



NPBC NEWS

From the General President

Elder Dr. Kenneth A. Duke



"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11 NJKV)

Greetings,

I know that this has been a challenging season for all of us, our churches, and our National Convention. As we closed out 2020, many of us believed that 2021 would see the end of COVID-19 and life would return to some sort of normalcy. However, 2021 brought new variants, rebellions against vaccines, wearing masks, more infections and more deaths. So as we move into 2022, I want to encourage us to not grow weary. Even in the midst of adversity and challenge, God is still at work.

The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that God has made plans for all of us. God's plans give us hope! We have a race to run. Let's run this race with joy,

knowing that we have a cloud of witnesses cheering us on. Jesus seated at the right hand of God the Father interceding on our behalf and knowing without a shadow of doubt that nothing and nobody is greater than our God.

To the members and friends of the National Primitive Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., thank you for your continued support. We have made some significant progress. In 2020, our theme was SHIFT. And shifting, we did! As a National Body, we had to make changes in how we operated. If you remember, we hosted our first virtual convention July 21- July 24, 2020. Never in our wildest dreams could any of us ever believed a time would come when we would have to rely on technology to hold church services and meetings. And yet, we shifted and made it happen. In 2021, our theme was REIMAGING. As we moved forward, we recognized that we must do some things differently if we are to serve this present age. The use of technology is not going away. We must seize the opportunity to use the tools we have for the glory of God.

In July 2021, we held our first modified hybrid National Convention in Huntsville, AL. We thank Elder Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery and the members of Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church for opening their doors to host us. We thank each of you for your participation, either in person or virtually. We had a wonderful time of learning and worshipping.

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From the General Secretary

We have been able to update the information of more than 400 of our national members. Guess what? We still have work to do! We want to reach every Primitive Baptist member because you are a part of our National body. We need your help! If you, or someone you know, have not provided the National Secretary's Office with your contact information, or if you need to make any changes to the information that you have submitted, please forward to us your name, home address, telephone number and email address. The information can be sent to the National Convention's email address:

npbconvention@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via the National telephone number: (256) 229-4048. It is our desire that none of the members of our national body are left behind. Please make it a priority to provide us with the contact information of every Primitive Baptist in your concentric circle. If you know of any seniors who do not have access to email, let's help them out.

Elder Benji S. McMiller

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Words cannot adequately express our gratitude to the members and friends of our Convention who gave so generously to our mission appeal. The funds we raised was able to assist Louisiana, Haiti and Abaco. Each area is recovering from natural disasters. Thank you Moderator Ernest Williams for leading the coordination of our Louisiana efforts, Elder Dr. James Chester for leading our Haiti efforts and Elder Dr. Kelon Duke for leading our Abaco efforts. Together we made a big difference for the Kingdom of God.

In 2022, we still have some action items on the table. It is our prayer to address the following items:

- **Database:** We will continue to build our membership database. Currently, more than 400 of our members have been added to our database. It is our desire to communicate more efficiently (via email, U.S. mail, and social media platforms). If you have not provided our General Secretary, Elder Benji McMiller, with your current contact information, please do so immediately.
- **Reserve Funds:** We must continue to build up our Convention Reserve Fund to \$350,000 to help with Pre-convention and Board expenses. To date, we have received \$41,582. Note: We are preparing for our 2022 National Convention in Orlando, FL. We will need to have funds available so that we do not fall into debt from borrowing funds from our Line of Credit to cover expenses.
- **Mission:** We will continue to expand our Mission Fund in order to be in a position to quickly respond to our churches and our communities.
- **Convention Office:** We will work to identify a permanent location for our

National Convention office in order to maintain our records in a central location. This will also help our National Convention have long-term stability.

- **Finance:** We will finalize our National Convention's accounting manual to govern how we handle our finances. Note: this document can be modified to be used by other churches in the convention.
- **Academy:** We will continue to expand our Mobile Academic Training Academy to implement training courses in every region, state and local district of our Convention.
- **Survey:** In response to survey results from the 2019 National Convention in Houston, TX, we will continue to explore our Convention's official position regarding women clergy.
- **UMI:** We will continue to work with UMI to provide digital church school material.
- **Technology:** We will utilize technology in order to expand our virtual presence.

While I don't know what the future will bring, but the hymn writer said it best when he penned these words: "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name." Let each of us commit to stand on the solid Rock. Have your way Lord!

Servant to all,

Kenneth A. Duke



GENERAL CONVENTION PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2021 - DECEMBER 2021

Grateful to serve...

February 22 – 24

Participated in the National Convention Hybrid Board Meeting.

April 19

Represented the National Convention at the opening Welcome Service of the Florida State Primitive Baptist Convention in West Palm Beach, Florida.

May 25

Represented the National Convention at the New Black Wall Street in Atlanta, GA



June 26

Hosted an informational sharing meeting with Regional Vice Presidents, State Presidents, and Moderators.

June 27

Hosted an informational sharing meeting with Pastors and Elders.

July 19 - 23

Attended the National Primitive Baptist Convention Hybrid Annual Session in Huntsville, AL.

July 25

Represented the National Convention at Locust Ridge Primitive Baptist Church.



June 1-3

Represented the National Convention at the Economic Development Summit in Houston, Texas.



June 29

Served as the eulogist for President Emeritus Ann Carter's funeral service in Dallas, Texas.



July 25

Surprise visit to Elder Richard Lloyd at Green Grove Primitive Baptist Church.

GENERAL CONVENTION PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2021 - DECEMBER 2021
Grateful to serve...



September 11

Represented the National Convention at the Lynn Creek Primitive Baptist Association's 150th Session, Franklin, TN



September 26

Represented the National Convention at the New Beginnings Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette, LA. Elder Ernest Williams III is the pastor.



September 27

Viewed areas throughout Louisiana damaged from Hurricane Ida with Moderator Ernest Williams III.

October 15

Attended Dr. Terrance Ford's Inauguration as the fifth president of the Southern Bible Institute and College in Dallas, Texas



October 24

Represented the National Convention at the dedication of the Freeman Chapel Primitive Baptist Church's new church building in Dallas, Texas. Elder James Wiley serves as pastor.



GENERAL CONVENTION PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2021 - DECEMBER 2021
Grateful to serve...



November 5
Represented the National Convention at the Mount Zion West Florida, Alabama, Louisiana Association to raise funds for the Smyrna Primitive Baptist Church (Pensacola, FL) whose roof was damaged by a hurricane.

December 7

Represented the National Convention at the funeral service of Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek. Congresswoman Meek was baptized at the Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church in Tallahassee FL. Funeral service was held in Miami Gardens, FL.



November 7
Represented the National Convention at St Bartley Primitive Baptist Church (Huntsville, AL) for its 201st Anniversary.

February 20-22
Annual National Board of Directors' Meeting and F. L. Livingston Institute held in Nashville, TN



November 22
Conducted site visit at Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL.

November 30
Participated in National Convention's National Day of Giving.



April 5

Attended the funeral service of Elder Dr. Frank Rush, past president of Florida State Primitive Baptist Convention in Tallahassee, FL



May 28-29

Attended the Southern Regional Conference held at Crumbey Bethel in Birmingham, AL



April 6-7

Visited with Mid-Southwestern Regional Vice President Elder Chester Brown, Sister Lula Brown and the 11th National President Elder Dr. T.W. Samuels in Charlotte, NC



June 5

Guest Preacher for Prayer and Consecration Service at Zion Hope Pensacola, FL

April 18-22

Attended the Florida State Primitive Baptist Convention in Tallahassee, FL



May 24

Guest Preacher for remembrance service for Elder James Caldwell in Quincy, FL



July 10

Guest Preacher for Greater Israel Bethel 110th Church Anniversary in Miami, FL

From the Desk of the Vice President



Greetings to each of you from your brother, a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ: To the members of the National Primitive Baptist Convention, Incorporated. To our illustrious President, the Elder Dr. Kenneth A. Duke, national officers, conventions, associations, churches, and members of this august body of believers

scattered across these conterminous United States of America and abroad who are laboring for the advancement of the kingdom of God under the banner of this national body, I rejoice greatly at the opportunity to extend greetings and salutations.

Amid a myriad of political and spiritual challenges, I am convinced that, in spite of the fact that these are times which try the very souls of men, that these are indeed the best of times, for the darkest hour is just before dawn and that it is the darkest moments to the light of our relationship with our Heavenly Father shines brightest.

With the answer as to when this pandemic will end literally and figuratively, blowing the wind, I thought it would be appropriate to encourage you to center your thoughts on some things that are unalterable rock solid and true. First of all, never lose sight of the fact that God is in control. God is not pacing Heaven's floor trying to figure out what to do. Second, know assuredly that God is up to something and that all things work together for the good to them that love the Lord, and are the called, according to His purpose. Thirdly, rest in His promise that whatever He brings us to, He is well able to bring us through.

Let me be clear, the admonition to rest in His promise is not to be received as a license to cease from

our worship, witness, and work. The clarion call to every member of this body of Christ in these challenging times is for bold and daring leadership that is inextricably connected and intertwined with a unified fellowship and fellowship. The demand for fellowship and fellowship on the part of those of us who know the Lord to "do justly, love mercy, and walk humble before our God" has never been greater. As I said in my earlier greeting, we have a responsibility which we can neither vacate nor abdicate, as it relates to our behavior while engaged in interacting with each other in an effort to meet organizational objectives through synergetic interchange – "taking the gospel message to the ends of the earth."

I count it an honor and privilege to have been graced with the privilege of serving as your Vice President, and I remain resolute in my commitment to the continuation of this National Convention of Primitive Baptists for fellowship, worship, and teaching for the glory of the Kingdom of God. In no way could I demonstrate that commitment than in my support of the visionary and innovative approaches to worship and teaching, fellowship and leadership being offered to us by our National President, Elder Dr. Kenneth A. Duke.

I solicit your prayers, presence, and participation as together we, under the leadership of our National President Dr. Kenneth A. Duke, navigate this old ship of the National Primitive Baptist Convention through uncharted waters rife with political, social, and religious turbulence on its ways to Kingdom's Shore.

Your Vice President,

Elder Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery, Sr.

Highlights from the 2021 Hybrid National Conference

Church School Congress

National Primitive Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. Church School and McMillian Training Union Congress

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57 NKJV)

Thanks be to God for His providential care, grace, and mercy as He allowed a body of believers to convene In-person and Virtually for the 114th Annual Session of the National Primitive Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., in Huntsville, Alabama, on July 19-23, 2021. Guided by the theme “Reimagine: A Modified Hybrid Experience,” and the vision of President Kenneth A. Duke to move forward with this session, God allowed us to witness again that He can do above all what we ask or think.

We are extremely grateful to our Vice President, Elder Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery, Sr, and the members of Union Hill Church for being host extraordinaire for the 114th Annual Session of the National Primitive Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. Glory to God!

A special appreciation is extended to all presenters for the 114th Convention. Dr. James Chester, Vice President of our Church School, did a masterful job Tuesday morning with his lecture, “Reimagining Ministry”; Elder Dr.

Maynard G. Yates powerfully exegeted the Church School’s Annual Sermon from the text Romans 12:1-2, “Transformed to Conform”; Dean Minnie Likely explored the thought provoking and challenging presentation for the future entitled “Reimagining the Church School Through Ministry Assessment”; and, President Harold Batts summarized the afternoon session with his address to the congress, “Reimagine: Assessing our Reality for Transformational Change.” On Wednesday afternoon, July 21, Superintendent Eunice Scott---on point as usual---captured our attention through her topic “Portrait of Highly Effective Leaders; and, on Thursday afternoon, July 22, Sister Terri Hannett conducted a workshop entitled “Shift Beyond the Pandemic with Media Solutions.”

Reality is the foundation for positive change. To reimagine the NPBC Church School Congress, we must know what we have once imagined. Over the past five years, we have been cognizant of the need for change but have not developed a change plan. We have collected data without a systematic process for analysis and we have desired outcomes; however, we are not clear on what outcomes to expect or what path to take to get there.

Our near-term goal is to initiate meaningful engagement between the NPBC Church School

Congress and State, Local, and District Church School Congresses that foster a desire for transformative change in building Great Commission Church Schools and Christian Education Programs.

In December 2021, the NPBC Church School Congress released a Data Request Form seeking meeting dates of Districts, State Conventions and Church Schools Annual Meetings. The Data Request Form will request names and contact information of officers of each of those bodies. Upon receipt, please complete or assist in getting it to the right person/s.

Blessing to each of you.
Deacon Harold E. Batts,
President

Elder Dr. James Chester,
Vice President

Sister Emma Moore, Secretary



Highlights from the 2021 Hybrid National Conference



Women Congress

The Women Congress of the National Primitive Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. convened its annual session on Monday, July 19, 2021. Mother Blannie Batts, President of the Women Congress, called the 114th session to order and declared the body open for business. Greetings from our National President, Mother Blannie Q. Batts, and Presidents/representatives from the Mothers and Deaconesses, Women of the Church, Matrons, Ministers Wives and Widows and Health and Wellness were given to the sisters in attendance. President Batts made Committee Appointments and reviewed the Standing Committees to further the business of the Congress. On Wednesday night all auxiliaries supported the National President, Elder Dr. Kenneth A. Duke Hour. Each auxiliary wore their official colors in support of our National President.

President Batts assisted by Vice-President Sandra Ming presented the DORCAS AWARD. The 2021 DORCAS AWARD recipient was Sister Emma J. Moore, St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church, Huntsville, AL.

Friday was an exceedingly high day for the Women Congress. All the ladies were dressed in their white hats and white attire. Elder Chester F. Brown, III, Greater Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC delivered a dynamic, and inspiring Sermon: "Re-imagine Faith" Mark 5:24.

The Women Congress presented a check in the amount of \$1,210.00 to our "Outreach Project" recipient, Village of Promise, Huntsville, AL.

C. E. Patton – E. C. Raye Scholarship:

The Scholarship committee awarded two scholarships in the

amount of \$1,000.00 each to the following recipients:

Dennis McGowan, Mt. Zion, Huntsville, AL

Jeremiah T. Smith, Zion Hope, Pensacola, FL

Church Pre-Registration for the Patton/Raye Scholarship:

Greater Mt. Moriah, Tampa, FL

Mt. Zion, Huntsville, AL

Greater Mt. Zion, Tallahassee, FL

St. Annis, Deland, FL

Mt. Moriah, Ft. Pierce, FL

St. Beulah, Meigs, FL

Zion Hope, Pensacola, FL

Zion Orthodox, Cocoa, FL

Church On-Site Registration

Silver Hill, Concord, NC

Crumbey Bethel, Fairfield, AL

St. Bartley, Huntsville, AL

New Jerusalem, Miami, FL

One In Christ Ministries,

Huntsville, AL

The Women Congress gratefully recognized its members for their Loyal Membership and Faithful Attendance at the National Convention for Fifty and Twenty-five years of service.

FIFTY YEARS

Mother Juanita Samuels, NC

Mother Maggie King, FL

Mother Katie Hatcher, NC

Mother Louise Fleming, TN

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Sister Debra Hyatt-Gray, NC

Congratulations and may God continue to bless each of you!!

Highlights from the 2021 Hybrid National Conference



LAYMEN COUNCIL

The National Laymen Council extends our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all the Primitive Baptist Churches in the Huntsville area who lead our evening devotions. A special thank you to the brothers and sisters of Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church who catered to the Conventioneers every need. The brothers of Union Hill displayed unity and what service should look like, as they made sure everything the Laymen needed was provided. We had an awesome workshop titled "Reimagining the Role of Men in the 21st Century" by Pastor Roger Russell. Pastor Russell challenged us to be better men, husbands and disciples for Christ. Our meetings were on Zoom because we wanted to include everyone. Also, in the absence of our President, I had the awesome privilege of stepping in for him to

deliver the Vice President's Address.

We were blessed to have our Annual Service preached by Dr. Willie Williams, President of the Florida State Primitive Baptist Convention. During this service we honored our very own Deacon Grady McCray with a plaque for the commitment, dedication and service he has given to the National Laymen movement.

Special thanks to Deacon Michael Smith and Deacon Allen Phillips who stood in the gap with me to make sure our morning services had deacons for devotion.

Humbly submitted,
Deacon Gregory Floyd
Laymen Council Vice President

USHERS CONGRESS

Called to Serve

The National Ushers Congress, a vital part of our National Convention, served with distinction during the 114th General Session. The members who attended the session were overjoyed to be together in body. Many were unable to attend because of the uncertainties surrounding the global pandemic. With a modified program, our meetings focused around the effects of the pandemic on our ministry. What will be our new normal?

Though few in number, the ushers showed a spirit of love and dedication for their fellow brothers and sisters. They exemplified the

characteristics needed to be effective in their duties adapting to different methods in order to remain safe. The safety of the membership was a priority and discretion a must; while at the same time not foregoing a level of excellence in service.

The support we received from the Ushers Ministry, Greeters and Nurses Guild of Union Hill was immeasurable. We worked together as a team to ensure hospitality was not sacrificed and that all guidelines were followed. The greeters conducted safety checks prior to entry into the sanctuary and the ushers seated worshippers to maintain social distancing. We were blessed to meet and serve with other ushers from the area. During the evening worship services ushers from Mallard Creek Association and St. Bartley Primitive Baptist Church also served with us. This was the first time for many of the ushers to attend the National Convention.

Always a focal point for the ushers was our Annual Sermon. It was held as an evening worship service. Thanking God for the Reach, Elder Cornelius Hill delivered a powerful thought-provoking message. We



National Ushers Congress 114th Annual Session

(Not Pictured Sister Jackie Brown, Ephesian PBC)

CHOSEN GENERATION

Greetings to the National Primitive Baptist Convention, USA from Chosen Generation Congress. The purpose of Chosen Generation is to foster relationships through awareness, seminars, and training that supports and help strengthen the local church and associations in the areas of children, youth, and young adult ministry. We are excited about the strategies and plans we've put in place, while being intentional in producing this next generation of leaders for the NPBC faith and society.

Here is a recap of the 2021 Hybrid Conference of our National Convention hosted July 19th-23rd in Huntsville, AL.

Elder Jermaine N. Fuller
Chosen Generation President



MINISTER JORDAN GRIFFIN, SERMON **Closeout Explosion—Friday, July 23, 2021**

Closeout is an understatement for how Chosen Generation Congress ended the 2021 hybrid conference in Huntsville, AL. Minister J. Griffin left us all inspired and rejoicing with a message entitled, "Uncertain Faith, Undeterred Christ." Music was provided by the anointed, melodious voices of Locust Ridge Church of Murfreesboro, TN— Elder Brandon Mason, Pastor.

U.S. Space & Rocket Center

Chosen Generation took on the infamous space and rocket center, a museum showcasing rockets, achievements, and artifacts of the U.S. space program.



Congratulation to our 2021 Convention Award Recipients



CANDLESTICK AWARD

Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church



SERVANT AWARD

Sister Lorraine Brown



VISION AWARD

Elder Richard Lloyd