

# *Strengthening the Black Church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

## *Strengthening the Black Church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (SBC 21)*

### *Partner Congregation Program Application:*

SBC 21 seeks to strengthen Black congregations by providing opportunities for Partner Congregations (pastor and four team members) to step away from the persistent obligations of daily and weekly parish life and engage in a learning/mentoring/coaching environment for strengthening your congregation as well as for personal renewal and reflection. Congregation Resource Center Training Events are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for being introduced to new and creative ways for planning and implementing various forms of ministries, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for strengthening relationships, renewing a sense of call, meeting and serving neighbor in a new way, finding joy and purpose in ministry, creating opportunities where members of the congregation can exercise their gifts for ministry. These emphases are common themes of CRC training events.

### *2010 Schedule for Congregation Resource Center Training Events*

- St James UMC, April 17 - 19, Kansas City, MO (Urban Location and Context)
- Bennettsville - Cheraw area Cooperative Ministry, April 23 – 25, Bennettsville, SC (Rural Location and Context)

### *Getting Started*

Please take time to read the enclosed brochure thoroughly, even if you have applied in the past.

### *Note to All applicants*

Strengthening the Black Church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (SBC 21) strives to give fair and thoughtful attention to each proposal submitted for this program. In order to do so, the proposals must be legible and comparable in length and sequence. Thus, SBC 21 reminds pastors and congregations to be sure that their applications meet the minimum requirements noted below.

***Proposals that do not meet the following standards will not be considered for participation.***

1. The complete Proposal Narrative includes Parts A, B, and C, and all questions are numbered.
2. For ease of readability, Proposal Narratives should be presented in 12-point Times New Roman font.
3. Proposal Narratives must be double-spaced (not single-spaced or space-and-a-half) with no more than 23 to 24 lines per page with 1-inch margins.
4. Use only one side of the page.
5. The Proposal Narrative must not exceed 5 pages.
6. All forms should be those provided in this packet or as downloaded from the SBC 21 Web site. Congregations using or creating other forms will not be considered for approval.

***Application Elements***

A completed application must provide all the information requested below. All application materials become the property of SBC 21.

***Cover Page***

Fill out the information using the first two pages; this should be the top page of your application. Please do not send a cover letter in addition.

## Part – A Congregational Profile

*Please answer the following questions.*

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Pastoral Charge (Congregation), Cooperative Parish or Circuit** \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different from street address) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Size \_\_\_\_\_ Average Worship Attendance \_\_\_\_\_

Rural  \_\_\_\_\_ Suburban  \_\_\_\_\_ Urban  \_\_\_\_\_

Jurisdiction \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

**Full name of Pastor** \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Church Contact Person** \_\_\_\_\_

Title or Position \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Partner Church Team:** Please list the 5-member Partner Church Team (Pastor and Lay) that will attend SBC 21 Training. Please list the team names as they appear on their driver license or legal document. The pastor must attend training with the PC Team.

1)		<b>Pastor</b>
	<b>Team Members</b>	<b>Position or Ministry</b>
2)		
3)		
4)		
5)		

**Pastor's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Part – B**

### **Congregational & Community Information**

1. What is the mission of your church? Do you have a mission and/or vision statement? If so, what are they?
2. Provide the date of founding and number of years at your present location. Describe any especially illuminating or distinctive historical events in the life of this church.
3. Provide the names and tenure of the last four pastors.
4. List the ministries, both internal and outreach, in which your church is involved.
5. Include a one-page summary of the congregation's current annual budget. (This page need not be counted as part of the 10-page limit for the Proposal Narrative.)
6. Who lives in the community surrounding your church? What is the church's involvement in the community, and how is the community reflected within your congregation?
7. How does your congregation understand its role in the community?
8. What are the demographics of your congregation? What are the demographics of your community relative to the number of unchurched?
9. What critical program needs have you identified within your community that is not addressed by others?
10. Please list expectations/hopes from a shared partnership with an SBC 21 Congregation Resource Center?
11. Have your team ever attended an SBC 21 CRC Training Event? If so, where and when, and is the team's configuration the same as before?

## **Application Proposal Narrative**

Write a Proposal Narrative that provides the information requested in Part – B below. The Proposal Narrative should be no more than 10 typewritten, double-spaced pages with 1-inch margins using only one side of the paper, a readable font and type size (12-point Times New Roman). Be sure to number the questions (B – 1, for example) and provide the information fully and in the order presented below. Number all pages consecutively.

### **Part – C** **Rationale for Your Participation**

1. Begin with a summary statement describing the overall character of your congregation.
2. Provide a clearly articulated rationale for engaging in the program. Include a discussion about why this is an appropriate time for your Partner Congregation Team to participate in the program.
3. Give a brief description of the process by which the congregation determined whether to submit a proposal. Favorable consideration will be given only to proposals that provide evidence of broad congregational support for the program.
4. Provide a statement written by the PC Team that describes the intended benefits, both for the pastor and for the congregation, of your team's participation in the program. This statement should summarize the congregation's views and should be incorporated into the body of the proposal.
5. Tell how the pastor and his/her team will communicate and share insights from their participation in the program.

### ***Questions? Need More Information***

Please contact **Reverend Dr. Fred A. Allen, National Director**  
**Strengthening the Black Church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**  
**General Board of Discipleship**  
**P.O. Box 340003**  
**Nashville, TN 37203-0003**  
**1908 Grand Avenue**  
**Nashville, TN 37212**  
**Toll Free #: 877-899-2780, ext. 1722 or 1721**  
**FAX: 615-340-7183**  
**E-mail: [fallen@gbod.org](mailto:fallen@gbod.org)**  
**E-mail: [pholman@gbod.org](mailto:pholman@gbod.org)**

## ***Application Submission***

The SBC 21 National Office requests that all proposals be printed on one side only, then stapled or clipped. Please do not submit proposals in binders or any other kind of covering. Do not send additional attachments, brochures, pictures or other information. **A completed application must include one original and three copies (total: four sets) of all required materials.**

Please return the completed application, with attachments, **postmarked by February 26, 2010 to:**

**Reverend Dr. Fred A. Allen, National Director  
Strengthening the Black Church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
General Board of Discipleship  
P.O. Box 340003  
Nashville, TN 37203-0003  
1908 Grand Avenue  
Nashville, TN 37212**