

# NEWSLETTER

**Interdenominational  
Church Ushers  
Association of  
Virginia, Inc.**  
[www.icuaofva.org](http://www.icuaofva.org)

October • November • December 2021

**Cheryl D. Allen**  
**State President**

(571) 228-1515

[Cheryl.Allen0913@comcast.net](mailto:Cheryl.Allen0913@comcast.net)

**Irene J. Washington**  
**Chairman, Board of  
Directors**

**Kristeena Kenny**  
**Junior and Young  
People's President**





INCLUDED  
IN THIS  
NEWSLETTER

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# GREETINGS FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

*Theme: "Ushers Looking Up And Knowing With Confidence That Our Help Comes From The Lord As We Continue Our Journey Of Moving Upward In Unity And With Love."*

*Scripture: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2 (KJV)*



**CHERYL D. ALLEN**

Greetings Fellow Ushers,

It is always an honor and a privilege to extend greetings to you. I continue to give all the Honor, Glory, and Praise to our Heavenly Father! I continue to thank Him for His Grace and Mercy!

The Lord is continuing to bless our Association. We continue to successfully embrace, persevere, and adjust to the "New Normal" during the COVID-19 Pandemic and these unprecedented times. Since our September 2021 Newsletter, we held our first Virtual Annual Mid-Year Conference.

Please take some time to read this very informative newsletter. This newsletter assists with keeping you informed about our activities.

Please continue to be safe during this Pandemic. If you have not received the COVID-19 vaccine and booster, please pray and allow the Lord to order your steps.

Please always feel free to contact me if you have questions, comments, concerns, or recommendations. Please also feel free to contact me if you need assistance. I remain available and willing to serve.

As stated in I Corinthians 2:9, "But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." I am looking forward to see what God has prepared for me. I am excited to continue serving in the Usher Ministry and as your State President; leading in accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws and my vision; and working towards accomplishing my goals. I love the Usher Ministry. We are Levites, Guards, Watchmen, Porters, and Doorkeepers. We have been set apart to perform specific tasks.

To God Be The Glory for the great things He has done and will continue to do! We will continue to be led and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace,

Cheryl D. Allen  
State President



## *Christmas and New Year's Greetings from the State President*

Greetings Fellow Ushers,

Jesus is the Reason for the Season! Rejoice!



Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Jesus offered a message of peace, forgiveness, and divine love. God showed and continues to show His great love for us.

Christmas is a special opportunity to put aside the material world and focus on the spiritual aspirations of peace and joy. Christmas can be a time of healing and renewed strength.

On this Christmas, I pray that above all, you celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. I also pray that you enjoy your Christmas in a way you choose. Whether you spend time alone to reflect and meditate or if you spend time with family and friends in-person or virtually; I pray your Christmas is peaceful and enjoyable.

Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace,

Cheryl D. Allen  
State President





## GREETINGS FROM CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Fellow Ushers and Family,

As we celebrate the birth of Our Savior, Jesus The Christ, let us continue to be thankful for we are truly Blessed! Even in the midst of COVID-19.

As the holiday season is upon us, let's remember the Reason for the Season, let's remember those who are less fortunate, sick, shut-in, those serving our country, the bereaved families, all that need our prayers.

**May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,  
the gladness of Christmas give you hope,  
and the warmth of Christmas grant you love.**

May you and your family have a Blessed Christmas and the most prosperous 2022 New Year!

Irene J. Washington, Chairman, Board of Directors

*"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which bring interpreted is, God with us." Matthew 1:23*



## GREETINGS FROM THE JUNIOR AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT



**KRISTEENA KENNY**

Greeting Fellow Ushers,

I pray everyone has had a blessed month so far and is continuing to keep God in their hearts and minds at all time during this season. I hope everyone is having a healthy and happy holiday season this month and I pray with all the finals and exams the youth have had to take this month before break, that they are proud in all the work and effort that they have put into accomplishing their goals. It is to be hoped that everyone has an upcoming blessed new year and to continue to praise and acknowledge God in everything we do.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays!

Kristeena Kenny  
Junior and Young People's President

# *Highlights from the 2021 Virtual Annual Mid-Year Conference*

## **Highlights from the 2021 Virtual Annual Mid-Year Conference**

We held our first Virtual Annual Mid-Year Conference on Saturday, November 20, 2021. District #1 hosted the Conference. Our Conference was a huge success due to a tremendous team effort, which included a lot of planning and preparation. We thank all of our members who contributed their time and efforts. We truly appreciate your commitment and dedication to our Association. We also thank our 93 Delegates and two Visitors who helped to make our Conference a success by their attendance, participation, and support.

We were truly blessed with the attendance of Father Matthew Taylor and Mother T. Jean Horace. We thank God for allowing our Father and Mother to participate in our Conference.

In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, the purpose of our Annual Mid-Year Conference is to hear reports from the State President, who serves as the State Delegate to the National Convention, Financial Committee, Board of Directors, Committees, Departments, District Reports, and new Churches requesting admission, etc. We successfully fulfilled this purpose as stated in our Constitution and Bylaws.

We kicked off our Conference with an outstanding and very informative School of Ushering Workshop that was conducted by our Kensey M. Lewis School of Ushering Chairman Shadonna Bartholomew. The workshop consisted of a Signs and Signals Bingo Game, National Floor and Drill Demonstrations, and Ritualistic Service for Deceased Church Ushers.

Our members then enjoyed Fellowship Time/Break. Some members took the opportunity to have a lively and friendly chat with their fellow members, while other members took the opportunity to take a break and refresh.

Our Chaplain Cynthia Poole led our Devotions. Chaplain Poole opened with prayer. Our Devotions included scripture, a song, and testimonies. It was a very spirit-filled and inspirational worship experience that set the tone to open our Conference.

*Highlights from the 2021 Virtual Annual Mid-Year  
Conference (Continued)*

Board of Directors Chairman Irene J. Washington presented the gavels to State President Cheryl D. Allen and Junior and Young People's President Kristeena Kenny. The Presidents accepted the gavels and the State President called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

District #1 President Bobby Bostic provided the welcome on behalf of District #1. Our Credentials Committee Chairman Jacquelyn Kelley provided the Credentials Report and Online Pilot Results. Parliamentarian A. Jeanette Devins read the Virtual Annual Mid-Year Conference Rules. The State President gave the members some time to review the Agenda. The Credentials Report, Virtual Annual Mid-Year Conference Rules, and Agenda were adopted by unanimous consent.

Recording Secretary Joyce G. Davis and Assistant Recording Secretary Barbara Johnson conducted the Roll Call of Officer. In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, a quorum representing a majority of the Elected Officers was present.

National Fourth Vice President and Eastern Region Director Donna A. Hines provided greetings. Second Vice President Gwendolyn Haight acknowledged our First Timers. The Junior and Young People's Department were dismissed to their breakout room.

The members accepted the 2021 64th State Convention Saturday Session Minutes by unanimous consent. Board of Directors Secretary Patricia Lewis read the Board of Directors Report. Financial Secretary Joyce Parson and Treasurer Susan Kelly-Bing presented the Financial Reports. The State President presented the State Delegate to the National Convention Report.

After enjoying a lunch break, our Junior and Young People's President and State President provided their reports. District #5 President Sheila B. Smith provided the District #5 Report. Reports from District #1 President Bobby Bostic, District #2 President Charlotte A. Johnson, District #3 President Diane Washington, District #4 President Louetta Newman, and District #6 President Shaneequa M. Graham were included in the Conference Packet.



## *Highlights from the 2021 Virtual Annual Mid-Year Conference (Continued)*

After enjoying a lunch break, our Junior and Young People's President and State President provided their reports. District #5 President Sheila B. Smith provided the District #5 Report. Reports from District #1 President Bobby Bostic, District #2 President Charlotte A. Johnson, District #3 President Diane Washington, District #4 President Louetta Newman, and District #6 President Shaneequa M. Graham were included in the Conference Packet.

All of the reports were very informative and the members gained vital and useful information. It was wonderful hearing that the Association and Districts are continuing to conduct business during this Pandemic and unprecedented times.

Our Willie J. Minnifield Training and Development Chairman Sandra C. Johnson provided an outstanding and very informative workshop, which covered the History of the Interdenominational Church Ushers Association of Virginia, Inc., information regarding Church Ushers, the benefits of joining the Association, history and information regarding the Eastern Region Church Ushers Associations, and history and information regarding National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc.

We received very informative reports from our Committee and Department Chairmen. Our Chairmen accepted the President's appointment and are successfully fulfilling their duties and responsibilities. We received a 65th Annual State Convention Update from District #1 President Bobby Bostic, Eastern Region Update from Conference Planner Irene J. Washington, and National Update from Board of Directors Member Lawrence A. Wright. The updates were very informative and helpful.

The Recording Secretary read our correspondence. We received Good and Welfare/Announcements.

The State President adjourned our Conference at 2:35 PM. Assistant Chaplain Lolita Reynolds Jones closed our Conference with a very fervent prayer.

To God Be The Glory!



*Highlights from the 2021 Virtual Annual Mid-Year Conference (Continued)*



**FATHER  
MATTHEW  
TAYLOR**

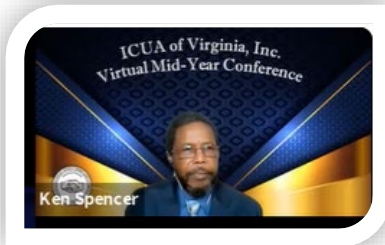
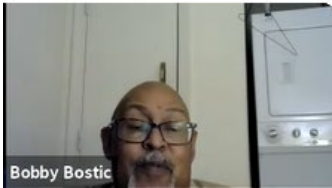
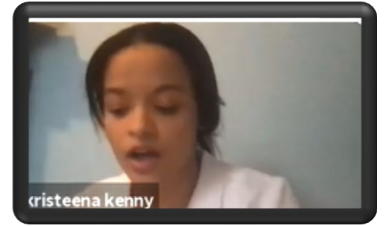
**MOTHER  
T. JEAN  
HORACE**



**FATHER TAYLOR**

**MOTHER HORACE**

*Highlights from the 2021 Virtual Annual Mid-Year Conference (Continued)*





# Highlights from the 2021 Virtual Annual Mid-Year Conference (Continued)



# CONGRATULATIONS

## NEWLY APPOINTED STATE OFFICERS

**We extend congratulations to our Newly Appointed State Officers. We thank them for accepting the appointment. Please show them love and support and pray for them as they begin their journeys. Our Newly Appointed State Officers are highlighted on the Pages 14–22.**





**Kenneth Spencer**  
**Board of Directors Advisor**





**Yvette Jefferson**  
Field Secretary



# **Jerdleen E. Boffman**

**Lillian N. Butler Prayer Breakfast  
Chairman**



**Barbara M. Cary**  
**Nominating Committee Chairman**





**Elizabeth Blakey**  
**Nominating Committee**



**Pearly Davis**  
**Nominating Committee**





**A. Jeanette Devins**  
**Parliamentarian**



**Gwen Jackson**  
**Souvenir Journal Chairman**





**Barbara Johnson**  
**William H. Davis Honor Club**  
**Department Chairman**

# **STATE SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATION**



# ICUA OF VIRGINIA PROCEDURE TO SEND CORRESPONDENCE

If you have correspondence (bereavement notices, sick and shut-in notices, thank you messages, announcements, invitations, flyers, etc.) that you are requesting the ICUA of Virginia to send to the State, Eastern Region Church Ushers Association, National United Church Ushers Association of America (NUCUAA), Inc., etc., please send all correspondence to the State President (Cheryl.Allen0913@comcast.net) and copy the Corresponding Secretary (gjack127@outlook.com).

Please use the attached NUCUAA Condolences/Resolution Form for all bereavement notices (page 51).

Note: We reserve the right to correct typographical and grammatical errors.



## WOMEN'S UNIFORMS WEBSITE

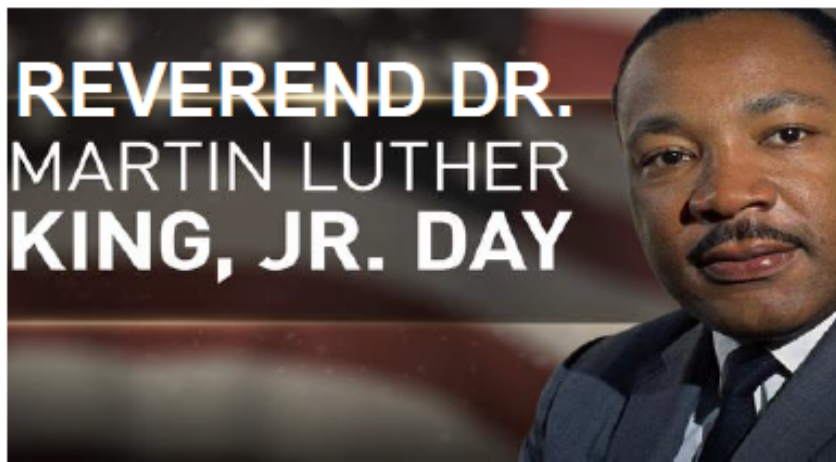
**Looking for the perfect white  
Uniform? Well...look no more!**

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but quality should never be a compromise. We pride ourselves on the quality of our uniforms and are committed to you looking good!

**Shop now online at:**  
**Fitted Uniforms and More**

<https://fitteduniformsandmore.com>





**MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 UNDER SHEPHERD: PASTOR KEITH MCCULLOUGH

**HOST: A VIRTUAL SERVICE**

**THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**  
**2022 THIRTY THIRD ANNUAL**  
**COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**

**THEME: "Breaking The Chains of Injustice"**

The 2022 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Community Celebration will be held virtually on Monday, January 17, 2022, 1:00 p.m., at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

This is our 33rd year and we recognize and appreciate your faithfulness and support throughout the years. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Choir Ensemble, will perform under the direction of Rev. Lemuel Montgomery.



**Keynote Speaker:** Reverend Dr. Jewel Anthony Simmons  
 Pastor, Providence Baptist Church, Orlean, VA.

Matt 9:37-38: *"Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest"*

Dinner will not be served after this service due to COVID-19. We practice social distancing, following the CDC guidelines, i.e., wearing mask, gloves, and temperature checks are required before entering the sanctuary.



WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN US ANYTIME FOR OUR VIRTUAL SERVICES LIVE STREAMED:



ZOOM ID: 642 041 058

TELEPHONE: (301) 715-8592

ID: 642 041 058

PASSCODE: 537311

SUNDAYS: Sunday School

9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

WEDNESDAYS: Bible Study

7:00 PM

**MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

33 South Third Street  
 (Robert Walker Way)  
 Warrenton, VA 20186  
 540.347.3735

www.mountzionva.org



### Biography

#### Rev. Dr. Jewel Anthony Simmons

Rev. Dr. Jewel A. Simmons was raised in Hammond Louisiana, one of five children to the late Ruth and John Simmons. As a child, he attended Greenfield Missionary Baptist Church before joining the United States Air Force in 1974.

As a youth, Pastor Simmons had an unusual curiosity to study and understand the gospel, and love for Christ. In 1978, at the age of 21, he was called by God to ministry, in Charleston, South Carolina while on active duty. During his time on active duty, Pastor Simmons volunteered to serve as an auxiliary Air Force Chaplain in Overseas areas such as; Germany, Portugal, and the United Kingdom to ensure the cultural experiences of the local community church were available to minority Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen stationed in these Overseas areas.

Dr. Simmons' love for community and the Lord kept him actively involved in the Northern Virginia Community. He served as Chaplain with the American Legion, Post 114 of Manassas, one of the oldest African American Post in the State of Virginia. He served as a counselor with Fairfax County Offenders Aid and Restoration Program, assisting offenders in finding and establishing new directions for themselves and their families. Dr. Simmons served as a volunteer with Virginia's "Meals on Wheels" Program and the Fairfax Adult Education Program, providing tutoring to adults seeking to complete their high school education.

While living in Prince William County, Dr. Simmons was appointed to serve as a Human Rights Commissioner. In this position, he worked with other commissioners on housing and job discrimination issues affecting citizens in Prince William, Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria, as well as coordinating with commissioners across the state of Virginia. He and his wife were the founders of the Pastoral Care and Counseling Ministry at First Baptist Church of Manassas, providing training and Christian Counseling for families and couples in resolving present-day interpersonal relationship issues. After completing seminary and serving as an associate minister at First Baptist Manassas, Dr. Jewel Simmons was called to service as Pastor of Providence Baptist Church on May 2, 2009. In 2018, he was also selected to serve as President of the Six District of the Northern

Virginian Baptist Association and member of the Commission on Education with the NVBA.

Dr. Simmons' educational journey includes attending Eastern Illinois University, where he completed his undergraduate degrees in civil engineering and industrial technology. Attended Troy State University, completing his Master's in Public Administration, and Freedom Seminary where he completed graduate degrees in Theology and Clinical Pastoral Counseling, and his Doctorate in Counseling at Freedom in partnership with Jacksonville Seminary.

He is a certified Theophostic and Temperament Counselor, and a Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor, and served as a member of the National Association of Christian Counselors (NACC), and, the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC).

As part of the federal workforce, Dr. Simmons served at the highest levels in the Department of Defense (working in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/CFO) and with the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) before retirement. He is the recipient of numerous defense and intelligence awards, among these, are; the Secretary of Defense, Award for Excellence, and the Director of National Intelligence Award for Collaboration Leadership. Pastor Simmons' work with the United States Military and the United States National Intelligence Community included working as a manager in areas such as environmental science, civil engineering, and program and financial management.

He is married to Mrs. Andrea Mangram-Simmons of Burke, Virginia, and they currently live in Chantilly Virginia, with his wife's beloved little dog, Sunny. Their daughter Peitra, lives in Emporia Va., and they have two grandsons.



# **EASTERN REGION SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## Jesus is the Reason for Christmas



Greetings to All!

Wishing you love, peace and joy this  
Christmas and God's richest blessings in the  
New Year.



**Donna A. Hines**

Eastern Region Director and  
National 4th Vice President

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# 65th Eastern Region Conference

**Hyatt Regency Bethesda Hotel  
Bethesda, Maryland**

**Friday and Saturday, March 18 - 19, 2022**

**In Conjunction with ICUA of Washington, DC  
& Vicinity, Inc. Memorial Weekend  
Saturday and Sunday, March 19 -20, 2022**

**Donna A. Hines,**  
4th National Vice President and Eastern Region Director

**Ronald L. Jones,**  
Assistant Eastern Region Director

**Brenda Gilliam,**  
ICUA of Washington, DC & Vicinity, Inc., Host President

**Irene J. Washington,**  
Eastern Region Conference Planner  
[ijwashington5@gmail.com](mailto:ijwashington5@gmail.com) Cell 301.906.1743

**Bridget Martin,**  
Assistant Eastern Region Conference Planner  
[bridgetsmartin1952@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetsmartin1952@gmail.com)  
Home: 716.855.0202 Cell: 716.860.4198

Please contact Irene J. Washington, Conference Planner for additional information or questions.

## 65<sup>th</sup> Eastern Region Conference

Friday and Saturday, March 18 –19, 2022

In Conjunction with ICUA of Washington, DC & Vicinity, Inc. Memorial Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, March 19 - 20, 2022

### Hyatt Regency Bethesda Hotel

7400 Wisconsin Ave - One Bethesda Metro Station

Bethesda, Maryland 20814 | 877.803.7534



Room Rates – Across the board \$129.00 plus tax currently 13% per room, per night subject to change.  
Check-in Time: 4:00 PM Check-out Time: 12:00 PM Rates are available 3 days prior and 3 days after the conference. Deadline for reservation Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Group Name: Eastern Region Church Ushers Association



Honoree – Charles J. Brown  
Immediate Past Eastern Region Director

Vendors Fee - \$125.00

Vendor application may be obtained from Asst. Conference Planner Bridget Martin  
[bridgetsmartin1952@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetsmartin1952@gmail.com) Home: 716.855.0202 Cell: 716.860.4198

Web Site link to make Hotel Reservations:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/BETHE/G-USH2>

Hotel has a Steakhouse, a casual eatery, café/bar, and other restaurants in the area, plus a gym and free Wi-Fi.  
Hotel is close to the Red Line Bethesda Metro Station (2 minutes) and Ronald Regan Airport (no shuttle).

Parking: \$21.00 Day with in and out \$24.00 per day. We are checking into another parking lot within a few blocks of the hotel for best prices. Bus and Van parking available.

Additional information will be forthcoming to ensure adequate parking arrangements.

Our Contract has a COVID-19 Termination Provision

Donna A. Hines, 4th National Vice President and Eastern Region Director  
Ronald L. Jones, Assistant Eastern Region Director  
Brenda Gilliam, ICUA of Washington, DC & Vicinity, Inc. Host President  
Irene J. Washington, Eastern Region Conference Planner  
[ijwashington5@gmail.com](mailto:ijwashington5@gmail.com) Cell 301.906.1743

Bridget Martin, Assistant Eastern Region Conference Planner  
[bridgetsmartin1952@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetsmartin1952@gmail.com) Home: 716.855.0202 Cell: 716.860.4198

Please contact Irene J. Washington, Conference Planner for additional information or questions.





## EASTERN REGION CHURCH USHERS ASSOCIATION

An affiliate of the National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc.

**Donna A. Hines – Eastern Region Director**  
**Ronald L. Jones – Assistant Eastern Region Director**

**65<sup>th</sup> Eastern Region Conference – March 18-19, 2022**

### Souvenir Journal Contract

- Inside Front / Back Cover – \$100.00
- Full-Page – \$100.00 – With Picture
- One-Half Page – \$65.00 {1/2} – With Picture
- One-Quarter Page – \$50.00 {1/4} – With Picture
- One-Eighth Page – \$35.00 {1/8 – Business Card}
- Sponsors – \$10.00
- Patrons – \$5.00 Each

**Honoree: National President Charles J. Brown**

Ads should be submitted “camera ready” **No Later Than Friday – January 15, 2022**. All “camera ready” ads must be prepared in Microsoft Word or Microsoft Publisher, and submitted via E-Mail along with a PDF copy or a hard copy.

Please check the appropriate box, complete the Contract, and send it along with your camera-ready Ad to

Mr. Filmore F. Gregory – E-Mail: [philgregory@verizon.net](mailto:philgregory@verizon.net) – 917/509-5799

All monies and a copy of the Souvenir Journal Contract are to be sent to Financial Secretary Lorraine Saunders: 109 Wedgefield Drive; New Castle, Delaware 19720-3717. Please make all checks payable to the “Eastern Region,” and include “Souvenir Journal” on the check.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation!  
If you have any questions or require additional information, please call  
Mr. Filmore F. Gregory – 917/509-5799 or  
Ms. Sandi Dotson – 202/320-4371

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Donna A. Hines**  
Eastern Region Director & National 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President  
18512 Kerill Rd | Triangle, VA 22172 | 703.981.3276  
[ERDirectorHines@gmail.com](mailto:ERDirectorHines@gmail.com)

**Ronald L. Jones**  
Assistant Region Director  
202.997.3786  
[Rjones0042@aol.com](mailto:Rjones0042@aol.com)

**Jamal Edwards-Frayer**  
Young Adult Director | 347.446.8954  
**Athena Queen**  
Junior & Young People’s Director | 443.826.7137

[www.easternregionushers.org](http://www.easternregionushers.org)

# **NATIONAL SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**





### *December 2021*

**"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER. AND HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE."** *Isaiah 9:6*

*Dear Fellow Doorkeeper:*

*May the freshness of the Holy Spirit anoint you and your family not only on this Christmas Day but also throughout the coming year.*

*As the Advent Season ends on Christmas Day, let us not terminate the commemoration of hope, love, joy, and peace – especially to those in a season of bereavement.*

*Pray for God's continuous grace and mercies on this august body of ushers as it glorifies God even through the Coronavirus and Omicronvirus. May the unselfishness permeates and highlight the unconditional love the membership of the National United Church Ushers Association of America, Incorporated has for each other, but most of all for an Awesome GOD!*

*Remain steadfast and committed "To Never Place a Period Where God Has Placed a Comma!"*

*Have a blessed Christmas and a fantastic grace-filled 2022!*

*Charles J. Brown  
National President*



*SEASON'S GREETINGS  
TO OUR  
NUCUAA FAMILY*



*Greetings to each of you!!!*

*Let us always remember what this season is for, to celebrate JESUS coming to save all mankind. We know it has been a difficult time for many, challenges to overcome and some are still trying to maneuver devastating trials. We have had loved ones, co-workers in service to transition but we continue to hold fast to our faith.*

*We pray that as you join with your families this Holiday Season, you will keep JESUS CHRIST as the focal point, HE and HE alone will ensure a joyous ending.*

*Wishing harmony, health, and success for you and your families in the coming year. We pray that 2022 will see NUCUAA flourish and become a much stronger unit in the service of our LORD.*

*Sadie P. Boles  
Chairman, Board of Directors*



*Season Greetings Fellow Doorkeeper:*

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. – James 1:17 (NKJV)*

*Wishing you a joyful Christmas filled with love, happiness and prosperity, and a New Year full of promise.*

*May beautiful moments and happy memories surround you with joy this holiday season.*



Blessings,

*Dr. Linda Pates*

First National Vice President  
Southern Region Director



Isaiah 9:6a.

To Our National President, Charles J. Brown, and the entire NUCUAA Family, as we celebrate this holiday season may we always remember that God sent His only begotten Son, that we may have salvation.

We should continually rejoice and give God the praise he truly deserves. Jesus came to save us, He's returning to sit on His throne.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
Let's Celebrate Our Lord and Savior every day.

Bro. Shermon Brown  
2nd National Vice President  
Central Region Director





December 23, 2021

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God With us.” Matthew 1:23

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Truly it is my distinct honor to bring holiday greetings on behalf on the Western Region and the National United Church Ushers Association of America Inc. As we approach this holiday season let us be mindful of the true reason for the season. Jesus is the reason for the Season!

The past couple of years have been so unexpected and trying for all. Our entire lives have changed in ways we didn't see coming. We have lost loved ones and have seen many of our ushers isolated and shut in. The scripture is a reminder that God is with us! God is in control. I pray that 2022 will be a new and wonderful experience for all of us. **May** God bless each of us with a special blessing. Let us continue to pray for each other and our organization.

My thanks to President Charles J. Brown for his leadership during these trying times. Thank you to Board Chairman Boles and the entire Board of Directors for their work and dedication. Special thanks to Western Region for all the love and support.

Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy New Year!

Pamela R. Farley

3rd National Vice President

Western Region Director

**National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc.**  
**George T. Grier School of Ushering Department**  
**3rd Master's Degree Program**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Master's Degree Program serves as an incentive for the Delegates attending the National Convention to strive beyond the achievement of obtaining a Bachelor Degree. The Bachelor Degree requires the Delegates to attend the National Convention for three (3) consecutive years and attend the School of Ushering Sessions each year. The Master's Degree Program is designed to give the Delegates an in depth knowledge of the history of the National Organization, the George T. Grier School of Ushering Department, along with perfecting the techniques of various signs and signals used in Church Ushering. The duration of the course is three (3) consecutive years.

**Master's Degree Program Criteria:**

Delegate is required to have a George T. Grier School of Ushering Department National Diploma.

2. Delegate is required to have a George T. Grier School of Ushering Department Bachelor Degree.
3. Instructor's Certificate is not required.
4. Delegate must enroll in the Master's Degree Program by the designated registration deadline.
5. Delegate must be enrolled in the Master Degree Program for three (3) consecutive years. A break within the three (3) years will require the Delegate to start over by enrolling in the next upcoming Master's Degree Program.
6. During the third year, the Delegate will write a **Thesis** on an assigned topic. (Thesis topic to be determined.) The Thesis shall be a minimum of five (5) typewritten pages, double space, Time New Roman, Font size 12. The beginning of each paragraph shall be indented.
7. The Thesis maximum score is 100%. The passing score is 80%.
8. Also, during the third year, the Delegate will take a **Written Test**, consisting of ten (10) questions. The maximum score is 100%. The passing score is 90%.
9. Delegate must attend all Master's Degree Program classes offered at the National Convention during the three year period.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Master's Degree Program Start Date:**

The Master's Degree Program will start July, 2022, at the seat of the National Convention. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Graduation will be held in July, 2025 at the seat of the National Convention. Graduation Day will occur on Friday during the School of Ushering Session.

**Application for the Master's Degree Program:**

The Delegate shall submit the required Application for the Master's Degree Program to the National Chairman, George T. Grier School of Ushering Department, and **MUST BE POST MARKED BY December 30, 2021**. Send application and required documents to the following: **NOTE: Emails will not be accepted.**

Ms. Lillie Grant  
355 Clinton Ave. #5F  
Brooklyn, New York 11238

**(See attached application)**

**National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc.**  
**George T. Grier School of Ushering Department**  
**3rd Master's Degree Program**  
**(Continued)**

**Resources for the Master's Degree Program:**

The history of the National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc.

1. The history of the Young Adult Department.
2. The history of the Junior and Young People's Department.
3. The history of the National George T. Grier School of Ushering Department (Current edition dated July 2008).
4. National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc., School of Ushering Manual dated July 2010.

Upon graduating from the Master's Degree Program, if you have a Certified National Instructor's Certificate, you will be eligible to teach the Master's Degree Program at the National Convention.

We have developed a Data Base to keep track of all Master's Degree Program Graduates.

**NOTE:** The procedure for providing certified documentations if the Delegate is unable to locate a copy of his / her National Diploma or Bachelor's Degree.

1. The State Chairman of the School of Ushering must certify the date and year that the Delegate received his/her National Diploma and Bachelor Degree.
2. Certification must be signed by the State Chairman.
3. Certification must accompany application.

**Only fifty (50) Delegates will be accepted in to the 2021 Master's Degree Program. The first (50) acceptable applications received and post marked by December 30, 2021 with the required certifications will be accepted in to the program.**



**National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc.**

**George T. Grier School of Ushering Department**

**3rd Master's Degree Program**

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State, City, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_



Number of years attending National Convention: \_\_\_\_\_

- (1) Attach a copy of your National George T. Grier School of Ushering Department Diploma.*
- (2) Attach a copy of your Bachelor Degree.*
- (3) Or attach the required certification if unable to provide items 1 and 2 above.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegate applying for Master's Degree Program Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Chairman Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State President Signature Date


**NATIONAL UNITED CHURCH USHERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.**
[www.nationalchurchushers.org](http://www.nationalchurchushers.org)
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE**
**SADIE P. BOLES, CHAIRMAN**
**GEORGE MERIDA, VICE-CHAIRMAN**


Greetings in the Precious Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We pray that all is well with each of you and that your families and you are continuing to follow the guidelines of CDC and your local authorities. COVID is still with us and we encourage you if you haven't been vaccinated, please get vaccinated soon. It is our hope that we are on our way out of this crisis, but the challenges still remain.

The Board of Directors would like to acknowledge our appreciation and thank the delegates and members for their outstanding support during our 2021 Virtual Convention.

Joining in oneness to congratulate Immediate Past President Ruth I. Jones for a successful 102<sup>nd</sup> virtual convention, our first with over seven hundred members in attendance. We could not have done it without your support. A special thank you to the Technical Team and Finance Committee for completing the job and doing it extraordinarily well in excellence.

Welcome President Charles J. Brown and all newly elected and appointed officers. The returning board members George Merida (SR), Selena Roberson (CR), Willis Warren (WR); new board members Daryl Adkins (CR), Pansy Bradley-Cooper (ER), Darleissa Robertson (ER) and Lawrence Wright (ER).

The Board of Directors has begun planning for the 103<sup>rd</sup> National Convention and we're asking members to make your room reservations prior to January 9, 2022 this will assist with determining whether our meeting space will be cut. Also, thank you for your participation of the 2022 survey with an open rate of 77%.

**103<sup>rd</sup> CONVENTION:**

July 21- July 31, 2022, Hyatt Regency O'Hare 9300 W Bryn Mawr Ave. Rosemont, IL 60018, Room Rate \$149.00 Plus Tax 14% (\$169.86).

Housing Chairman is Chairman Sadie P. Boles [spbolesaa04@gmail.com](mailto:spbolesaa04@gmail.com) 773 480-6616.

**Reservation Link:** <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/CHIRO/G-NCUA>

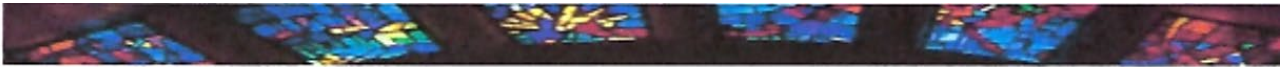
Charles J. Brown  
President

Destinee' Merida  
President  
Young Adult  
Department

Jordan Paige  
President  
JR & Young People's  
Department

Filmore F. Gregory  
President Emeritus

Ruth I. Jones  
Chairman Emeritus



**Reservations Guarantee:** In order to guarantee a reservation, the hotel will charge a deposit of one night's room rate \$149.00 plus tax 14% (\$169.86 for each room reserved. The charge will be deducted from the total bill upon checkout. Should there be an invalid or declined credit card the hotel is required to contact the guest for a valid credit card. If no contact is made within 72 hours (72) hours the reservation will be cancelled.

**Early Departure Fee:** Any individual wishing to change their departure date may do so up until the time of check-in without any fee. Upon checking in you must inform the hotel of early checkout or you will be charged a departure fee of one-nights room and tax. Guest will not be charged for any unforeseen emergency or medical emergency on a **case-by-case basis**

**Cut-Off Date:** The Cut-Off Date is Thursday, June 30, 2022 Central Standard Time.

**Incidental charge** of \$100.00 upon check in, this is not mandatory the charge is based upon individual preferences.

**Shuttle/Parking:** Complimentary and continuous to and from O'Hare International Airport Fifty percent (50%-517) discount off prevailing overnight self-parking and daily parking rates, Valid 7/21/22 through 7/31/22. Includes in and out privileges. Daily parking rates do not include in an out privilege.

**United Airlines Discount Code:** We are pleased to partner with United Airlines for travel to our upcoming convention.

- To make flight reservations online click on discount code **ZKFB627136**
- MileagePlus members earn Premier Qualifying Dollars and miles for their travel.
- You may also call United Meeting Reservation Desk at (800) 426-1122  
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. EST  
Saturday – Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. EST

**Southwest Airlines** discount code will be available January 2022.

**Background Checks:** Supervisors attending the Junior and Young People meetings will need to have a background check prior to entering their meetings at the National Convention. Background checks are good for 2 years. Request for background checks should be sent to Chairman Sadie P. Boles.

**Budgets:** All proposed budgets are due **by October 29, 2021** they are to be sent to your Designated Board Liaison, copy to the Board Chairman [spbolesaa04@gmail.com](mailto:spbolesaa04@gmail.com) and **National President** [nucuaaprez24@aol.com](mailto:nucuaaprez24@aol.com) The Budget Forms are fill-able and must include all projected income and all projected expenses for the period January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022.



**Food Functions:** If your Committee/Department is requesting food, please specify the day, time, and food required to the Food Function Chairman, Pansy Bradley-Cooper [pansyart@aol.com](mailto:pansyart@aol.com), and Co-Chairman, Selena Roberson, [blw365@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blw365@sbcglobal.net) or Rev. Dr. Travis Harden, [RevDrTravisHarden@gmail.com](mailto:RevDrTravisHarden@gmail.com) no later than January 5, 2022.

**Set-up & Equipment:** If your Committee/Department is requesting supplies and equipment, send the request to the Set-up Chairman, John Farrisior, [j.farrisior@comcast.net](mailto:j.farrisior@comcast.net), Co-Chairman, Rev. Dr. Travis Harden, [RevDrTravisHarden@gmail.com](mailto:RevDrTravisHarden@gmail.com) and the Board Chairman [spbolesaa04@gmail.com](mailto:spbolesaa04@gmail.com) no later than January 5, 2022.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact your Board of Directors members in your region or you may contact Board Chairman, Sadie P. Boles, [spbolesaa04@gmail.com](mailto:spbolesaa04@gmail.com) or National President, Charles J. Brown, [nucuaaprez24@ao.com](mailto:nucuaaprez24@ao.com).

We would like to thank NUCUAA and other supporters for your generous donations to the Outreach Department Special Project "Hurricane Ida and Earthquake Relief".

Let us stay in prayer and continue to uplift the family of Director Ronnie Darlene Anderson and all members and families who are sick and those who have lost loved ones.

Submitted by,  
National Board of Directors

Sadie P. Boles, Board Chairman  
Charles J. Brown, National President

10/07/2021 [1]




**NATIONAL UNITED CHURCH USHERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.**
[www.nationalchurchushers.org](http://www.nationalchurchushers.org)
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE**
**SADIE P. BOLES, CHAIRMAN**
**GEORGE MERIDA, VICE-CHAIRMAN**


**Greetings in the Precious Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

The Board of Directors wish you and your families a safe and blessed Thanksgiving. This holiday season we're thankful for our blessed family of doorkeepers. It has been almost two years since we have been able to celebrate with loved one and as we enjoy the festivities this holiday continue with the best practices of social distancing and staying safe.

As the Board of Directors move forward with planning for the 103<sup>rd</sup> National Convention we're continuing to ask members to make their room reservations prior to January 9, 2022 this will assist with determining whether our meeting space will be cut. Also, we are requesting information for the Call to Convention book. The deadline for requested information from all Committee and Department Chairman is January 15, 2022.

**CALL TO CONVENTION BOOK:**

The Call to Convention Book will be available online prior to the first Regional Conference. It is in a Flipping Book format and will be available for review on our National Website at [www.nationalchurchushers.org](http://www.nationalchurchushers.org). The Call to Convention Book


**Charles J. Brown**  
President

**Destinee' Merida**  
President  
Young Adult  
Department

**Jordan Paige**  
President  
JR & Young People's  
Department

**Filmore F. Gregory**  
President Emeritus

**Ruth I. Jones**  
Chairman Emeritus



will contains valuable information regarding each department and committees All convention activities as well as information on the Village of Rosemont and the Chicago areas.

All Committee and Department Chairman are asked to submit a brief synopsis of your committee/department events occurring during the week of the National Convention and send it to the DAHIT [jtmarketing@nationalchurchshers.org](mailto:jtmarketing@nationalchurchshers.org) and copy Chairman Sadie P. Boles, [spbolesaa04@gmail.com](mailto:spbolesaa04@gmail.com). Deadline for all request including Juniors and Young Adults special projects is January 15, 2022.

**103<sup>rd</sup> CONVENTION:**

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**Reservation Link:** <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/CHIRO/G-NCUA>

**Reservations Guarantee:** In order to guarantee a reservation, the hotel will charge a deposit of one night's room rate \$149.00 plus tax 14% (\$169.86) for each room reserved. The charge will be deducted from the total bill upon checkout. Should there be an invalid or declined credit card the hotel is required to contact the guest for a valid credit card. If no contact is made within 72 hours the reservation will be cancelled.

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**Souvenir Journal:** Chairman George Merida, [georgedmerida@dcccd.edu](mailto:georgedmerida@dcccd.edu), Co-Chairman(s) Lawrence Wright, [law83@aol.com](mailto:law83@aol.com) and Rev. Dr. Travis Harden, [revdrtravisharden@gmail.com](mailto:revdrtravisharden@gmail.com).

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- To make flight reservations online click on discount code [ZKFB627136](#)
- MileagePlus members earn Premier Qualifying Dollars and miles for their travel
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Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. EST  
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**Southwest Airlines** discount code will be available January 2022.

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**Food Functions:** If your Committee/Department is requesting food, please specify the day, time, and food required to the Food Function Chairman, Pansy Bradley-Cooper [pansyart@aol.com](mailto:pansyart@aol.com), and Co-Chairman, Selena Roberson, [blw365@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blw365@sbcglobal.net) or Rev. Dr. Travis Harden, [RevDrTravisHarden@gmail.com](mailto:RevDrTravisHarden@gmail.com) by January 5, 2022.

**Set-up & Equipment:** If your Committee/Department is requesting supplies and equipment, send the request to the Set-up Chairman, John Farrior, [j.farrior@comcast.net](mailto:j.farrior@comcast.net), Co-Chairman, Rev. Dr. Travis Harden, [RevDrTravisHarden@gmail.com](mailto:RevDrTravisHarden@gmail.com) and the Board Chairman [spbolesaa04@gmail.com](mailto:spbolesaa04@gmail.com) by January 5, 2022.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Board of Directors and the National President will be using Constant Contact to distribute information to the membership. We are asking all members to submit a current email address to compile the NUCUAA database, by submitting your email address you are consenting to receive messages via Constant Contact or any/all electronic communications.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact your Board of Directors members in your region or you may contact Board Chairman, Sadie P. Boles, [spbolesaa04@gmail.com](mailto:spbolesaa04@gmail.com) or National President, Charles J. Brown, [nucuaaprez24@aol.com](mailto:nucuaaprez24@aol.com).

Let us stay in prayer and continue to uplift all members and families who are sick and those who have lost loved ones.

Submitted by,  
National Board of Director

Sadie P. Boles, Board Chairman  
Charles J. Brown, National President

**NATIONAL UNITED CHURCH USHERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.**[www.nationalchurchushers.org](http://www.nationalchurchushers.org)**CHARLES J. BROWN**

13015 Fox Bow Drive | Upper Marlboro, MD 20774  
 301-390-7416 (Home) | 301-814-4823 (Cell)  
 E-mail: [nucuaaprez24@aol.com](mailto:nucuaaprez24@aol.com)



“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in Christ Jesus”. Philippians 4:19

November 3, 2021

Dear Fellow Doorkeepers:

On behalf of the NUCUAA Outreach Committee I would like to thank everyone for your generous donations totaling \$11,815.00 for the Hurricane/Disaster Relief Project. The Outreach Committee will be distributing the funds as detailed below.

Your contributions have made it possible to give \$8,434.80 in total to fourteen (14) Eastern Region and nineteen (19) Southern Region recipients. Each Region was provided funds to cover a VISA Gift Card in the value of \$250.00 for each recipient as well as the processing fee for the Visa Gift Cards and postage for mailing of the card.

Additionally, an amount of two-thousand dollars (\$2,000) has been set aside to be disbursed to the residents of Haiti in the form of purchased hygiene items to be ordered and shipped directly from Amazon. These items will be shipped to Port-au-Prince, Haiti whenever the ongoing current unrest has subsided.

The remaining funds of \$1,380.20 will be held in the Outreach's Account pending any additional future disaster assistance needs.

Thanks once again to everyone for your love, care and support to this National Outreach Venture.

Yours in Christ,

*Tina Ellis*

Tina Ellis, National Outreach Chairman

*Charles J. Brown*

Charles J. Brown, National President

*Sadie P. Boles*

Sadie P. Boles, National Board of Director Chairman

**Sadie P. Boles**  
 Chairman  
 Board of Directors

**Destinee' Merida**  
 President  
 Young Adult  
 Department

**Jordan Paige**  
 President  
 JR & Young People's  
 Department

**Filmore F. Gregory**  
 President Emeritus

**Ruth L. Jones**  
 Chairman Emeritus



**NATIONAL UNITED CHURCH USHERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.**

[www.nationalchurchushers.org](http://www.nationalchurchushers.org)



**CHARLES J. BROWN**  
**NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

13015 Fox Bow Drive | Upper Marlboro, MD 20774  
301-390-7416 (Home) | 301-814-4823 (Cell)  
E-mail: [nucuaaprez24@aol.com](mailto:nucuaaprez24@aol.com)



**December 13, 2021**

*"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."*  
*Hebrew 13:16*

**As we wait for the celebration of Jesus the Christ during this Advent Season, let's not forget to offer assistance to our fellow mankind in need.**

**As you continue to help those in your immediate neighborhood, please consider to offer a monetary love offering to those recently impacted by the tornadoes that ravaged the States of Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas.**

**Many have lost loved ones as well as material items. The lives of those transitioned cannot be recovered but we pray that their souls are at peace with their Savior. However, we can offer assistance to the survivors who are in need. If you feel a tugging on your heartstring to give monetarily, then join NUCUAA's efforts by visiting our website (<https://www.nationalchurchushers.org>) and make a donation using the "Hurricane/Disaster Relief Donation" tab. A relief organization or individuals will be identified to receive these love offerings.**

**Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request and do have a blessed Christmas.**

*Charles J. Brown*

**National President**

*Sadie P. Boles*

**National Board of Directors, Chairman**

*Tina Ellis*

**National Outreach Chairman**

**Sadie P. Boles**  
Chairman  
Board of Directors

**Destinee' Merida**  
President  
Young Adult  
Department

**Jordan Paige**  
President  
JR & Young People's  
Department

**Filmore F. Gregory**  
President Emeritus

**Ruth I. Jones**  
Chairman Emeritus



# National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc.

## Condolences/Resolution Form

**Name of the Deceased:**

Was the Deceased an Usher? Yes or No. If yes, list Local, State, Region, and/or National position(s) held.

**Who is the Deceased related to? Write the name(s).**

Mother:

Father:

Sister:

Brother:

Wife:

Husband:

Daughter:

Son:

Other:

**Name of Mortuary or Funeral Home**

Address:

City, State, and Zip Code:

Phone Number/Fax Number:

Email Address:

**Homegoing Celebration**

Where will the viewing services be held?

Day, Date, and Time:

Address:

City, State, and Zip Code:

Phone Number/Fax Number:

Email Address:

Where will the homegoing services be held?

Day, Date, and Time:

Address:

City, State, and Zip Code:

Phone Number/Fax Number:

Email Address:

**Cards of Condolences may be sent to:**

Name:

Address:

City, State, and Zip Code:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

# Upcoming Events

**ICUA of Virginia  
Virtual Unity Prayer  
Every Sunday at 3:00 PM**

**ICUA of Virginia State Convention  
May 13-14, 2022**

**65<sup>th</sup> Eastern Region Conference  
March 18-19, 2022**

**2022 National Convention  
Chicago, IL  
July 23-30, 2022**



LOVE

PEACE

BLESSINGS

HOPE

JOY

*May all the promises of Jesus' coming be yours!*

HOPE JOY PEACE

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13 NLT)



*May the peace and hope of  
Christ's birth  
be with you now and in the days ahead...*

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2021

**INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH  
USHERS ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA, INC.**

[www.icuaofva.org](http://www.icuaofva.org)

