



# ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

**Legislative & Media**

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# ADVOCACY TOOLKIT: INTRODUCTION

Any review of the recent studies of issues affecting African Americans would list among the most critical issues: unemployment; lack of quality healthcare, limited accessibility of quality of education at all levels; incarceration; the future of Historically Black Colleges and Universities; threats to voting rights; police brutality; crime, gun violence, and systemic racism. What will ensure that those issues are addressed? Policy changes? Legislation? Resources? Effective media or social media messaging? Yes to all of those. But none will happen without the voice of the people. **That means ADVOCACY is extremely important.**

You don't need special training to be an effective advocate. concerning African American issues. All you need is a genuine concern about the issues, knowledge about the sources of information on the issues, and basic tools for advocates.

This **Advocacy Toolkit** provides basic information for those interested in legislative and/or media advocacy. Some of the material comes from research organizations such as the Tufts University and effective advocates in a variety of subject areas such as the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and the Parent Teachers Association. The toolkit includes definitions of important terms, information about several strategic tools for advocates to include: **Arranging Meetings with Legislators; Letters to the Editor; Preparation for Media Interviews; and the Role of Social Media.** In addition, the toolkit lists key resources by subject areas

We hope that this Advocacy Toolkit will be helpful to you as you make a difference.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner  
Founder and Dean, Masters Series  
for Distinguished Clergy (MSDC)  
A Program of Skinner Leadership Institute

*Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, (D-TX) shares legislative briefing with 2018 MSDC class.*



## A. ADVOCACY

### DEFINITIONS, LAWS, AND RULES GOVERNING ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

- ▶ **“Advocacy:”** *Policy advocacy is the process of negotiating and mediating a dialogue through which influential networks, opinion leaders, and ultimately, decision makers take ownership of your ideas, evidence, and proposals, and subsequently act upon them. International Centre for Policy Advocacy*
- ▶ **“Lobbying:”** Attempting to influence legislation through contacts, or urging the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation, or if the organization advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation.
- ▶ **Religion and Lobbying:** It has become par for the course among both politicians and commentators that religion does, and should, have a place in the federal legislative process, Zoë Robinson, **“Lobbying in the Shadows: Religious Interest Groups in the Legislative Process,”** *Emory Law Journal* 64, no. 4 (2015).
- ▶ **Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code:** Says that groups are restricted in the proportion of their activities and budgets they can devote to direct lobbying.<sup>16</sup> These groups may not endorse or oppose particular candidates for public office, for example. Tax-exempt groups are not prohibited, however, from drawing on religious principles to conduct public education campaigns on issues or providing information from a religious perspective to policymakers. Donations to 501(c)(3) entities are tax deductible Pew Research Center, Religion & Public Life

Rep. Lucy McBath, (D-GA) shares remarks at 2019 MSDC legislative briefing.



## B. TYPES OF ADVOCACY

### CORRESPONDING WITH ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS (Reference page 18 of this toolkit for sources)

#### **Sample Letter to a Member of Congress, City Council, State Official, Mayor**

The Honorable (full name)  
(Room #) (Name) House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative (insert name):

As a constituent and leader of (church, organization...), I would like to ask you to support (policy, position or specific legislative proposal). The .....proposal provides (describe). [Insert information about how the policy and/or legislation would have an impact and serve the population that is of concern to you..

We (I) have been studying this issue and have found.....Research has demonstrated that .....

Additionally, the cost of supporting the legislation has been estimated to be.....On the other hand, the cost of not passing and implementing the legislation is estimated to be.....

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns and again I encourage you to support the ..... policy and/or legislation. I (we) am (are) available to discuss this issue with you at your convenience.

Sincerely:

(Insert name and address)



## B. TYPES OF ADVOCACY

### MEETING WITH ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

#### CONDUCTING VISITS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

- Being an effective advocate requires building strong relationships with our members of Congress and their staff members. It is important to use every opportunity to reach out and maintain these relationships.
- Meeting with your members and letting them know what policies are important to you and your community is a critical step in building this relationship.
- You can meet with your members of Congress either in their Washington office or their district office.
- You should be aware that most congressional meetings are taken by one of their staff members, who then relay pertinent information onto the members of Congress.

Below are some tips on how to schedule and meet with your elected officials before your visit

#### SCHEDULING

- You can schedule individual or group visits with your member of Congress. Out of professional courtesy, most members will not meet with constituents from other states or districts, so only schedule meetings with your own member.
- When you call the Congressional office, there are a few things to know if you are calling the district office, you should ask for the scheduler to request a meeting with the member while he or she is in the district. If you are calling the Washington, D.C. office, you may ask for either the scheduler, if you are requesting a meeting with the member, or if you would like to meet with a legislative aide (LA), ask to be transferred to the LA handling the issue you wish to discuss.
- Try to request a meeting between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., for both the district and Hill visits.

Identify who you are, who you represent, and who will attend. Indicate what you want to discuss with the member or his or her staff. Different offices will respond more quickly than others. If you are in Washington, D.C. and scheduling multiple visits in one day, take special consideration when traveling from the House to the Senate or vice versa, as it is a 15 minute walk. The day before the appointment, call to confirm.

SOURCE: PTA TAKES ACTION

Reference:

<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/advocacy-resources/Advocacy-Toolkit/Conducting-a-Visit-with-a-Member-of-Congress>



## B. TYPES OF ADVOCACY

### MEETING WITH ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

#### Do Your Research

- Learn about your member of Congress, his/her priority issues, and the committee(s) on which he or she serves. Bring local statistics and facts about your known organization's influence on the issue that you will be discussing during your meeting.

#### DURING YOUR VISIT

##### Arrive Early

- Arrive 5 minutes early, and be patient if the member is running late or gets called away during the meeting. In the D.C. office, when Congress is in session, elected officials and their staff have an extremely busy schedule and it is not uncommon for meetings to be interrupted. If this occurs, continue your meeting with staff and leave behind information about your programs and public policy.
- If you happen to be running late, please call the Congressional office and let them know.

##### State the Purpose of Your Visit

- After the initial handshakes and introductions, tell the member of Congress who you are with (state, local unit and school), what you want to talk about, and why.
- When advocating for a specific bill, know the title, number, and status of the bill. In a direct and polite manner, tell your member of Congress what action you would like to be taken on the bill.
- Remember to be brief and to the point. The entire visit should not generally take longer than 20 minutes.

##### Make it Local

- All politics are local. Be sure to connect the issues you are discussing to what's happening in the member of Congress' state and district.
- Give local statistics, facts and success stories to back your point.
- Explain how your community and the policymaker's constituents are affected and how your organization/church addresses these issues.

## B. TYPES OF ADVOCACY

### MEETING WITH ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

#### Listen, Respond, and Don't Argue

- Listen carefully to what your member of Congress or their staff has to say and allow them to state their opinion and position on the issue.
- If the elected official does not agree with your position, don't argue or make a future enemy.
- Simply identify issues of concern or differences of opinion and respond based on your knowledge and experience.

Remember you are trying to build a relationship, so don't alienate someone who may be your future supporter. If you don't know the answer to a particular question, just say so and promise to get back to them with an answer.

#### Wrap-up the Meeting

- Summarize your key points and positions.
- Give the member of Congress supportive information, fact sheets, and your contact information.
- Thank the elected official for their time and leave promptly.

### AFTER YOUR VISIT

#### Follow Up

- Be sure to send a thank you letter to the member of Congress and their staff.
- Remember that you want to develop and maintain a relationship with your elected official and their staff—also stay in contact, send periodic information and updates, invite them to visit your church or program, and thank them for future votes in favor of your position.



*MSDC participants work in teams preparing for Mock hearings*

## C. MEDIA STRATEGIES

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR : TIPS ON WRITING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND OPINION EDITORIALS

- **Letter to the Editor:** Is a letter written to a newspaper, magazine or other periodical about issues of concern to the writer and readers, intended to be published. **An Opinion Editorial** is a short written piece sent to a newspaper that offers a clear view of a current events issue. Both Letters to the Editor and Opinion Editorials are effective ways to reframe or add to the contents of current issues.
- **Preferred Mode of Communicating:** Most publications prefer email submissions in which the letter is included. The email should begin with a headline and "**To the Editor**" or "**Dear Editor.**" Below are tips for the Letter to the Editor:
  - **Explain Why you are concerned about the issue,** such as " I am the pastor of a church with # of members in (city and state) where \_\_\_\_\_ is a serious problem.
  - **State facts to support your position.** Include relevant data when applicable. For example, "I am concerned about rising teen incarceration rates of youth in Example County. According to the Department of Corrections, teen incarceration rates increased at the staggering rate of XX percent between last year and this year."
  - **Keep the letter short and to the point.** Your letter generally should not exceed 200 words but the shorter the submission, the greater the likelihood it will be printed in its entirety. If the publication decides to shorten your letter, it will usually be the final paragraphs — so don't save your point for the end.
  - **Stay Focused.** Stay with the issues. Cover the issues of concern and do not attack individual reporters. Readers will respect reasoned arguments. Emphasize one or two points in concise, compelling language.
  - **Use the Opportunity to seek support for your coalition**
  - **Close Strong.** The last sentence is as important as the first. Restate your support for the solution for the issue raised.
  - **Include Important Information.** Review the submission guidelines for the publication. Make sure to include your name, phone number, and the date you submitted the letter. Follow up with a phone call to find out if your letter will run is generally accepted.





## C. MEDIA STRATEGIES

### MEDIA INTERVIEWS

#### Before The Interview

- Know your purpose. Prepare two or three essential points that you want to get across during the interview.
- Support your points with facts or anecdotes from your experience.
- There is no substitute for preparation. Study your subject and ask your friends, family, and colleagues to conduct mock interviews as practice.
- Consider your interview an "enlarged conversation" and speak as naturally as you would to another person.

#### During The Interviews

- Before you begin to speak, smile at the interviewer to establish a rapport.
- Use vocal variety. Let your voice and your delivery reflect the full spectrum of emotions and points of emphasis.
- Use gestures that complement the expression of your ideas. Avoid distracting, meaningless movements.
- Maintain eye contact throughout the interview and keep an "open," friendly face.
- Communicate total enthusiasm and involvement in your subject.

#### Getting Your Point Across:

- Be assertive - in a pleasant way - so that the conversation centers on subjects you want to talk about. One way to do this is to respond to a narrow question with a very broad answer that encompasses the facts or opinions you need to get across.
- Listen carefully to the question. If you consider it difficult, pause before you answer to give yourself time to formulate a response. If you don't understand a question, ask that it be repeated.
- Be careful not to repeat an interviewer's words, unless they reinforce what you wish to say. If an interviewer poses false premises in asking a question, correct him/her firmly but politely.
- Don't feel obligated to accept unfamiliar facts or figures.
- Use your time to set the record straight or present facts. You might say, "This is a common misperception. Here's why..."
- Deflect questions you do not wish to answer by introducing something else of interest. In this way, you may redirect the interview to the subject you wish to convey.
- Don't try to answer hypothetical questions; they tend to obscure your true position. Turn the tables by clearly stating your general position and then offering your own example.
- Use short words and simple, declarative sentences. Avoid scientific terminology. Be descriptive, using images that the listener can picture.



## C. MEDIA STRATEGIES

### MEDIA INTERVIEWS

#### Use Examples Whenever Possible to Simplify and Dramatize Your Main Points

- Where appropriate, relate personal experiences or illustrations of your work to support your statements.
- Telling something about yourself will "humanize" you to the audience.

#### If you use quotations, keep them short.

- If you can't recite the quotation verbatim, don't use it.
- If you don't know the answer to a question simply say, "I don't know, but I'll find out the answer and get back to you." If you have a legitimate reason for withholding certain information then politely say it's confidential or proprietary.

#### Start with a general statement that sums up your position or philosophy succinctly and accurately.

- In the second part of your answer you should narrow down your response by giving the specifics of why you feel the way you do. This approach is particularly valuable for radio and television. If a producer decides to cut your five minute taped interview down to one minute for the evening news, chances are he/she will use your general statement.

### TIPS FOR NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS

#### Never speak off the record:

**Assume that everything you say will be reported**, whether it's before, during, or after an interview.

#### Make sure that what you tell the reporter is what you want to see in print.

- If you are unhappy with the way you have phrased something, stop and rephrase or clarify your original statement. If you realize after the interview that you misstated a fact or phrased something poorly, call the reporter to correct the error.
- A newspaper reporter will not allow you to review copy before it is printed. You can, however, extend your influence over the article by inviting the reporter to call you for more information or clarification.

*MSDC Dean and Founder, Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner facilitates small group dialogues with 2018 MSDC class.*



# Event Press Release Template

YOUR LOGO HERE

Contact Name  
Phone  
Email  
Website

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE

## A Captivating Headline

### Optional Sub-header That Builds On The Headline

[CITY, STATE, Month Date—] First or lead paragraph that summarizes the rest of the press release. You want to concisely give the reader the benefits of attending your event.

Body paragraph(s): Give a more detailed description of the news you are announcing. You want to give enough information that your target audience wants to know more. Keep it as short as possible. Be engaging and try to generate buzz with the details you give.

Body paragraph(s): You can expand on the news you are announcing, add in bios or links where anything of significance might be taking place. You can also add a link to your Facebook page or a LinkedIn Bio if you are announcing an event or a new hire. Remember to use third person throughout the body of the press release.

**SOURCE OF TEMPLATE:** Associated Press (AP) Press Release format



# APPENDICES



# FACTS ABOUT THE U.S. BLACK POPULATION

*Selections From The Fact Sheet (March 2, 2023)*

## Facts About the U.S. Black Population | Pew Research Center

by MOHAMAD MOSLIMANI, CHRISTINE TAMIR, ABBY BUDIMAN, LUIS NOE-BUSTAMA, LAUREN MORA

- **Population Size:** The Black population of the United States is growing. In 2021, there were an estimated 47.2 million people who self-identified as Black, making up 14.2% of the country's population. This marks a 30% increase since 2000 when there were 36.3 million Black people living in the U.S.
- **Age:** The U.S. Black population is young. The median age of Black people in 2021 was 33 years, five years younger than the U.S. population's median age of 38. Roughly 30% of the entire Black population was below the age of 20 while 12% were 65 or older.
- **Regional Distribution:** The highest concentration of Black people in the U.S. in 2021 is in the South; more than half (56%) live there. Following the South, 17% live in each the Midwest and the Northeast and 10% live in the West.
- **Household Income:** The median household income for Black U.S. households in 2021 is \$46,400, which means half of households headed by a Black person earn more than that and half earn less. Broader analysis shows that 52% of Black U.S. households earn less than \$50,000, while 48% make \$50,000 or more. Three in ten Black households (31%) make \$75,000 or more, including 20% that make \$100,000 or more.
- **Family Structure:** About four-in-ten Black people (39%) live in U.S. households that are headed by married couples as of 2021. Roughly three-in-ten Black people (31%) live in households whose household head is female, and 5% live in male-headed households. Fewer than two-in-ten (16%) are part of non-family households.
- **Education:** About a quarter (26%) of all Black U.S. adults ages 25 and older have a bachelor's degree or more education. Another third (32%) have completed some college as of 2021, and roughly four in ten (42%) have, at most, graduated from high school (or earned an equivalent such as a GED certificate).
- **Religious Affiliation:** Two-thirds (66%) of all Black adults identify as Protestant. Roughly one-in-five (21%) are religiously unaffiliated, while smaller shares of adults identify as Catholic (6%), or with other Christian denominations (3%) or non-Christian faiths (3%).



## HIGHLIGHTS

- The 47th edition of the State of Black America - Democracy In Peril: Confronting the Threat Within, raises the alarm around the explosive growth of far-right and domestic extremism and the threat it poses to our communities, our families, and our nation.
- After the dismantling of Jim Crow and the freedoms won during the Civil Rights Movement, some of the most violent forms of white supremacy began to go underground throughout America. In recent years, dangerous rhetoric that emboldens racists and incites violence has moved from the dark web into mainstream politics.
- Far-right extremists advocating for the erasure of our civil liberties are infiltrating our military ranks, law enforcement, political system, and classrooms under the guise of “parents’ rights.” The racist ideologies supporting this movement can also be tied to the increase in hate crimes, mass shootings, and police brutality, claiming lives in communities of color every day.
- In partnership with the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Urban League quantified the increase in racial violence, outlined the effects of hateful rhetoric on public attitudes around our political system, and tracked the growing domestic threat of white supremacists infiltrating our law enforcement and our military ranks.
- The Urban League also leveraged data from UCLA Law’s Anti-CRT legislative tracking project, CRT Forward, which tracks laws across the country that are attempting to block, edit, and rewrite American history.
- The contributing authors reflect on the aftermath of 2022’s racially-motivated mass murder in Buffalo, New York, that claimed the lives of 10 African-Americans, address the increased threat to our Democracy and way of life posed by these extremists, and outline how the federal government and civil rights organizations are fighting this threat.
- One conclusion: “We can no longer afford to minimize this movement by painting the actions of violent extremists as isolated incidents and protecting hate speech from far-right politicians by invoking the same freedoms they seek to limit for other Americans. The time to act is now.



# SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS AND PLATFORMS

- **Blogs:** A platform for casual dialogue and discussions on a specific topic or opinion.
- **Facebook:** The world's largest social network, with more than 1.55 billion monthly active users (as of the third quarter of 2015). Users create a personal profile, add other users as friends, and exchange messages, including status updates. Brands create pages and Facebook users can "like" brands' pages.
- **Twitter:** A social networking/micro-blogging platform that allows groups and individuals to stay connected through the exchange of short status messages (140 character limit).
- **YouTube & Vimeo:** Video hosting and watching websites.
- **Flickr:** An image and video hosting website and online community. Photos can be shared on Facebook and Twitter and other social networking sites.
- **Instagram:** A free photo and video sharing app that allows users to apply digital filters, frames and special effects to their photos and then share them on a variety of social networking sites.
- **Snapchat:** A mobile app that lets users send photos and videos to friends or to their "story." Snaps disappear after viewing or after 24 hours. Currently, we are not allowing individual departments to have Snapchat accounts, but asking that they contribute to the Tufts University account.
- **LinkedIn Groups:** A place where groups of professionals with similar areas of interest can share information and participate in a conversations



# ADVOCACY RESOURCES

ADVOCACY CAPACITY TOOL	<a href="https://bolderadvocacy.org/tools-for-effective-advocacy/evaluating-advocacy/advocacy-capacity-tool">https://bolderadvocacy.org/tools-for-effective-advocacy/evaluating-advocacy/advocacy-capacity-tool</a>
ADVOCACY HANDBOOK	The Lobbying and Advocacy Handbook for Nonprofit Organizations, Second Edition: Shaping Public Policy at the State and Local Level. AMAZON
ADVOCACY HANDBOOK: ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATORS	<a href="https://www.census.gov/about/partners/cic/resources/data-links/african-american.html">https://www.census.gov/about/partners/cic/resources/data-links/african-american.html</a>
ADVOCACY IN ORGANIZATIONS	Stephen McConnell, "Advocacy in Organizations: The Elements of Success," <i>Generations</i> 28, no. 1 (2004),
CENSUS BUREAU DATA ON AFRICAN AMERICANS	<a href="https://www.census.gov/about/partners/cic/resources/data-links/african-american.html">https://www.census.gov/about/partners/cic/resources/data-links/african-american.html</a>
CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCACY	Catherine M. Paden, <i>Civil Rights Advocacy on Behalf of the Poor</i> (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011)
COMMUNITY TOOL BOX	Millions of people use the Community Tool Box each year to get help taking action, teaching, and training others in organizing for community development. Dive in to find help assessing community needs and resources, addressing social determinants of health, engaging stakeholders, action planning, building leadership, improving cultural competency, planning an evaluation, and sustaining your efforts over time. <a href="http://ctb.ku.edu/en">http://ctb.ku.edu/en</a>
DEFINITIONS OF ADVOCACY	Elias S. Cohen, "Advocacy and Advocates: Definitions and Ethical Dimensions," <i>Generations</i> 28, no. 1 (2004),
ELECTED OFFICIALS DIRECTORIES	<a href="https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials">https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials</a>
EVERYDAY ADVOCACY	<a href="https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/everyday-advocacy">https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/everyday-advocacy</a> National Council of Nonprofits
INTEREST GROUP POLITICS	Dara Z. Strolovitch, <i>Affirmative Advocacy: Race, Class, and Gender in Interest Group Politics</i> (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007),
LETTERS TO EDITOR: NEW YORK TIMES	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/content/help/site/editorial/letters/letters.html">https://www.nytimes.com/content/help/site/editorial/letters/letters.html</a>
LETTERS TO ELECTED OFFICIALS	<a href="http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/advocacy/direct-action/letters-to-elected-officials/main">http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/advocacy/direct-action/letters-to-elected-officials/main</a>
LETTERS TO ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM ACLU	<a href="https://www.aclu.org/writing-your-elected-representatives">https://www.aclu.org/writing-your-elected-representatives</a>
MEDIA STRATEGIES	<a href="http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/advocacy/media-advocacy/working-with-media/main">http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/advocacy/media-advocacy/working-with-media/main</a>
MEDIA STRATEGIES	Ruud Wouters, "Patterns in Advocacy Group Portrayal: Comparing Attributes of Protest and Non-Protest News Items across Advocacy Groups," <i>Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly</i> 92, no. 4 (2015),
QUOTATIONS ABOUT AFRICAN AMERICANS	<a href="https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/african-american">https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/african-american</a>
SOCIAL MEDIA HANDBOOK	Vanderbilt University <a href="https://web.vanderbilt.edu/login/">https://web.vanderbilt.edu/login/</a>
SOCIAL MEDIA TOP 10 GUIDELINES	<a href="http://www.buzzshift.com/social-media/top-10-social-media-handbooks-and-online-communication-guidelines">http://www.buzzshift.com/social-media/top-10-social-media-handbooks-and-online-communication-guidelines</a>
SPEECHES: AFRICAN AMERICANS; MAJOR SPEECHES	<a href="http://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history-major-speeches">http://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history-major-speeches</a>





# MSDC PARTICIPANTS

Since 2014



# MSDC PARTICIPANTS SINCE APRIL 2014

- Rev. Phyllis Anderson | Love, Light and Liberty Ministries, Morgantown WV
- Rev. Michael Armstrong | Colesville UMC, Washington DC
- Rev. Dr. Kenyatta Arnette | Grace United Fellowship of Christian Ministries, Atlanta GA
- Rev. Marquez Ball | Uplift Church, Laurel, MD
- Rev. William Bass | Gate of Heaven Church of God In Christ, Monessen PA
- Rev. Keith Battle | Zion Church, Hyattsville, MD
- Rev. Wallis C. Baxter III | Second Baptist Church SW, District Heights, MD
- Rev. Dr. Raymond Bell Jr. | Mount Hope Baptist Church, Fredericksburg, VA
- Pastor Lemuel Blackett | Faith Missionary Baptist Church, Bethel, CT
- Elder Orin Boyd Jr. | Mt. Zion Pentecostal Church, Washington, DC
- Rev. Daniel Bradley | The Genius Group, Temple Hills, MD
- Rev. Dr. Kevin Brooks | Freedom City Temple
- Rev. Wayne Bumbry | Le Detroit Baptist Church, Oxon Hill, MD
- Rev. Paul Cain | Resurrection Church, Houston, TX
- Rev. Thomas Cardwell | Mt. Bethel Baptist Association, Bethesda, MD
- Rev. John Cheek | Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church, Silver Spring, MD
- Pastor Bruce Clark | Advance Church, Silver Spring, MD
- Rev. Dr. James Coleman | All Nations Baptist Church, Washington DC
- Rev. Mother J. Cooper Conway | Caroline Episcopal Church, Setauket, NY
- Rev. Jinkie Corbin | Ebony Sonshine, Ft. Washington, MD
- Rev. Leonard Corbin | Word of God Community Church, Ft. Washington, MD
- Rev. John Cox | Vermont Avenue Baptist Church, Washington, DC
- Rev. Dr. Kendrick Curry | The Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, Washington, DC
- Min. Cecil Duffie | Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel of Howard University, Washington, DC
- Rev. Erin Dooley | KAleo Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
- Min. Carole Dortch-Wright | Cathedral International, Perth Amboy, NJ
- Rev. Cecil Duffie | Howard Divinity, Washington, DC
- Rev. Harold Dugger | First Baptist Capitol Heights, Capitol Heights, MD
- Mr. George Duncan | Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, DC
- Min. Nikkia Durham | Highview Christian Fellowship
- Rev. Leslye Dwight | Community of Hope AME Church, Lanham, MD
- Rev. Amin Flowers | Life Church, Brooklyn, MD
- Rev. Sheleta Fomby | Hemingway Memorial AME Church, Laurel, MD
- Dr. Kecia Ford | Kingdom Experience Int'l, District Heights, MD
- Dr. Carolyn Gilmore | Potomac River Baptist Association
- Pastor Michael K. Glasby | Mount Jezreel Baptist Church
- Rev. Darryl Godlock | Calvert County Baptist Church, Prince Frederick, MD
- Rev. Dr. Etoria Goggins | First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Manassas (FAME), Manassas, VA
- Rev. Willie Grandberry | Greater MT. Calvary Holy Church, Washington, DC
- Rev. Dr. Michael Green | Hoyt Memorial CME Church, Wilmington, DE
- Rev. Catherine Griggs | Cathedral International, Perth Amboy, NJ
- Min. Lora Hargrove | Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
- Min. Quinn Harkless | Beyond the Surface, Inc., Pasadena, TX
- Rev. Tonny D. Harris | First Missionary Baptist Church, Frederick, MD
- Elder Kevin Hart | Christian Tabernacle Church, Washington, DC



# MSDC PARTICIPANTS SINCE APRIL 2014

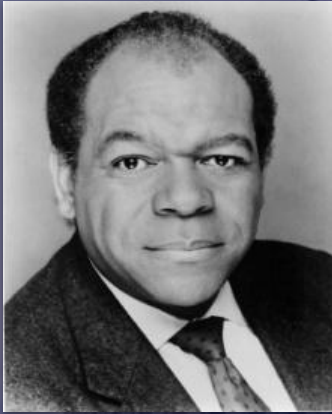
- Rev. Dr. Michael Henderson Sr. | New Beginnings Community Church, Matthews, NC
- Rev. Dr. George Holmes | DC Democratic State Committee, Washington, DC
- Min. Arnold Howard | Enon Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD
- Rev. Willie Hunt | New Community Church of God In Christ, Waldorf, MD
- Rev. Dean Hunter | New Bethel Baptist Church, Washington, DC
- Min. Erika Jackson-Stokes | Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, DC
- Mr. Aaron Jenkins | The Expectations Project (TEP), Washington, DC
- Pastor John K. Jenkins Sr. | First Baptist Church of Glenarden, Hyattsville, MD
- Rev. Karen Johnson | First Christian Community Church, Washington, DC
- Bishop Aaron Jones | New Community Church of God In Christ, Waldorf, MD
- Pastor Jason Jones | Zion Church, Hyattsville, MD
- Pastor Jumaine Jones | The Bridge Church, Silver Spring, MD
- Rev. Michael Jones II | Howard University, School of Divinity, Washington, DC
- Dr. Carl Keels | Maple Springs Bible College and Seminary, Capitol Heights, MD
- Pastor Eric Kellum | Zion Church, Lanham, MD
- Pastor Susan Kellum | Zion Church, Lanham, MD
- Rev. Frankie Kelly | Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA
- Pastor Joseph Lee | Zion Church, Hyattsville, MD
- Rev. Tony Lee | Community of Hope A.M.E. Church
- Rev. Essentino Lewis Jr. | CPBC, Silver Spring, MD
- Min. Stephawn Lindsay | Zion Church, Hyattsville, MD
- Rev. Dr. Bobby Manning | First Baptist Church of District Heights, District Heights, MD
- Pastor James Marshall Jr. | Zion Church, Hyattsville, MD
- Pastor Elwood Matthews | Zion Church, Hyattsville, MD
- Min. James McEachin | Corner Rock Ministries
- Rev Terrance McKinley | Sojourners, Washington, DC
- Bishop William McMillan Jr. | Greater Maryland First Jurisdiction - COGIC
- Pastor Charles McNeill | Baptist Minister Conference, Upper Marlboro, MD
- Rev. Anthony Moore | Carolina Missionary Baptist Church, Upper Marlboro, MD
- Pastor Ida Moss | Greater Works Ministries, Suitland, MD
- Rev. Linda Nakpodia | New Bethel Baptist Church, Washington DC
- Prof. Lisa Nanches-Jackson | Take the Lead Enterprise, Upper Marlboro, MD
- Rev. Tonia Nixon | Shiloh Baptist Church, Alexandria, NC
- Rev. Denise Norfleet-Walker | St Paul Praise & Worship Center UMC, Pikesville, MD
- Rev. Dexter Nutall | New Bethel Baptist Church DC, Washington, DC
- Pastor Larry Paige | Zion Church, Hyattsville, MD
- Rev. Damon Parran | Victory International Worship Center, Hyattsville, MD
- Rev. Kenyon Payton | New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, West Bloomfield, MI
- Rev. Carl Pierce | Carter Memorial Church Of God In Christ, Abingdon, MD
- Pastor Zina Pierre | Bethel Restoration Church, Largo, MD
- Rev. Dr. Ella Redfield | New Creation Ministries, Silver Spring, MD
- Rev. Haywood Robinson III | The People's Community Baptist Church, Silver Spring, MD
- Min. Michael Rodgers | Zion Church, Hyattsville, MD
- Rev. Regretta Ruffin | Greater New St Paul Baptist Church, Washington, DC
- Rev. Rodney Ruffin | Elim Baptist Church, Temple Hills, MD
- Pastor Domanic Smith | United Baptist Missionary Convention & Auxiliaries of the State of MD, Baltimore, MD



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- Rev. Joseph Smith | Joseph A.C. Smith Ministries, Washington, DC
- Min. Richard Smith | The Movement Church, Columbia, MD
- Rev. Eldridge Spearman | Mt Jezreel Baptist Church, Silver Spring, MD
- Pastor William Spence | Harvest Life Fellowship, State College, PA
- Rev. Billy Staton | Providence St. John Baptist Church, Upper Marlboro, MD
- Rev. Jerome Stephens | United States Senate
- Rev. Dr. Lewis Tait Jr. | Faith Bible Church Remixed, Washington, DC
- Pastor James Teague | Uproar Church, Owings Mills, MD
- Pastor Nathaniel Thomas | Forestville New Redeemer Baptist Church, District Heights, MD
- Min. Victoria Thompson | Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, DC
- Rev. Stephen Tillett | Asbury-Broadneck United Methodist Church, Annapolis, MD
- Pastor Darrell Townsend | Zion Church, Upper Marlboro, MD
- Min. Cynthia Turner Wood | Dayspring Community Church, Lanham, MD
- Dr. Dale Wafer | MarketPlace Ministry, Camp Springs, MD
- Rev. Dr. Robert Walker Jr. | Mt. Zion UMC-Magothy, Pasadena, MD
- Dr. Vernon C. Walton | First Baptist Church of Vienna, Vienna, VA
- Rev. Sonja Williams | Kingdom Fellowship AME Church, Silver Spring, MD
- Rev. Jason Wilson | Howard School of Divinity, Washington, DC
- Min. Tamara Wilson | Nu Season Nu Day Church & Ministries, Baltimore, MD
- Rev. Dr. Laverne Wilson-Mclaughlin | Charis Worship Center Ministries, Laurel, MD
- Rev. Jamila Woods-Jones | Jabez Christian Community Church, White Plains, MD
- Dr. Nakia Wright | A Woman's Voice Matters, District Heights, MD
- Rev. Dr. Robert E. Young | Wayland Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD
- Rev. Dr. Christopher Zacharias | John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, Silver Spring, MD





“The peculiar thing about leadership is that most people don’t want to be led and yet don’t want to go without it. Leaders are those who have the ability to move people from one point to another and get them to like it. This is what it means to grab the invisible gavel of leadership.”

**Tom Skinner, Co-Founder  
Skinner Leadership Institute**



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