

# Bishop Herbert Thompson Chapter of UBE

ISSUE #1

DIOCESE OF  
SOUTHER OHIO

✦  
13 April 2026

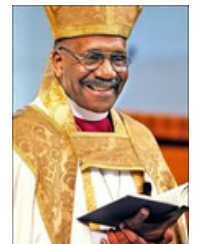
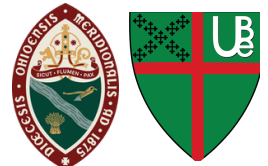
## Our Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the BHTC Newsletter. We are excited to introduce this new way of staying connected as a community. The newsletter will be published every two months, and this first issue serves as a pilot as we begin shaping what future editions will look like.

In this edition, you will notice events from February and March included as examples of the kinds of updates and stories we hope to share regularly. Our next issue will be released in May, and we would love to include news, announcements, and upcoming events from your church.

Our goal with this newsletter is to strengthen communication within our community and to complement our monthly meetings. Through shared updates, important announcements, and information gathered from 3 surveys in this pilot issue (pages 2,7,9), we hope to keep everyone informed, engaged, and connected in our shared mission.

For this effort to truly reflect our community, we will need your help. Updates about your church's ministries, upcoming events, and social justice initiatives that we can support together are all welcome. We are also open to ideas for ways our organization can partner with or sponsor events that uplift and serve our broader community.



### In this newsletter you can expect:

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Newletter  
Introduction

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Meetings

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Membership

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Committees

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Spotlight on a  
Church

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Executive  
Committee

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## Our Newsletter cont...

As you read this first edition, we invite you to complete the survey on the last page and share your thoughts. Your feedback will help guide the direction of future issues—what you enjoy, what could be improved, and what information you would find most helpful.

If you are interested in helping with the newsletter, please feel free to reach out to Ericka. She would be delighted to work with others to gather stories, updates, and information that celebrate and strengthen our community.

Thank you for being part of BHTC, and we look forward to growing this new effort together.

### MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

[HTTPS://FORM.JOTFORM.COM/260996767541069](https://form.jotform.com/260996767541069)





Diocese of Southern Ohio  
**Bishop Herbert Thompson, Jr**  
**Chapter of the**  
**Union of Black Episcopalians**

## Memberships

Welcome to all members of the Bishop Herbert Thompson, Jr. Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians.

We are proud to be a chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians with an ever growing membership. Our chapter has faithfully carried out the mission of UBE since the 1980s, and we are grateful that you are part of continuing that legacy.

Together we remain committed to the work of unity, justice, and evangelism within our church and our communities.

Membership cards were mailed this month—slightly later than we had hoped—to your church, or directly to you if you are the only member from your parish. Thank you for your patience. As we look ahead to 2027, we will be exploring improved methods to ensure membership materials are distributed in a more timely manner.

You will notice that the back of the card includes a QR code. This provides a quick and easy way to invite others to learn more about our chapter and join in the work we are doing.

In 2025, the chapter made the decision to revitalize and restructure our organization to strengthen our ministry and ensure we continue to grow. During this period of renewal, we invite each member to prayerfully consider joining one of our committees. Your participation will help ensure that our chapter remains active, relevant, and a source of pride within the diocese.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Bishop Herbert Thompson, Jr. Chapter and to the mission of the Union of Black Episcopalians.

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## Meetings

- **Our meetings are virtual and held on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84003376197?pwd=mriyf9Hdk7WXWTNei4cgCJ54oRwAe6.1>

**Meeting ID:** 840 0337 6197

**Passcode:** 038345

- Please use the recurring link to join us each month.
- Please checkout our monthly actions and events

## Committees

The following committee are currently in session:

- Bylaws
- Executive Retreat
- Annual Meeting

We are looking for members to join the following committees:

- Absalom Jones Celebration
- Symposium
- Nominating



St. Philip Episcopal Church Youth are fundraising to attend the Annual UBE Conference in North Carolina. Please be on the look out for how you can help their youth.

If your church has an upcoming fundraiser, please email Ericka a JPG or Word formatted flyer to include in the newsletter.



The Prayer Breakfast for Historically black churches have begun. The first was held at St. Simon. There were about 50 people in attendance with good conversation and great food.

We look forward to hearing the out come of our gathering for the next newsletter.

**See you on May 23rd in Columbus!!**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

## Monthly BHTC Actions and Events

### **April**

- 9 - Chapter Meeting 6pm
- 14 - African American Bible Study 6pm
- 17-18 - Small Church Summit
- 21- African American Bible Study 6pm
- 26 - Information for May & June newsletter due to Ericka
- 28 - Executive Meeting
- 28 - African American Bible Study

### **May**

- 7 -Chapter Meeting Nominating Committee Chosen
- 10 - Newsletter Emailed
- 23 - Prayer Breakfast - St. Philip
- 26 - Executive Meeting

### **June**

- 4 - Chapter Meeting Nominating Report Election of Officers
- 13 - Historically Black Congregation Vestry Meeting - St. Margaret's
- 28 - Information for July & August newsletter due to Ericka
- 30 - Executive Meeting

### **July**

#### **No chapter or executive meetings**

- 26 - Newsletter Emailed
- 29 - Annual Business Meeting and Conference, Raleigh, NC 7/29 - 8/1

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## Upcoming in Our Chapter Meetings



The following committee are currently in session:

- Bylaws
  - Our goal is to have our bylaws updated and submitted to the Executive Council in April.
  - In May we will have a vote on the bylaws by the entire membership. This could mean we will need to call a special meeting to ratify the bylaws. Please be on the look out for emails regarding this.
- Executive Retreat
  - A meeting to discuss the past 10 months and any action items that need to be completed before election of officers.
- Annual Meeting
  - An in person meeting with workshops and regular monthly meeting business discussed.

We are looking for members to join the following committees:

- Absalom Jones Celebration
  - 3-5 people to plan of the 2027 service
- Symposium
  - 3-5 people to plan the 2027 symposium
- Nominating
  - 3-5 people to come up with a slate and present to the members

Upcoming issues that require full membership voting

- Bylaws
- Executive Positions
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
- Results of surveys

Please join us on the May and June monthly meetings

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## February Events

### Celebrating Absalom Jones

What a wonderful service we had for the Absalom Jones and Richard Allen celebration. We thank the preacher for the Absalom Jones and Richard Allen Worship Service, Rev. Dr. Betty W. Holley, who serves as the Presiding Elder of the Dayton District of the AME Church.

We had over 125 people in attendance and participation from all HBC's and other churches from around the diocese. We also thank The Rt. Rev. Bavi Edna (Nedi) Rivera for being the Celebrant for the service.

If you missed the service, you can view it by clicking the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8B-Y88ou8\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8B-Y88ou8_w)

**Planning for the 2027 service to begin in April. Please email us if you would like to be on the planning committee.**

### Annual Symposium

The annual symposium went off without a hitch. We had great conversation and discussion between our guest and panelist.

We thank the Symposium committee for designing another wonderful event and selecting the panelist for to give great information and time for discussion.

We also thank Ron Thomas for ensuring our IT was smooth. Each year he does a wonderful job in ensuring our symposium goes on without a hitch.

**Planning for the 2027 symposium to begin in April. Please email us if you would like to be on the planning committee.**

### 2026 Symposium and Absalom Jones/Richard Allen Survey

<https://form.jotform.com/260993944684071>



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## March Meeting Highlights

### About this section

This section is not intended to replace the official minutes from our monthly meetings. Instead, it serves as a place to highlight key information and important topics that were discussed. At times, we may also expand on certain items to provide additional context or helpful details.

Members are encouraged to take time to review the full meeting minutes when they are distributed. The minutes provide a complete record of discussions, decisions, and updates that are important to the life and work of our chapter.

### Commission on Reparative Justice

The Commission on Reparative Justice is in formation mode. The financial allocation is just the beginning of hoped to be a long focus on reparations. The Commission will consist of 15 members, geographically diversified, with a representative from each of the four black churches (each church has an assigned representative).

#### **Key takeaways:**

- Please know, we have gotten this far due to the years of work by various peoples
  - The work will continue, be active in telling your churches stories
  - Ultimate goal is for the black churches to consistently receive our representative share of the church wealth – approximately 14%
  - Rev. Aaron is available to facilitate investment discussions
  - Work with your church representative to ensure attending the meetings and dispersing information on a regular basis
  - Sign-up to participate on diocesan committees – especially those that make money decisions
  - Share resources and wisdom – need highly functioning vestries
  - Consider all-vestry meetings, all wardens meetings
  - Rectors should be in conversation
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## Rev. Robin Woodberry, Mid-West Regional Director

We are delighted to welcome you to the Midwest Region of the Union of Black Episcopalians.

Together, we celebrate our rich heritage, deepen our faith, and continue the work of racial justice, leadership development, and spiritual renewal within The Episcopal Church. We invite you to explore, connect, and join us in building beloved community across our region.

The Rev. Robin Woodberry, Midwest Regional Director

On February 28, Rev. Woodberry held a Virtual Regional meeting. On the meeting were members from all the Mid-West Chapters and the National UBE board.

During the meeting we discussed what was going well, such as chapter restructuring, chapter membership and participation, and Rev. Robin hitting the ground running by reaching out to all the chapters to see what is needed to keep all chapters active and strong.

We also learned of growing points such as: communication from Nationals to Chapters, the need for younger members to ascend to more prominent roles within all levels of UBE, and the website has undergone a second rebuild as the first one was hacked.

The national board members informed us of the timeline for information to begin arriving to the chapters in April about the Annual Business Meeting and Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Recommendations were given to the board about not scheduling all the workshops at the same time, and ensuring youth participation, and ease of registering groups for the conference. All recommendations were well received and we are encouraged to keep sending recommendations as well as concerns to the regional president to be forwarded to the national board.

An in person regional meeting is in the works and the Diocese of Southern Ohio has agreed to host the meeting. As more information is given, it will be sent out to the members.

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## Spotlight on OUR Churches

Each newsletter we plan to spotlight each of our churches. Not just our historically black churches, but the churches from each of our members. A request will be sent out in advance for the next churches Spotlight.

This can be a brief history, but we are also looking for fun and interesting facts, like oldest member, longest running outreach ministry, interesting people who were/are members, and how we can support a ministry at your church.

Be on the look out for your Spotlight request.



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## Executive Team



Reverend Dr. Benjamin  
Spear-Hardy - President



Reverend Aaron Rogers -  
Vice President



Reverend Dr. Herschel  
Walker - Chaplin



Ms. Barbara Bass -  
Secretary



Mrs. Trina Owens-Rogers  
- Treasurer



Ms. Ericka Hall - Publicity



Ms. Dionne Clifton -  
Membership



Please fill out this survey about this pilot  
issue of the newsletter.

<https://form.jotform.com/260973505194058>

