as a joint force of resistance, we can ward off dangerous rhetoric and legislation that pushes the state and nation back to an antediluvian era of Jim/Jane Crow.

Through our faith engagement, Rev. C. J. Brinson and the faith team leadership are actively holding faith cluster talks, engaging the work of pastors, ministers, and churches as they tackle the various problems and situations plaguing their communities. Faith leaders all over the length and breadth of the state have provided leadership and resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in areas of testing and vaccination. They have also invested time and energy in educating people around the issues of voter education, racist and harmful legislation, and the importance of understanding state budgets.

**TUESDAY,
APRIL 26**
at **6 P.M. ET**

Faith Leaders COMMUNITY CHECK-IN



Register: <https://rebrand.ly/Faith-Cluster>

It is my hope and desire for more community-minded faith leaders to partner with NCBA. Assists our faith team in expanding this storied organization's mission through collaborative partnering on intersecting issues. The problems before us are not ours alone. Together, we can deracinate systemic racism, systematic leadership aimed at minorities and people of color and put in place solutions and measures that can and will change our communities' outlook and trajectory and, ultimately, the state.



Dr. Brandon A. A. J. Davis

Faith Engagement Team Member,
Founder of Content Writing Service, and
Conversations with Faith Leaders



"I have always thought what is needed is the development of people who are interested not in being leaders as much as in developing leaders in others"

-Ella Baker

AN APRIL HERSTORY REFLECTION

Ella Baker, political strategist and coordinator of several grassroots organizations, stated "Until the killing of black men, black mothers' sons, becomes as important to the rest of the country as the killing of white mothers' sons, we who believe in freedom cannot rest until this happens." Although 2021 has begun with events that challenge the moral compass of this nation, a ray of hope lies in the nonstop work of Black women who have stood in truth and justice. Moments in history have a way of providing hope in the midst of turmoil. Our collective liberation, as melaninated human beings, depends on the continued forward motion to confront structural racism.

April 2021 may be remembered as a time when George Floyd was put on trial for his public execution. Minneapolis Police Department Officer Derek Chauvin, who put his knee in Floyd's neck for 9 minutes, is standing trial for a traumatic lethal force upon Floyd's black body nearly a year ago on May 25, 2020. Not only does this resonate with racial trauma experienced by Black generations throughout this nation's tumultuous history, in just a few days many people throughout this the nation will also remember Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination at the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, TN on April 4, 1968.

What then shall we say to these things? In April 1960, on Easter weekend, Ella Baker coordinated a meeting with students at Shaw University. This gathering coincided with the momentum from the February 1, 1960 sit-in at Woolworth, in Greensboro, led by NC A&T State University students. The outcome was a grassroots organization called the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). It used political strategies, nonviolence and direct action to challenge voter suppression, among other tactics of white supremacy to avoid sharing power. SNCC grew into a national organization through young people-led activism. How are we inspiring young people to organize against racist policies today? We can honor Baker's legacy and her African nickname, Fundi, by listening to them, encouraging young people to find leadership within themselves.

Would you like to be equipped with the tools of organizing, voter education, and skill development to empower your community locally as faith leaders?

If so, visit our website today and register with our Faith-Based Program at www.NCBlackAlliance.org/Faith.



Rev. Donna Vanhook, MDiv, MA.NPM
Faith Engagement Team Member






Proposed COVID-19 Site Plan

African American Faith Communities



GOAL

To create a set of standards in site administration of COVID-19 testing and/or vaccination for African American faith communities.

STANDARD	ELABORATION OF THE STANDARD
STANDARD 1 Determination of needs 	A. Is your community in great need? 1. Does your congregation fall in a high to moderate risk county? a. If yes, consider becoming a site.
STANDARD 2 Considerations for site selection and preparation for delivery 	A. Support for long-term on-site housing of vaccine B. More culturally relevant means of assessment of vaccine stock C. Assessment of access to site 1. Parking 2. Traffic flow in and out of site D. Creation of activation plan for site (see checklist on next page) E. Utility resourcing F. Deeper community promotion of site prior to testing and/or vaccination G. Volunteer enlistment
STANDARD 3 Equity in scheduling and administration 	A. Streamlining of appointment process to ease flow of traffic (see sample template) B. Training for support staff composed of trusted community members: Chi Eta Phi, RNs and medical members of the Faith Community
STANDARD 4 Transportation 	A. Plan for addressing transportation needs
STANDARD 5 Follow-up and second dose administration 	A. Follow-up with call to vaccine recipient. 1. How are they doing after receiving the vaccine? 2. Do they have any needs while they are in reaction? (food, meds, etc.) 3. Do they have adequate social support? B. Document what people say about their experience at the site C. Plan for reminder about second dose



COVID-19 Vaccination Checklist for Faith Communities

PARKING

- ☐ Parking attendants
- ☐ Where should volunteers, staff and community members should park
- ☐ Traffic flow

PRE-SET-UP: MAY BE REQUIRED

- ☐ Discuss what needs to be done, time and expectations

SET-UP

- ☐ Discuss what needs to be done, time and expectations

VOLUNTEER CHECK-IN AND ACCESS:

- ☐ Discuss needs and clearly communicate expectations

MEDICAL STAFF CHECK-IN AND ACCESS

- ☐ Discuss needs and clearly communicate expectations

VACCINE MANUFACTURER AND STORAGE

- ☐ Moderna
- ☐ Pfizer
- ☐ Johnson & Johnson

FOOD/DRINKS

- ☐ allowed or not

TRANSPORTATION

- ☐ Is the church assisting with transportation?
- ☐ Drop-off and pick-up location if transportation assistance is being provided

GREETERS/CHECK-IN:

- ☐ COVID-19 safety guidelines and restrictions
- ☐ Is the church assisting or not?

REGISTRATION:

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Number of tables and chairs needed
- ☐ COVID-19 safety guidelines and restrictions
- ☐ Are interpreters needed?
Discuss process, paperwork, etc.

DISINFECTING

- ☐ Wiping down surfaces, chairs, pens, clipboards

AUDIO/VISUAL

- ☐ discuss any requests

SEATING AND FLOW

- ☐ Waiting and observation period
- ☐ **Maximum capacity per COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions**

ROOMS

- ☐ What parts of the building are accessible and not accessible?

BREAK DOWN AND CLEAN-UP

- ☐ Clearly communicate expectations



Advertising Your COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing Site

ANNOUNCEMENT EXAMPLE:

**TUESDAY,
FEB.16**
9A.M.-5P.M. ET

SAMPSON COUNTY
GET VACCINATED
COVID-19
Free Vaccinations + Testing

**NORTH CAROLINA
BLACK
Alliance**
In Partnership with
**Lisbon St. Missionary
Baptist Church**

FREE COVID Vaccinations provided to
residents **65 and older** and healthcare workers.

Vaccine shot administered by **Goshen Medical Center
Nurses**. Free COVID Testing provided by **ACCU Medical
Center**.

To schedule vaccine appointment, contact:
Lisbon Street Missionary Baptist Church
910-592-3554

LOCATION:
401 Lisbon St., Clinton, NC 28328

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
Nettie Pernell at 910-214-4186

DETAILS TO INCLUDE:

- ☐ Date and Time
- ☐ Location Name
- ☐ Location Address
- ☐ Details about who's administering the vaccine
- ☐ Details about eligibility (age, etc.)
- ☐ How to sign-up
- ☐ Contact information for questions