Synod 2024 FEEDBACK

RE-IMAGINING BCN

What People Are Saying

How nice to hear from you again! Thank you so much for your kind words about my presentation. I appreciated the opportunity to share a few words about my Call My Name project and other work at Clemson to such a warm and receptive audience at the Synod.

I, too, am looking forward to more opportunities for collaboration in our growing partnership and appreciate your offer of support for me and my work.

RHONDDA ROBINSON THOMAS - Calhoun Lemon Professor of Literature

Synod 2024 FEEDBACK

PAOCC 2024 SYNOD AND BEULAH LAND HOMECOMING

LEGACY

RE-IMAGINING BCN

PASSING THE BATON TO THE NEXT GENERATION

What People Are Saying

Dear Family,

We missed you at the National Synod, but I'd be happy to fill you in. Where do I begin? I could tell you about Baba Mbiyu's short documentary, "Once There Was a Nation That Could," and how it placed PAOCC squarely within a history of Black liberation movements that had roots far earlier than the 1960s. Oh, how we laughed and sighed seeing pictures of the glory days, hearing unified voices sing, reminiscing about the work we did to build a Black Nation.

I could tell you about the soil we carried with us from home for the libation ceremony, how my eyes prickled with emotion as I imagined all of our hands touching the ground, as our ancestors had, Black hands in hues as varied as the earth that sustained us: umber, chestnut, mahogany, ochre, ink, rust. We called on these ancestors as water soaked the soil we had mingled together from all corners and four Shrine regions. That great cloud of witnesses walks with us, guiding us toward a future BCN we must reimagine together.

But those are just the highlights. I should probably tell you about the challenges levied to us to take the Shrine of the Black Madonna from a well-kept, open secret to a beacon of Black self-determination. Baba Mbiyu asked us to confront our preconceived notions about who we are and where we are going. After all, we spent time honoring the past to apply purpose to the present. Beulah Land Farms is a valuable resource and our guest speakers shared tangible steps to help us realize its potential.

I could surely tell you about all these things. What you really need to know, however, is that we gathered on the Land, Beulah Land, dressed in white underneath a white tent, and we held a church service that was worship and more. It was a rededication of the ground we walked on and the Spirit that had brought us thus far. It was a reminder of the mountain-moving faith—the size of a mustard seed—that we would need to continue our struggle for Black liberation, to pass the baton to the next generation, to let neither soil nor this great opportunity and responsibility slip through our fingers. Elders asked Millennials, those too young to be elders but old enough to be leaders, to stand around the pulpit. We pledged there to steward all that the Nation had worked for and to give our lives to freeing our people.

When you get a chance, family, congratulate the new board members-in-training who will help guide the Nation toward the five-year succession plan that Presiding Bishop Jaramogi Menelik Kimathi, announced at the Synod.

Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman once wrote that we should not waste the Holy Spirit in beautiful moments like these, moments of unity and togetherness I will cherish forever. "Let us look not backward but forward into our new day," he said.

How I wish you had been there at the Synod, but now we are here in this dawning light, together, ready to work, hands outstretched to carry the baton.

Dara Mathis

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It was a pleasure to visit with you and your members. I enjoyed the conversations. It is a blessing to have met such wonderful people with the type of passion and dedication to the community. I had no idea this organization was robust, engaging, and inspiring. The future seems a bit brighter. What you and the church have accomplished is amazing already. It's an experience for me to have witnessed such black unity. The message I felt was so powerful and profound. The sight of so much black excellence would make anyone proud.

Cedric - pontoon drivers at Beulah Land

My son was there. He said the place you all have is beautiful. Business was good.

Owner - Tropical Sno Food Truck

I thoroughly enjoyed attending the June 25, 2024 PAOCC 2024 Synod Sunday Service beneath the tent and the oaks at Beulah Land. The Holy Spirit and the spirits of our ancestors filled the atmosphere and my heart as the choirs sang soul-rousing songs, and the ministers shared the Word and exhorted all of us to take up the mantle and work diligently to dismantle racial, political, and spiritual oppression and continue efforts to forge a way forward along the path well-prepared by our elders. My soul was full as Rev. Dr. Lumumba Seegars channeled Reverends Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, and Medgar Evers as he preached "The Imagination of A Nation" and encouraged us to dream and endeavor with zeal and fervor to realize the hope of and for the nation envisioned by our ancestors.

June 25, 2024 was a spiritual and physical communion that was nourishing to my mind, body, and soul. Everyone I met was on one accord and positively radiant in the Spirit as we worshiped beneath the tent and the oaks and ate afterward in the Worship Center and beneath the tent and oaks at Beulah Land. I felt blessed and elevated in the Spirit that day and many days/weeks later. I am grateful for Bishop and Rev. Amina Molokai Seegars' invitation to attend the 2024 PAOCC Synod June 25, 2024 Sunday Service and look forward to future worship services with PAOCC.
May God richly bless and keep the PAOCC!

Beverley D. Wilson, M.D., J.D.

I attended the convention At Beulah Land on June 22, 2024. The members were warm and friendly and showed a sense of togetherness. I applaud all of you for celebrating the African-American Heritage and keeping it alive.👏👏👏

Ella - Anderson, South Carolina

I had the most wonderful time at the 2024 Synod of the Shrines of the Black Madonna of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church last month. This historic Christian denomination was founded by Rev. Albert Cleage, Jr. aka Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman in the mid 20th century. (**Full Article**)

Rev. Dr. Heber Brown III