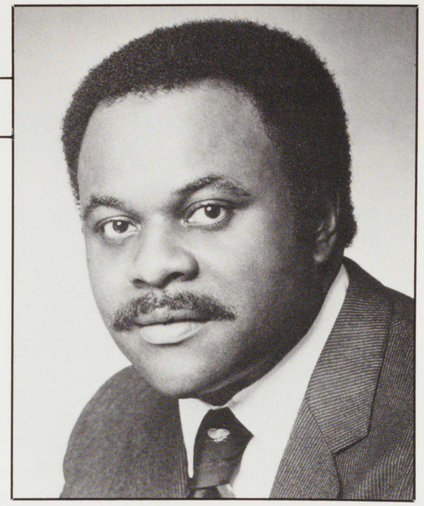
CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

DR. W. FRANKLYN RICHARDSON

As a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, he attended recent sessions of the Council held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



THE REV. DR. W. FRANKLYN RICHARDSON, PASTOR OF THE GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH IN MT. VERNON, NEW YORK, AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, U.S.A., INC.

DR. MARY O. ROSS

Dr. Mary O. Ross, President of the Women's Convention of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc. has made a massive thrust for Ecumenism through her all inclusive Recommendations that must be followed through and kept alive within the constituency of our various and numerous conventions in the United States of America and overseas ministries.

Dr. Ross, from her attandance of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, humbly submitted the following recommendations:

I. That our Parent Body and all Auxiliaries be encouraged to incorporate into its program space for Ecumenical Sharing.

II. That our State Conventions, Associations and Churches be encouraged to facilitate relationships with others of different Ethnic, denominational and theological background and persuasion and that all of our National Baptist Family be encouraged to initiate, continue and increase our involvement in local Council of Churches.

III. We encourage a section of all of our Publications, on a regular basis, to be dedicated to sharing news articles and information of an ecumencial nature.

IV. That the National Baptist Convention members of the Central Committee make available to our publications employment opportunities in the World Council of Churches; and we encourage the submitting of resumes to us, so that the National Baptists may be included on the staff of the World Council of Churches.

V. That our President, Dr. T.J. Jemison, be commended for leading us into relevant and participatory involvement in the World Church.

VI. That a tour be arranged for the leadership of various departments of our National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Incorporated to visit the headquarters of the World Council of Churches, in Geneva, Switzerland, and meet with the new General Secretary.

VII. We encourage that our National Baptist Congress Education include in its curriculum on a course of ecumenism, to be duplicated in State and local Congresses.

VIII. That we emphasize in this convention year, in all of our workshops, retreats, public and private discussions or seminars, "Saving our Children," by helping to prevent teenage pregnancies, also helping, when and where necessary, the children who have given birth to children. To help not only teenage mothers, but to help and give cousel to unwed fathers.

IX. That we keep in mind the fact that this is Election Year, and all of us have Special Civic Duties to perform, Voting is a must!! It is not only necessary, but it is mandatory.

BLACK CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS ATTACK:

"HYPOCRISY OF NATIONAL AND WORLD CHURCHES"

Introduction

A special consultation on one common expression of the Apostolic faith from the perspective of Black Christians in the U.S. brought together representatives of several Black denominations at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, December 14-15, 1984. The consultation included representatives of the Black constituencies of several predominantly White denominations. In some cases the participants were delegated by denominational administrative headquarters; others were representatives of their communions without official appointment. The content of this document, therefore, stands upon the authority of the consultation alone and does not purport to convey the agreements of an ecclesiastical council of Black churches.

This document, moreover, does not pretend to be an exhaustive response to the Apostolic Faith Study or a formal statement of the major themes of the Black theology movement that has evolved in North America in recent years. The Richmond Consultation, sponsored by the Commission on Faith and Order of the National Council of Churches in the U.S.A., attempted to convey to the World Council of Churches and to other interested organizations what we, a group of Black theologians and church leaders from across the United States perceive as a general consensus among us concerning a common expression of the faith of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. In the several working papers we discussed and in this report we seek to add to the worldwide ecumenical study of a common expression of Apostolic Faith the distinctive perceptions and insights that come out of the historic experience of Black Christians in North America.

As Black academics, denominational officials, pastors and lay leaders we speak out of more than two hundred years of suffering and struggle as "the step-children of church history" who have been ridiculed, ignored and scorned by the White churches of both Europe and North America. The truth of the gospel among our people, that some have sought to suppress or disregard, burns like fire in our bones. In any discussion of one common expression of faith we have no alternative other than to make certain clear affirmations to those churches that directly or indirectly participated in and benefited from the rape of Africa that resulted in the exploitation and oppression of an African Diaspora wherever Black people are found.

We speak, however, from our own particular locus in the so-called First World, where we are less than twelve percent of the population of what is the richest and most powerful nation in the world. But inasmuch as our churches and people have

never truly shared that wealth and power, we speak as a marginated Black community with a unique understanding of White racism and with strong affinities with the so-called Third World.

In this document, from an historic consultation in Richmond, Virginia, we make bold to declare that God, our Creator, has condescended through Jesus Christ, our Liberator, by the power of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Comforter, to convey, preserve and enhance the faith of the Apostles among the despised and alienated African American people of the United States. We commend to all who may be concerned the fruit of our prayerful reflection on the themes of the Unity, Holiness, Catholicity and Apostolicity of the Church of Jesus Christ as we join with you in search of a common expression of the faith.

I. UNITY

We affirm that the unity of the Church not only expresses the unity of the Triune God, but is also a sign of the unity of humankind that holds together in one family the diversity of all races and cultures. In the economy of God each "tribe," each ethnic group and culture has its own vocation to bring its gift to the full household of faith. Notwithstanding the effort of some White Christians to disdain the contribution of Black folk to the faith and to its impact upon the institutions of the American Church and society, we declare that the meaning of Blackness as cultural and religious experience edifies and enriches the