

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in Unity!
Psalm 133: 1

Filmore F. Gregory "Embracing the Vision"
National President (Hindsight, Insight, Foresight)

Habakkuk 2: 2-3 & Proverbs 29:18

<http://www.nationalchurchushers.org/>



Issue 1, Volume 1
February 2010

A Message from the National President

Greetings Chairman Northern, Officers & Members of the National Men's Fellowship Committee! I am delighted to have this opportunity to extend Greetings and Best Wishes to each of you as well as the supporters of the Men's Fellowship Committee.

Chairman Northern, I commend you and the members of the Men's Fellowship Committee for having the fortitude to develop this Newsletter. The title "Unity" as well as scriptural reference (*Psalm 133:1*) is most appropriate. I am extremely excited and anxiously awaiting the first edition of this publication. It is my belief that "Unity" serving as a communication tool will be a phenomenal success in unifying the men and sharing newsworthy information involving them throughout the National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc. Additionally, I am hopeful that "Unity" will also serve as a recruitment tool and aid in increasing the male membership throughout the Regions and our national organization.



At the Eastern Region's annual conference held in Hartford, CT, February 5-6, 2010, I had the opportunity to fellowship with the men of the Region as well as join with them as they partnered with the Region/National Outreach Department on a project led by Chairman Lawrence A. Wright.

In closing, I express my gratitude to National Chairman William A. Northern and Regional Chairmen: Louis Chappell (Eastern), Frederick Holmes (Western), Ken Harris (Central) and Dale Shillow (Southern) as well as the immediate past Eastern Region Chairman, Skip Brown: *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

Serving the Master and His People,

Filmore F. Gregory
National President

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The Central Region

A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered.

Proverbs 17:27 (NIV)

Greetings to all my fellow Doorkeepers,

My name is Ken Harris and it is a great honor to serve as your chairperson from the Central Region.

We believe all male ushers need to take their rightful place in their families, church and communities as men of God. Our vision for that to happen requires the men to:

Accept, by a personal decision, the saving sovereignty of Jesus Christ and become his disciple. Deepen your faith and relationship with Jesus Christ.

- Experience the Father's unconditional love through church involvement,

praying collectively or on a daily individual basis. Respond to the Lord's call to share the faith with others.

- Be guided by the Holy Spirit to live your life as a man of God.

- Respond to the Lord's call to share the faith with others. To aid in accomplishing this, we believe that this life of faith can be enriched, strengthened and supported through the Men's Fellowship Committee.

All future article submissions coming from the Central Region can be forwarded directly to me for review at wisconsinusher1@yahoo.com.



March 26 - 27, 2010

Embassy Suites Hotel St Louis Airport
11237 Lone Eagle Drive
Bridgeton, MO 63044



Reservations: 1-314-739-8929
Room rate: \$99 plus 14.325% tax
Single/Double/Triple/Quad

Deadline for reservations: March 4, 2010



The Eastern Region



A Word from the Men's Fellowship Chairman

Let me first say how good it was to see and meet with all of you who attended our 53rd Regional Conference in Hartford, CT. Your presence was both noticed and appreciated. I would hope that as you have returned to your respective States that you would spread the good news about our fellowship and encourage others to join us in the future.

As the newly appointed Eastern Region Men's Fellowship Committee Chairman and newly appointed Vice Chairman James Young (MA), we look forward to working with you in the future. If you have not yet signed up to be a part of this fellowship, please contact your State President, your Local or State Men's Fellowship Chairman or us for more information.

Thank you to all the men who participated with the Eastern Region Men's Fellowship Chorus during the Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 6, 2010. Also a special thanks to past Eastern Region Chairman Sheldon (Skip) Brown and our current National/Regional Outreach Department Chairman Lawrence A. Wright for all their hard work and dedication in arranging our outreach project in Hartford, CT. Also thanks to the nine men including our National President Filmore F. Gregory and National Men's Fellowship Committee Chairman William A. Northern who went to serve breakfast on Sunday, February 7, 2010 to members of the Hartford community at the Union Baptist Church. The overall event and fellowship was both spiritual and heart warming. We look forward to doing similar

projects in the future in other States and Regions.

Congratulations to Eastern Region Director Charles J. Brown on a successful Regional Conference. Also we would like to thank all the Ushers, the CT Men's Fellowship Chairman Johnny Knighton and Host Pastor Dr. David L. Massey of the Hopewell Baptist Church for all their heartfelt hospitality during our stay.

We congratulate all newly elected and appointed officers to serve the Eastern Region for 2010. We solicit your support for all those endorsed by the Region for National office in 2010:

Filmore F. Gregory – National President
Charles J. Brown – National 4th Vice President
Louis Chappell – National Board Member
Louis Parker – National Chaplain

Happy Birthday, Anniversary and Valentines Day to all celebrating in the month of February, March and April!

We encourage all State Men's Fellowship Chairmen to submit their news and items of interest about the men or men's activities to us in a timely fashion. The next deadline will be announced by our National Chairman. Look for emails or calling post messages from us in the future.

Louis Chappell, Chairman
louisfrp@aol.com

James Young, Vice Chairman
jimmyyoung@aol.com



EASTERN REGION CHURCH USHERS' ASSOCIATION

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



Unification of Purpose



Volunteering on a Sunday morning, Bros. Lawrence Wright, Louis Chappell, William Northern, Michael Williams, Ulysses Sherman Price, Skip Brown, Eric Beavers and Arturo Reid are ready to work. President Filmore Gregory (*not pictured*) is behind the camera capturing the effort on film.

While attending the Eastern Region Conference in Harford, CT, a few of the brothers from the Men's Fellowship were able to assist the Eastern Region Outreach Department in serving breakfast to the local homeless populace at the Union Baptist Church. The Church, located at 1921 Main Street, is one of the oldest black churches in the city. The

building of the church allowed the freed slaves and founders of the church to move their services from a train's box car. The church has a Help The Homeless Ministry that serves meals on Saturdays and Sundays and was more than thankful for the assistance on this particular Sunday morning.

Some candid shots from the excursion



Immediate Past Chairman Report

Since our last conference, the Eastern Region Men's Fellowship Committee has been steadfast in achieving its goal of encouraging greater participation by male ushers at Regional Conferences, National Conventions, Midyear Meetings and State Memorial Weekends. A byproduct of our efforts is to be positive role models for the Young Adult and Junior and Young Peoples male ushers as well.

Since our last Regional Conference, Men's Fellowship Committees have been forming to host activities during weekends when their state hosts Memorial Weekend Services. Below is a summary of activities since the 2009 Eastern Region Conference.

- In Delaware 2009, the Men's Fellowship Committee hosted a thought provoking talk by a local minister that focused on the character and leadership of Black men and men in general in the Bible, which was followed by a pizza-fellowship social.
- During the Eastern Region Conference, the region's Men's Fellowship Chorus rendered a selection at the Prayer Breakfast to rousing applause.
- During Virginia's 2009 Memorial Weekend, the men hosted a delicious Fish Fry chat and chew in recognition of Charles J. Brown, Assistant Regional Director at that time and for Roy Kelly, National Board of Directors member at that time. Also a special note was that an open invitation was extended to the women delegates to join us, which served to broaden Christian fellowship.
- The Eastern Region Men Fellowship Chorus coordinated the Men of the NUCUAA to deliver a selection during the Prayer Breakfast at the National Convention in Philadelphia last year.
- On Saturday, February 6, 2010, the Eastern Region's Men's Fellowship

Chorus offered a selection at the Eastern Region Prayer Breakfast. We were pleased to receive another invitation and we thank Sis. Kitchen for the invite. Special thanks are extended to Bro. Deacon Hope for his musical accompaniment.

- Also, during this weekend, on Sunday morning, several members of the Men's Fellowship and our National President Bro. Gregory volunteered along with the Eastern Region Outreach Department at the Union Baptist Church, Hartford, CT by preparing and serving breakfast to homeless residents. Thank you Bro. Lawrence Wright, Eastern Region Outreach Chairman, for coordinating this volunteer effort.

The Eastern Region Men's Fellowship Committee has grown from approximately 4 to over 25 members in just over 3 years. I am extremely pleased by the member's consistency, camaraderie and belief in Christ. Also for your willingness to improve who we are as men by taking on greater responsibilities in our Association, to advance our relationship with our young men and to forge stronger relationships with our Sisters and the women of the Eastern Region through our works.

I am grateful for all that you have done, for what we have accomplished together and for our future activities; but equally important, thank you for your time and unconditional support of me! I especially want to thank Bro. Louis Chappell for serving as my co-chair and for all his efforts; congratulations to you Brother, for becoming the newly appointed Chairman of the Eastern Region Men's Fellowship Committee.

Sincerely,

S. Skip Brown
Immediate Past Chairman



Virginia's Charity Work

Representing Virginia's District One Men's Fellowship, Brothers William A. Northern and Lawrence A. Wright spent Martin Luther King, Jr., Day in the spirit of volunteerism. The first stop was at the Washington Post building in downtown Washington, DC, to participate with Greater DC Cares. Greater DC Cares is the largest leading coordinator of volunteerism in the region and has been performing as such for the last 20 years. The initiative mobilizes volunteers and offers support to non-profit entities within the Greater DC Region. Statistically speaking, they have a network of over 700 non-profit entities, 13,000 volunteers and a countless supply of corporate sponsorship.

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday of Service was the formal title of this day of volunteerism and it witnessed over 3,000 participating volunteers. There were several target areas in the greater Washington area which included the DC Central Kitchen for the preparation of meals for the homeless, Parkview Elementary and T.C. Williams Minnie Howard Campus where hundreds of murals, collegiate logos and inspirational sayings were painted, and several other satellite locations around the Metropolitan Area where burn kits, toiletry kits and first aid kits were assembled.

According to Billy Fettweis, Manager of Volunteer Outreach and Development for Greater DC Cares, the service team that Brothers Northern and Wright participated in made over 2,000 peanut butter & jelly sandwiches for Martha's Table, completed over 5,000 burn kits to be used by the DC Burn Unit, completed around 600 toiletry kits to be used by Greater DC Cares, completed over 1,000 first aid kits to be used by the Civil Air Patrol and created a hefty sum of handmade greeting cards to be sent to the troops overseas. The Greater DC Cares initiative was sponsored by such organizations as Fannie Mae, FedEx, State Farm, Target and others.

Not quite through after a heavy morning of volunteering, the duo headed over to St. Augustine Catholic Church with fellow usher Veronica Majsiak and usher supporter Deborah Jones. The church is the oldest black Catholic Church in the Nation's Capital. St. Augustine Catholic Church welcomes the assistance of volunteers in the serving of hot breakfast and lunch to the local homeless population. There were nearly 200 people served in the span of one and a half hours. One recipient sang an original song dedicated to the volunteers. After that workload, the team dined at a restaurant in China Town to enjoy a meal in good fellowship before journeying back to their respective destinations.



Bros. Lawrence Wright and William Northern display some the items that comprised a Toiletry Kit for Greater DC Cares at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday of Service in the Washington Post building on January 18, 2010.



Greetings from Past Eastern Region Chairman Wright

Greetings,

It gives me great pleasure to offer remarks as the first Eastern Region Chairman of the Men's Fellowship Committee. I am delighted that this fellowship has grown to become a National Committee. Thank you President Gregory for your vision!

I am truly delighted to see the progress already being made upon the acceptance of this National standing committee and to see men communicating and meeting via conference calls to better serve

our National organization.

I would like to congratulate Bro. William Northern, newly appointed National Chairman and his committee. I wish you only great success. You already know I am here to support in any area needed. Take the torch to the next level and let's continue to make the Men's Fellowship Committee one of the best committees in our National organization.



Yours in Christian Fellowship,
Lawrence A. Wright

Congratulations!

Well wishes are extended to Bro. Charles J. Brown (DC) for a successful conference

53rd Eastern Region Conference

February 5 - 6, 2010
Marriott Hartford Downtown Hotel
200 Columbus Boulevard
Hartford, Connecticut



Prayer Requests

Bro. Sherman L. Parks (DE) – Surgery recovery

Bro. Harvey Graham, Jr. (VA) – Surgery recovery

Bro. Jonathan Jeffcoat (DE) – Surgery recovery

And the families of Bro. Dennis Jenville (CT), Bro. Ed Johnson (DC) & Bro. Kevin Vouse (NY) at their passing.

Bro. Eddie L. Key (DC) – Surgery recovery

Bro. Richard Thomas (DE) – Recuperating from a broken shoulder.



A Historical Reflection



The Eastern Region Men's Fellowship Committee was the result of a vision by then Director Filmore F. Gregory during our 49th Annual Conference in Hartford, Connecticut during the month of February in 2006.

The Men's Fellowship Committee was formed to encourage greater participation of males as Ushers and increase their attendance at Regional Conferences, Mid-Year Meetings and State Memorial Weekends, as well as find areas of common interest when the men come together. The Committee also serves as a vehicle for these men to serve as mentors to the Young Adult and Junior Ushers; additionally, it provides an avenue for the men to fellowship with these young male Ushers in group settings, thereby serving as role models for them.

At our 2008 National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, the dialogue between the Men's Fellowship members and the junior male Ushers continued during the Juniors' Rap Session. The Rap Session was facilitated by Men's Fellowship Chairman, Bro. Lawrence A. Wright. Bro. William Northern (VA) introduced the young men to Fantasy Football and had approximately 20 of those in attendance sign up for the competition. It was a good fellowship meeting and a great time in sharing views on different subjects. In addition to Bro. Northern, Bro. David A. Fuller (MD), Bro. Louis Chappell (NY) and Deacon James Griffin (NY) participated in the Rap Session. Bro. Filmore F. Gregory and Bro. Oneal Fields of New York were also in attendance.



The Southern Region



A New Beginning

On Thursday, November 4, 2009, Southern Region Director Harold Hester made the announcement of his appointment of Bro. Dale Shillow (TX) to the position of the Southern Region Men's Fellowship Chairman. Bro. Shillow is anticipating addressing recruitment ideas, mentoring

opportunities and male chorus formation at the upcoming regional conference. He can be contacted at sdshillow@sbcglobal.net for all future newsletter submissions coming from the Southern Region.

A poster for the 51st Southern Region Conference. It features a portrait of Harold E. Hester, Director, on the left. The text on the right provides details about the conference dates (April 22-24, 2010), location (The Holiday Inn Select Memphis Airport), and contact information for reservations. The poster is framed with a purple and gold border.

**51st Southern
Region
Conference**

Harold E. Hester, Director
VeAnne Buchanan
Host State President

April 22- 24, 2010
The Holiday Inn Select Memphis Airport
2240 Democrat Road
Memphis, TN 38132

Reservations: 1-901-332-1130
Room rate: \$109 plus 14.9% tax

Single/Double/Triple/Quad

Deadline for reservations: April 2, 2010

Prayer Requests

Bro. George Faber (TX)

Bro. Curtis Richmond (TN)

Bro. Zebedee Hester (GA)

Bro. Willie Slay (AK)

Bro. Willie J. Minnifield (GA)

Bro. Hilton Washington (SC)

Bro. Harry Richardson (GA)

Bro. Eugene Weaver (FL)





The Western Region

**Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.
Psalm 133:1**

It is my pleasure to have been appointed chairman for the Western Region Men's Fellowship, a ground breaking venture that will allow the men of each region to be able to let others know what is happening with them.

I am the immediate past president of the Union Usher Board State of California, Inc. where I served for four years in that capacity. I am currently serving as the Chairman of the Board of Directors. I have served on the national nominating committee, as the William H. Davis Chairman, and currently serve on the staff of the Willie Minnifield Training and Development. I have served on many committees since becoming involved with this organization.

I see the Men's Fellowship as a ministry and as a vehicle that will allow us to make a difference in more than one young man's life in a positive way. This will become the stepping stone to a great mentor program that can spread throughout the States. We have been in touch with some of the men in the Western Region, letting them know what the plan of action is, getting information

for the Directory and trying to develop a calendar of events.

The Men's Ministry in Sacramento is in the process of hosting its first Barbeque Cook Off competition. When we began this endeavor, we were not aware of the large amount of people that would want to enter and to show off their skills. This event will take place on August 28, 2010. Anyone who wishes to know more may contact me @ 916-704-0018 or holmesfrederick@hotmail.com.

As we get things going in this department and garner more and more interest, we pray that the attendance will increase at our conventions on all levels. All we have to do is make it interesting.

My passion is riding my motorcycle as often and as long as I can. My longest trip so far has been about 600 miles. I want to ride to St. Louis. If there are any riders within our organization please let me hear from you.

Humbly,
Frederick J Holmes

53rd Western Region Conference

Ruth I. Jones, Director

Noble Wallace, Host State President

April 15 - 17, 2010

**Red Lion Hotel
4040 Quebec Street
Denver, CO 80216**

**Reservations: 1-303-321-6666
1-800-733-5466**

Room rate: \$89.00 plus 14.85% tax

Single/Double/Triple/Quad

Deadline for reservations: March 14, 2010



March

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Virgil Foster (MA)

Filmore Gregory (NY)

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J. Lynn Martin (NY)

VA Men's Fellowship
Retreat –
Williamsburg, VA

VA Men's Fellowship
Retreat –
Williamsburg, VA

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53rd Central Region
Conference –
Bridgeton, MO

3rd Central Region
Conference –
Bridgeton, MO

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PALM SUNDAY

National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc., Men's Fellowship



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NMFC Conference
Call @ 9:00 PM

53rd Western Region
Conference –Denver,
CO

53rd Western Region
Conference –Denver,
CO

53rd Western Region
Conference –Denver,
CO

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51st Southern Region
Conference –
Memphis, TN

51st Southern Region
Conference –
Memphis, TN

51st Southern Region
Conference –
Memphis, TN

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John Buford (MA)

National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc., Men's Fellowship



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MOTHER'S DAY *Louis Chappell (NY)*

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Gregory Wright (VA)

Carroll Bradshaw (DC)

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MEMORIAL DAY

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National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc., Men's Fellowship



2010

Announcements

Greetings to all reading this newsletter,

I hope that you have found this inaugural edition both entertaining and informative.

It is my desire to have a new edition distributed on a quarterly basis but the quantity and quality of submitted articles will determine such an ambitious desire.

I am requesting that the article submission follow a simple flow process. Articles should be submitted to your state chairman for Men's Fellowship who in turn will forward them to the Regional

Chairman. The Regional Chairman will then review the articles before forwarding them to the National Chairman.

My thanks are extended to all who have contributed to this edition in any way, shape or form. I hope that the newsletter has met the desires of all who have been on board during its evolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Bro. W. A. Northern
Editor

CONGRATULATIONS
are extended to
Colorado State President: Bro. Nobel Wallace

**for being selected as a
2010 Western Region Honoree**

Let's Pay Attention To Our Heart's Health

As February has been designated as American Heart Month, please take a few minutes to participate in "My Life Check" by going to: <http://mylifecheck.heart.org/>. This tool will help you assess your health and identify steps to improve your heart health. Follow the link and enter your information in the Simple 7 steps to get started. "My Life Check" is just the first in a series of activities and events to aid us in living "heart smart" lives and help ensure an optimal quality of life for each of us.

Please take your time to learn the information on how to better manage the health of your heart. In preparing to utilize this free tool, please acquire the following information to aid you in completing the 7-step process with ease: your recent systolic and diastolic blood pressure, blood cholesterol and blood sugar readings.

Let's take advantage of this free tool that very well may save us an unscheduled trip to the doctor or hospital.





NATIONAL UNITED CHURCH USHERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.



www.nationalchurchushers.org

Filmore F. Gregory

President

William A. Northern

Men's Fellowship Committee Chairman

14132 Rockinghorse Drive

Woodbridge, VA 22193-3765

(703) 590-0235 H

Vangogh589@yahoo.com

Donna A. Hines

Chairman, Board of the Directors

Shawn L. Wright

Young Adult President

Alexander Fawra, Jr.

Junior & Young People's President

20 February 2010

Greetings to President Filmore Gregory, Board of Directors Chairperson Donna Hines, Officers and Ushers of the National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc.

On behalf of the National Men's Fellowship Committee, I would like to respectfully request your support within the next 90 days as we host a Stay At Home Charity Drive. The proceeds from this drive will be use to defray the expenses regarding several ongoing projects within the National Men's Fellowship Committee.

Please review the requirements listed below and allow me to add your name to the Donor List. The Donor List will be proudly displayed in the upcoming editions of the National Men's Fellowship Newsletter. I am certain that this worthwhile cause will be blessed with success by your support.

How the Stay At Home Charity Drive works

- 1) *Review your schedule for the next 90 days and target a day that you are able to stay at home from sunrise to sunset. Designate that date as your Charity Day.*
- 2) *On that day, write a check for (ten) \$10.00 or more and make the check payable to N.U.C.U.A.A., Inc. You may list the Stay At Home Charity Drive in the memo section of the check.*
- 3) *On the day after your Charity Day, mail the check to National Financial Secretary Melinda Wilkins at 8100 Bonaire Ct., Silver Spring, MD 20910-4663.*
- 4) *Your name will be added to our Donor List.*

Our National Men's Fellowship membership will be looking forward to seeing your name on the Donor List prominently displayed in the National Men's Fellowship Newsletter.

Yours in Christian Service,

William A. Northern

Bro. William A. Northern

National Men's Fellowship Chairman



Men's Fellowship Questionnaire Profile

Please print

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Email (If Any): _____ Birthday (Mo/Day): _____

What type of activities would you like to see sponsored?

1. _____

2. _____

How often do you attend the following events? (Circle the Best Answer)

Region/State Memorial Service: 0 1-3 4-6 7 or More

Regional Conferences (Past 5 years): 1 2 3 4 5

National Conventions (Past 5 years): 1 2 3 4 5

Do you feel the Men's Fellowship should continue to meet? _____

Remarks/Comments/Suggestions (If additional space is required, use back of this form):

How would you rate the Men's Fellowship program overall, ranging from 1-10?
(1=Poor, 10=Excellent): _____

Save the Dates: July 26 – 30, 2010

**For our upcoming National Convention in
St. Louis, MO**

Please submit this form to your State Chairman

