



FROM RELIGION TO SOVEREIGNTY™

The Future of the Black Church as an Economic Engine for Building Black Communities

National Business League | 126th Annual Conference

Slide 1 Notes

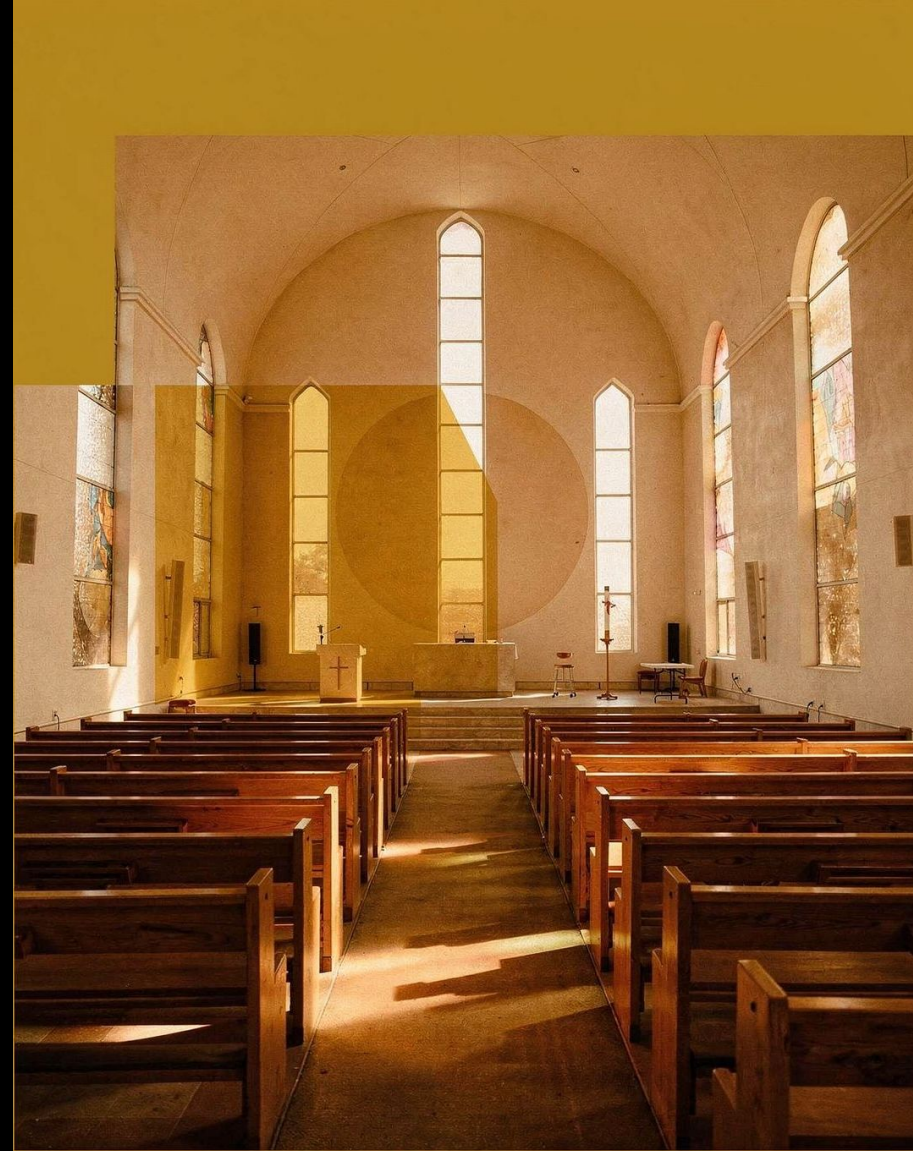
Welcome everyone.

This presentation aims to discuss the transformation of the Black Church from a purely religious institution into a powerful economic engine. The central question frames our entire discussion—imagine the Black Church as the nation's largest Black economic development ecosystem.

This isn't about diminishing faith; it's about leveraging the Church's existing infrastructure, trust, and community presence for economic empowerment.

This presentation explores how we can bridge spirituality and economic sovereignty to build stronger, more self-sufficient Black communities.

What if the greatest untapped economic development asset in Black America is already sitting in our churches?



Slide 2 Notes

We're not talking about something distant or requiring external investment—these institutions already exist, already have trust, already have reach.

Churches represent untapped potential: financial resources, real estate, networks, and community organizing power

This question should have us all to lean in—thinking of how we can reframe how we think about economic development in Black communities.

200,000

Black Churches

Millions of
members.

Billions in collective
influence.

Slide 3 Notes

There are approximately 200,000 Black churches across the country.

These churches collectively represent millions of members.

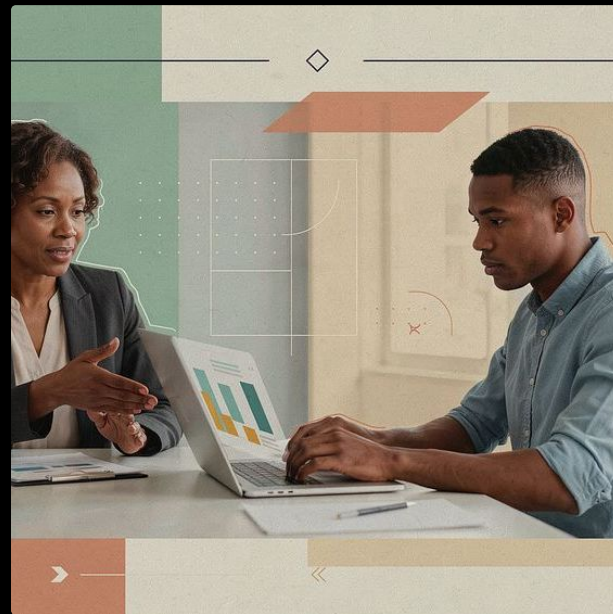
Together, they wield billions of dollars in collective influence.

This represents a significant social, economic, and political force in communities.

Imagine churches becoming hubs for:



Entrepreneurship



Workforce Development



AI Readiness



Business Growth



Community Wealth

Slide 4 Notes

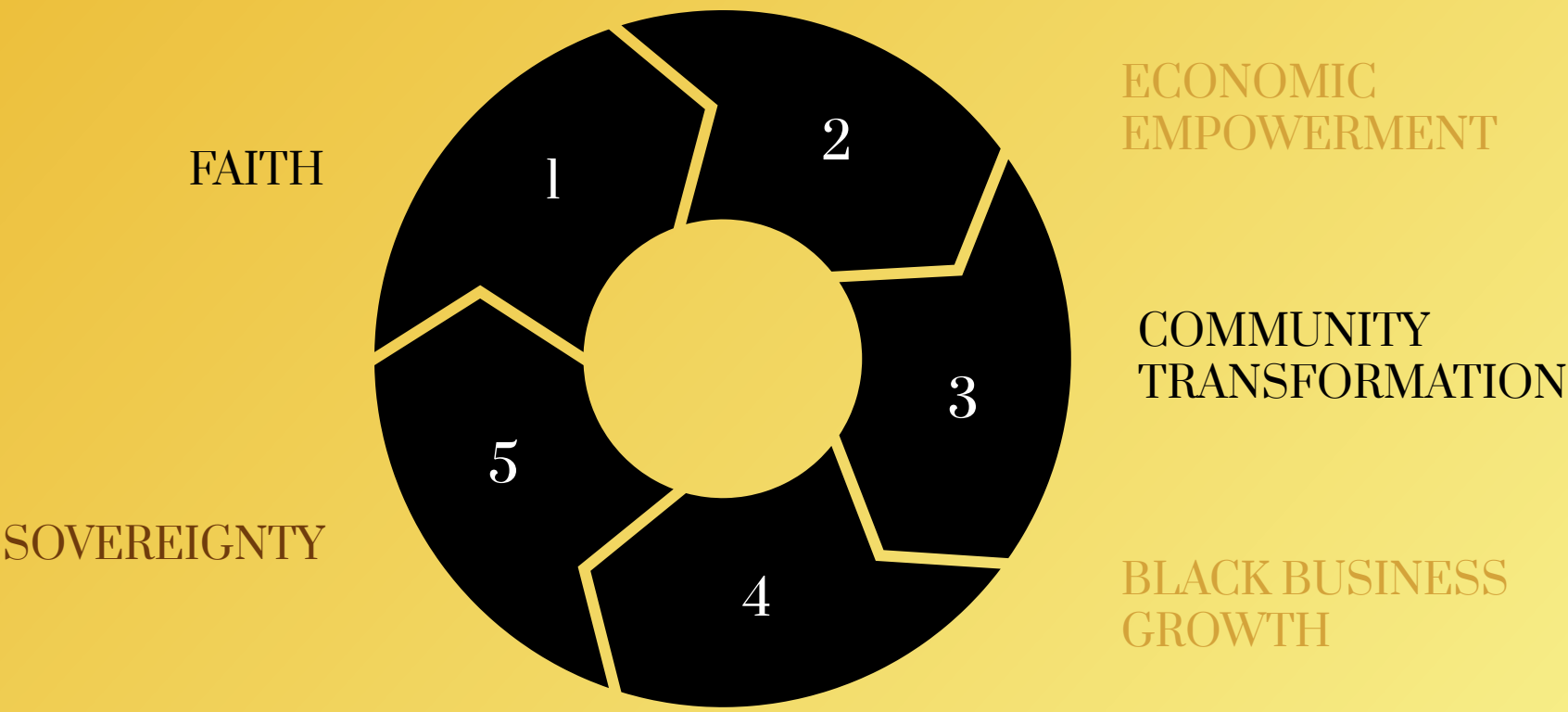
Envision with me, black churches transforming into economic empowerment centers.

There are Five key pillars we should imagine:

- *Entrepreneurship* – Churches as incubators where members launch and grow their own businesses
- *Workforce Development* – Training programs that equip people with job-ready skills
- *AI Readiness* – Preparing the community to thrive in an AI-driven economy
- *Business Growth* – Supporting existing businesses to scale and succeed
- *Community Wealth* – Building collective prosperity that stays within and strengthens the community

This isn't just about individual success—it's about creating systemic economic opportunity rooted in faith communities.

FROM SUNDAY WORSHIP TO WEEKDAY WORKSHIP™



Imagine churches functioning throughout the week as platforms for:

Community Hub

Daily gatherings, support, and events

Learning Center

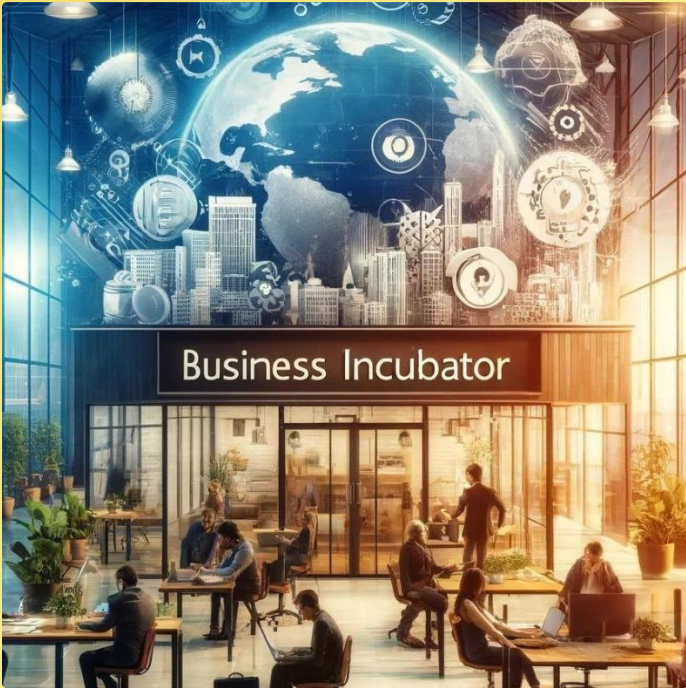
Workshops, classes, and tutoring

Service Platform

Food banks, counseling, and outreach

Creative Space

Arts, music, and cultural programs



Business Incubation



AI Readiness



Workforce Development



Entrepreneurship



Procurement



Capital Access



Community Ownership

The Black Church doesn't have to become a business. It can become infrastructure for Black Business.

Slide 5 Notes

This is our core concept: transforming churches from Sunday-only institutions into weekday platforms for community empowerment.

The tagline "From Sunday Worship to Weekday Workshop™" captures this shift. The Five Pillars Walk through the cycle: Faith, Economic Empowerment, Community Transformation, Black Business Growth, and Sovereignty.

These aren't separate—they're interconnected and reinforce each other. Four Primary Functions Churches can serve as:
Community Hubs — Daily gathering spaces with support and events

Learning Centers — Workshops, classes, and tutoring

Service Platforms — Food banks, counseling, outreach

Creative Spaces — Arts, music, cultural programs

The Black Church doesn't need more resources.

It needs better resource alignment.

Slide 6 Notes

The conversation now shifts from scarcity to strategy.

The Black Church has untapped capacity and existing resources that aren't optimally deployed.

The problem isn't lack of funding or programs—it's misalignment between what we have and what we need.

Better alignment means connecting existing strengths to black community priorities.

This sets up why the solutions we're advancing; to discuss a focus on coordination, communication, and strategic deployment rather than fundraising alone is vitally imperative to the progress and sovereignty of the Black Community.



The Call

We're looking for:

- Pastors
- Chamber Leaders
- Economic Development Leaders
- Community Builders

who are ready to pilot this conversation.

Slide 7 Notes

This is our call to action—we need leaders from different sectors to champion this initiative.

We're specifically targeting four key groups:

- *Pastors* — spiritual leaders with community trust and influence
- *Chamber Leaders* — business connectors who understand local economics
- *Economic Development Leaders* — those focused on growth and opportunity
- *Community Builders* — grassroots organizers and change-makers

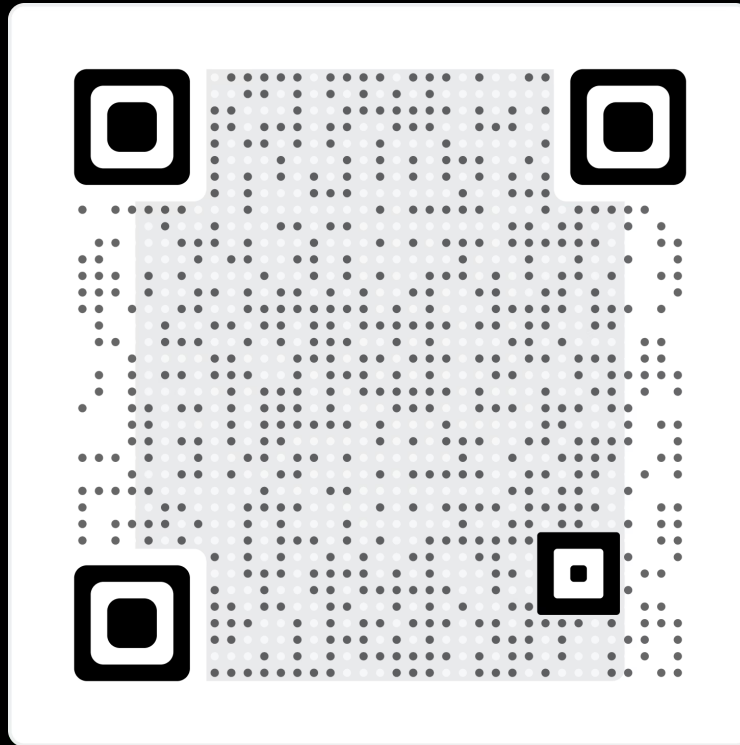
The key message: we're looking for pioneers willing to pilot this conversation in their communities

These aren't passive participants—we need people ready to take action and lead by example.

This is a collaborative effort across sectors, not siloed work!

Carry The Conversation Home

Scan to access:



[The Sovereignty Brief](#)

[Leadership Discussion Guide](#)

[Church Economic Readiness Assessment](#)

[Ambassador Network](#)

 **Join The Sovereignty Ambassador Initiative™** — Become a Sovereignty Ambassador TODAY!

Slide 8 Notes

I want to personally invite as many of you as possible to become Sovereignty Ambassadors TODAY!

This is not the end of the conversation — it's only the beginning...

These are the tools you can deploy to continue and deepen this work in your own spheres of influence. Yes Family, we have some internal work to do as well, but we can no longer ignore what we must heal to get to sovereignty.

Thank you for your time, attention, and cooperation,

Dr. Ursula D. Frederick-Brown