



January 23, 2023

Dear Pastors & Leaders

Happy New Year! The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a couple of key upcoming events that our Black Strategic Readiness Team (BSRT) has planned just for you.

A special Minister & Mates retreat is planned for you from Mon., April 17 – Wed., April 19, 2023, in the beautiful historic City of Greenville, SC. Greenville is home to the Greenville County Museum of Art, with works by Southern artists spanning several centuries. It is also home to Falls Park on the Reedy, which has riverside gardens, a suspension bridge and beautiful waterfall views. There are also a wide range of restaurants within walking distance of the retreat hotel. See the enclosed flier for details on registration through C-vent.

This retreat is specially designed for our pastors and leaders of our Black and culturally diverse congregations to gather for retooling, inspiration, and fellowship. Minister Cassandra Trotman will lead the music, while Rev's Todd & Roshanda Womack will lead the breakout sessions. Rev. Olivia Metcalf, DS from Upstate NY, will serve as our keynote speaker. Please see the enclosed flier for more details. **We will provide a \$100 grant toward lodging** for the first 40 couples that register. The registration cost is \$25 per couple via C-vent.

The SpringHill Suites Greenville Downtown at 200 E Washington St, Greenville, SC 29601 is hosting our retreat at a special group rate of \$169 per night plus tax. The last day to book your reservation is March 27, 2023. The hotel phone number is (864) 720-2901. Please make hotel reservations online by clicking on your group discount link: [Book Your Group/Corporate Rate | Marriott International](#). Self-parking is \$7 per night. Airport shuttle is complimentary. Shuttle reservations must be made with hotel 48 hours in advance.

Finally, the BSRT and Shepherd Community Church are co-sponsoring a **pre-General Assembly service Thursday June 8, 2023**, at 4107 East Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. Dr. Fili Chambo, General Superintendent, will serve as the guest speaker for this event. A fabulous dinner will be served at 5:30 PM (no cost), while services will begin at 7PM. In order to adequately prepare, we are asking that you register for the dinner. Additional info will be posted on our Black Ministries site in the upcoming weeks. <https://www.usacanadaregion.org/multicultural-ministries/black-ministries>.

In His hands,

Charles A. Tillman, Sr.

Dr. Charles A. Tillman, Sr.
Black Ministries Facilitator