

**NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION USA, INC.**

**ANNUAL SESSION**

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2012**

Mr. President, Executive Team, State Presidents, Board Members at Large, Auxiliary Presidents, Brothers and Sisters, grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Faith Based Development Initiative (FBDI) is pleased to report that it is putting forth a strong effort in developing a mechanism to assist all entities within the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. to increase their value within the neighborhoods, the cities and/or the venues they serve. The FBDI, at this moment, being led and engaged by nine (9) National Directors, is yielding serious time to the development of our constituencies' willingness to "Rise to New Challenges." The times demand it, our people deserve it and we, as a body, are absolutely capable of it.

The FBDI has committed to carry out the President's vision to honor the call to Solidarity and work the vision for Community Transformation nationwide. As we work, we are striving to answer the prevailing questions:

- What can we do to build and sustain safe and healthy communities nationwide?
- What can we do to more effectively advocate in our people's own best interest nationwide?
- What can we do nationally to build on what is already successful locally?
- What if we used the collective power of the NBCUSA, Inc. – 7 million members strong – to galvanize resources and empower our own people?

Our President and those who have seen and accepted the vision, even in this beginning phase, have decided it is time to put our concerted, consolidated, corporate faith into action. It is time to claim our power and leverage our collective influence to enhance our people and our communities all across this country, both today and for generations to come.

The informative process began last January with a workshop engaging State Presidents and State Directors. Our June session continued with a more refined approach interacting with some of our government partners which included, Housing and Urban Development; Department of Education; Health and Human Services; the Red Cross; and The Department of Veterans Affairs. It was during this meeting we believe State Directors began to see the need to start building their staffs for the service work ahead. This week our informative workshops continue on Wednesday, at the Omni Center in room B409 beginning at 8:30 a.m. We will discuss in detail the following subjects:

- The State of the African American Communities we serve
- Rising to New Challenges
- Igniting the Power of We
- Creating the National Umbrella

During the course of this week, members of the team will meet with the leadership of the Moderators to continue building the structure for this tremendous opportunity for our Convention to become the “Resource Reservoir.” That is, we are structuring to be able to provide knowledge/information on the front end rather than knowledge/information on the back end. When this structure is in place and the right people are in place, this Convention and all of our constituents will be tremendously well informed. Additionally with this structure we will also be able to inform

decision makers regarding issues that directly impact the people we serve. Brothers and sisters, belonging to the largest African American Denominational Body in the Western Hemisphere should provide for us a seat at the decision making table; therefore we are organizing and structuring to ensure just that.

To support this effort, you, the Board of Directors have affirmed the idea and the reality of what we are calling “Igniting the Power of We.” The phrase correctly identifies the National USA Foundation, Inc., which was founded to exclusively support the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., its auxiliaries, Boards, Commissions and all other entities.

The Foundation is led by a seven member Board of Directors with the objective of striving to become the “Resource Provider” for NBCUSA national programs.

While the Foundation is yet in its infancy, we are beginning even this week to meet with, to list and target strategic individuals and organizations who may be resource funders. The Foundation will look to gather resources from other Foundations, other Non Profits, discretionary funds, competitive grants, and from vendors with whom we have enjoyed good relations. It’s an opportunity to potentially subsidize the Congress scholarships through specialized programs for many of our young people. It may be an excellent opportunity for our Convention to take advantage of some targeted capacity building programs and even initiate pilot programs having the potential of nationwide exposure and benefit.

Mr. President, we humbly submit this report and we express our gratitude to be of service to you and to all of our constituents.