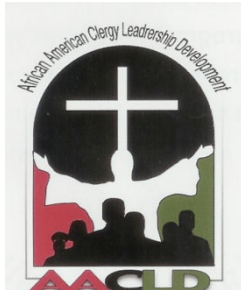


## Black Disciples Endowment Fund

Report to the  
NCMC Board of Trustees  
December 4, 2020,



<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BLACK DISCIPLES ENDOWMENT FUND</b>		
<b>Class of 2020</b> Jan. 1, 2019 – Dec. 31, 2020	<b>Class of 2021</b> Jan. 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2021	<b>Class of 2022</b> Jan. 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2022
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Madame President, NCMC Board Members and Guest,

It is an honor to be here representing the Black Disciples Endowment Fund. In the life of every ministry there comes a time for the ministry to pause and reflect on its mission, reflect on its past, evaluate the service it has given, and envision where it is headed in answering God's call to serve.

The Black Disciples Endowment Fund (BDEF) is in the process of reflecting, evaluating and doing a new thing in restructuring its ministry to undergird the Black Church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

One might say that this is a Selah moment in the life of BDEF. Yes, a time of pause for BDEF, but it is a "pregnant pause", from which new life will spring forth as BDEF looks to restructure our internal financial operations, our granting procedures, our partnerships and how BDEF affects lives through its ministry.

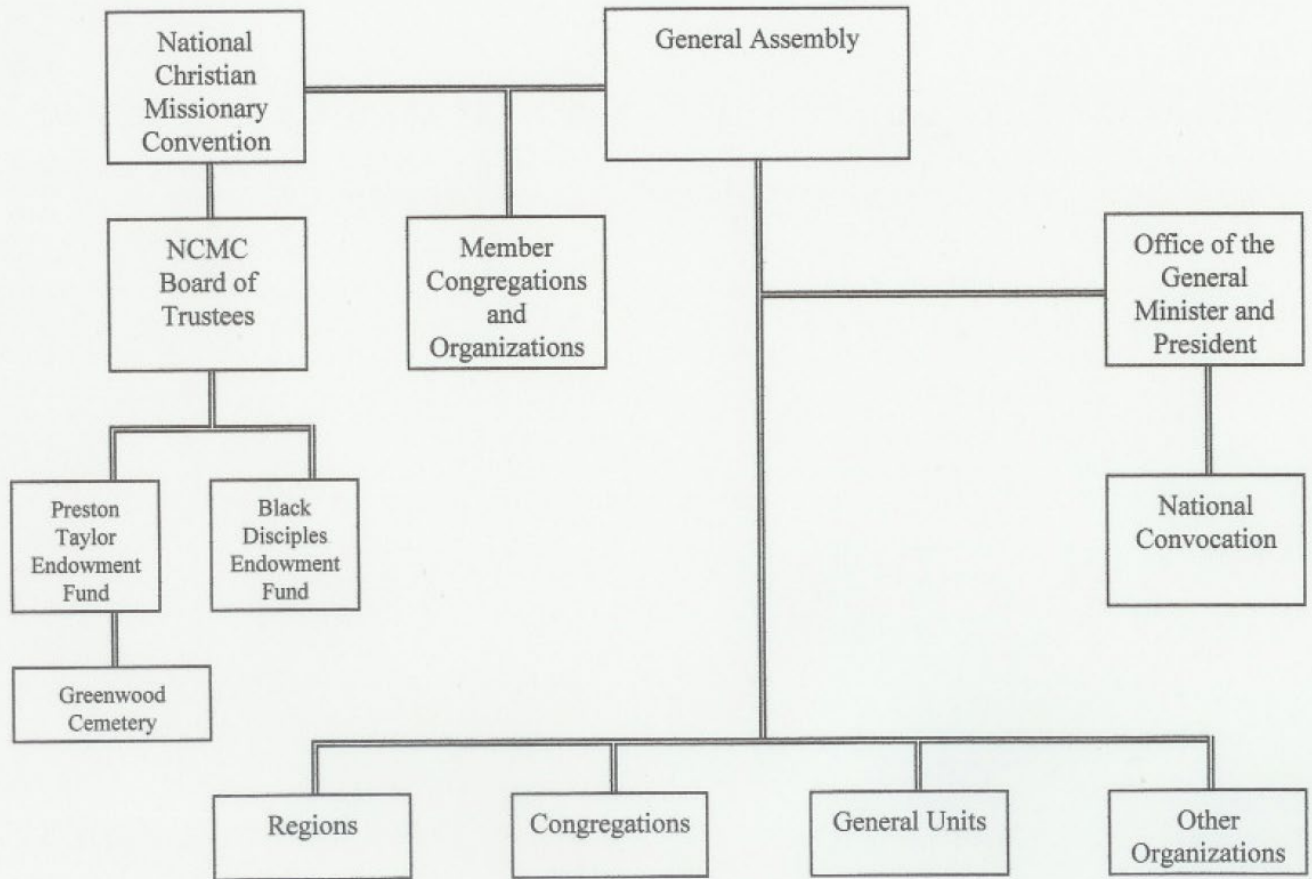
## **BLACK DISCIPLES ENDOWMENT FUND**

The Black Disciples Endowment Fund is an endowment fund owned by the National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC) invested with the Christian Church Foundation.

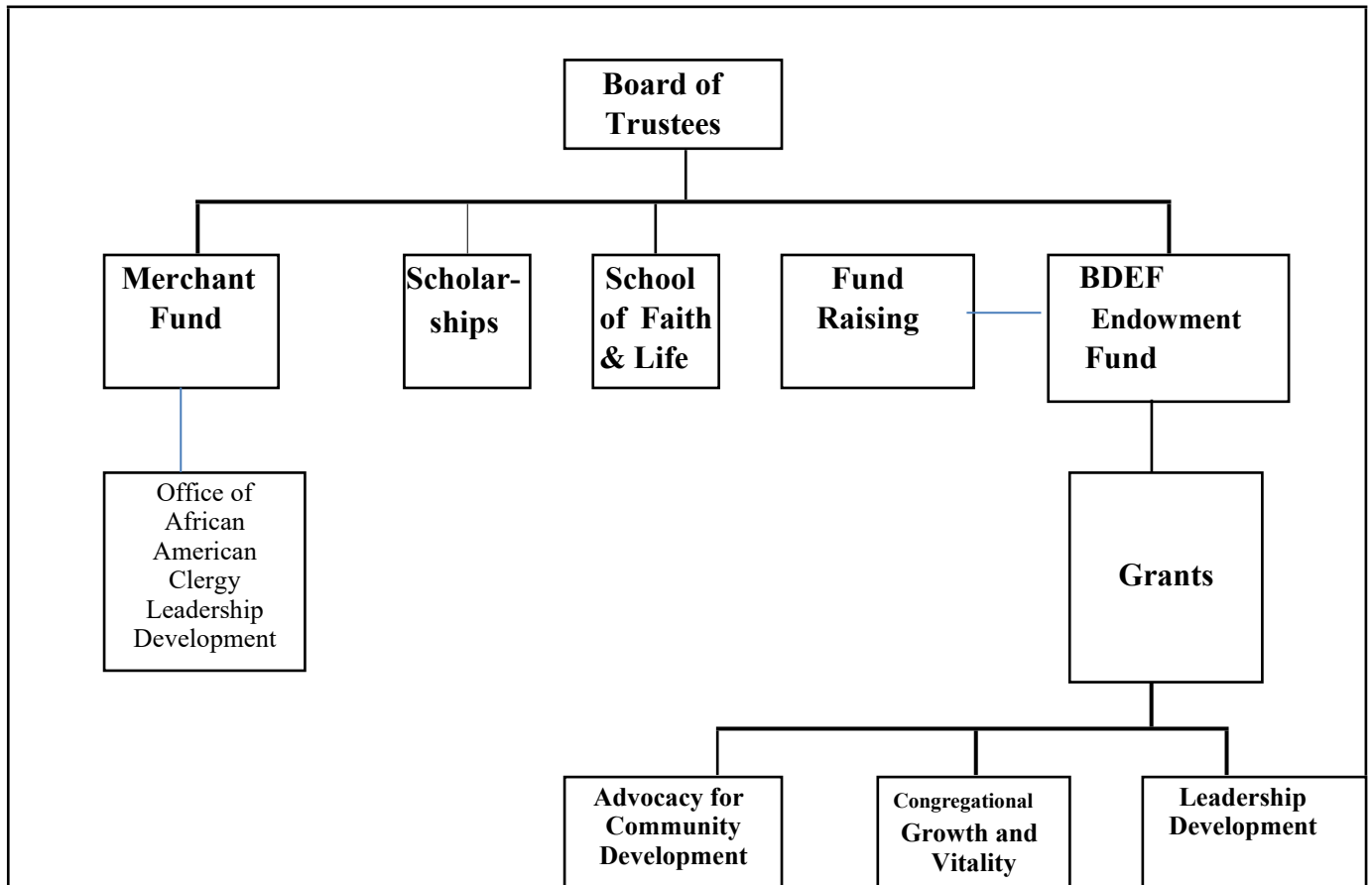
The purpose of the Black Disciples Endowment Fund is to undergird Black ministries within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. This purpose is achieved through grants to ministries of:

- Leadership Development
  - Ordained Minister Recruitment, Training, Certification, Placement and renewal;
  - Lay ministry development and training
  - Undergraduate and graduate scholarships to enable Christian vocation.
- Congregational Growth and Vitality
  - New Congregation Establishment
  - Congregational Vitality
  - Black Church Work enhancement
- Response to and advocacy for the wellbeing of African American community;
  - Proactive ministries of social justice
  - Identification, conceptualization and communication of the gifts of the African American journey to the wholeness of the church
  - Effective response to crisis in the community

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVENTION



## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE BLACK DISCIPLES ENDOWMENT FUND



The Black Disciples Endowment Fund is administered by a Board of Trustees responsible to the NCMC who:

- Define and review investment strategies
- Articulate the vision
- Advocate for the fund
- Contribute to the fund
- Assess needs and opportunities for allocation of grants
- Developing guidelines for the distribution of earnings from the Fund
- Award, evaluate and celebrate grants from the fund's income

## **INVESTMENTS**

BDEF's funds are soundly invested with the Christian Church Foundation. The Foundations' President and Vice President, Gary Kidwell and Marilyn Fiddmont are ex-officio members (without vote) on the Board.

Gary reports to the Board of Trustees a comprehensive financial report and is always available for leadership and/or consultation. Marilyn fully participates in Board meetings, lifting important financial questions when needed and is available for leadership and consultation.

## **ELECTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS**

The BDEF Board of Trustees is aware that there is a Board vacancy and many members have served long and faithfully. The nominating chair is in the process of identifying persons to serve on the Board.

But at this time, in light of restructuring and refocusing on how BDEF lives out its ministry, BDEF brings before NCMC the following names in nomination for election: Jackie Compton Bunch, Eugene Fisher and John R. Foulkes as the Class of 2023 of the BDEF Board of Trustees.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of all BDEF Trustee meetings can be provided by Rev. Dr. Timothy James upon request.

## **MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**

### *AACLD*

- AACLD, born out of a grant that comes to BDEF from the Merchant Estate. A few years ago, the Christian Church Foundation received a bequest in the amount of four million dollars from the Lillian Merchant estate. The bequest identified that 10% of the income from the endowment was to be used for the recruitment of African American clergy. From this grant BDEF gave birth to AACLD. Each year AACLD receives \$10,000 for the use of recruiting African American clergy.

### *DHM/NATIONAL CONVOCATION*

- Each biennial session BDEF has donated \$10,000 to financially undergird the Disciples Home Missions, National Convocation's African-American School of Faith and Life.

## *LEXINGTON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY*

- BDEF has committed \$5,000 yearly over three years for a total of \$15,000 to the Certificate in African American Ministry (CAAM). CAAM is part of LTS's Bi-vocational Ministry Institute that is funded by the Thriving In Ministry (TIM) project.

## *LOCAL CHURCHES/ INDIVIDUALS*

- Historically BDEF has worked in partnership with individuals and the Black Church by granting scholarships, funds for churches serving the elderly, churches serving persons reentering society, churches teaching the community how to garden, churches affecting the lives of the broken, the forgotten, the ones who would be left behind and so many more.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORMS and INDEMNIFICATION**

AS BDEF's custom, Conflict of Interest forms were distributed, signed and collected. Also, indemnification was moved and adopted to indemnify the Trustees and Officers of the Black Disciples Endowment Fund against claims arising out of the good faith performance of their duties, since the last annual meeting.

## **BOARD CHAIR SUMMARY**

The Board of Trustees is indebted to the Administrative Secretary, Rev. Dr. Timothy James. BDEF recognizes and appreciates the work he was done and the leadership he has provided BDEF over the years. BDEF's retirement wish for Tim is that he gets some rest and then after being well rested he gets back on the battle field.

BDEF is looking forward to reinstating our granting process and working in partnership with churches and individuals starting in the 2021 year. BDEF is committed to financially supporting the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada in the areas of: leadership, community advocacy for development, congregational growth and vitality, and scholarships through the Black Church.

The programs of AACLD and CAAM, allow BDEF to focus on preparing clergy. #LC2 was a workshop that brought clergy and laity together. The new "Laity Leader Institute" will help BDEF encompass the whole church as this workshop focuses on working with lay leadership. Although the Laity Leader Institute had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus, look to hear from BDEF in the future. *"To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."*  
~*Ephesians 4:12 (ESV)*