In Our Quest to Build the Beloved Community, We Will . . .

**RESIST**
Injustice and Oppression
(Both Internal and External)

**RECLAIM**
Biblical Interpretation
(That is Both Liberating and Radically Inclusive)

**RECONCILE**
Brokenness and Divisiveness
(By Understanding the Concept of Intersectionality)

**RESTORE**
Healing and Wholeness
(By Confronting the Historical Trauma of Oppression)

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**A Black Church Summit on the Intersectionality of Oppression with a Special Focus on Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity**

Featuring the film

**Saturday, April 22, 2017**
8:00AM – 4:30PM

Followed by a

**Summit Worship Service on Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 10:00AM**
Rev. Traci Blackmon, Preaching

**SUMMIT REGISTRATION:** $25 / Deadline: April 13, 2017

Hosted by: Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ

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**Partners:**
Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ, Washington, DC
New Millennial Church, Little Rock, AR
Church Within A Church Movement, Chicago, IL

**Sponsor:**
Center for African American Religion, Sexual Politics, and Social Justice

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Affirming our African heritage, our vision is to build an inclusive body of biblical believers who continue to grow in Christ as we love, serve, and fellowship with the community and each other.
RESIST & RECLAIM – JUSTice Summit – Washington, DC

A Black Church Summit on the Intersectionality of Oppression with a Special Focus on: Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (8:00-8:45am)

OPENING WORDS OF WELCOME (8:45-9:00am)
Summit Partners:
Drs. Dennis and Christine Wiley, Pastors, Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ, Washington, DC
Rev. Wendell Griffen, Pastor, New Millennium Church, Little Rock, AR
cathy knight, Executive Director, Church Within A Church Movement, Chicago, IL

CENTERING AND OPENING PRAYER (9:00-9:15am)
Rev. Vernice Thorn, Church Within A Church Movement

WORKSHOP PLENARY SESSIONS

RESISTING INJUSTICE (9:15-10:45am)
Facilitators: Rev. Gil Caldwell, cathy knight, Rev Benjamin Reynolds,
The LGBTQ Equality movement is often called the new civil rights movement, but how true is that claim? Are the two movements similar, or are they fundamentally different? Do they have the same goals? Why are they often in conflict with one another? A new documentary, "From Selma to Stonewall," explores these questions through the journey of two unlikely friends – Gil Caldwell, an 80-year-old black, straight retired preacher and civil rights leader, and Marilyn Bennett, a 52-year-old white lesbian activist and author. During the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to dialogue with Gil Caldwell, cathy knight, and Benjamin Reynolds in exploration of some of the questions that get at the intersection of race, sexual orientation, gender identity, and religion as well as where the civil rights and LGBTQ equality movements might find common ground.

BREAK (10:45-11:00pm)

RECLAIMING INCLUSIVE AND BIBLICAL LANGUAGE (11:00am-12:30pm)
Facilitators: Rev. Dr. Ronald Hopson, Rev. Eunesa Benoman
Reading the Bible and understanding the Bible are two different things. The bridge between knowledge and comprehension is interpretation. This session will examine the critical role of biblical interpretation in assessing how the Bible has been misinterpreted to justify the prevention of LGBTQ persons, women, and African Americans from open and authentic inclusion in the total life of the Church. It will lift up some of the “clobber passages” of scripture that have not only been employed to discriminate against certain marginalized communities, but that have also fostered double and even triple jeopardy for those who find themselves within the intersection(s) of oppression. In addition, it will illuminate how various factors—including experience, tradition, history, and culture—color our interpretation and, thus, influence our beliefs about God, humanity, and the world in which we live.
LUNCH (12:30-1:15pm)

RECONCILING BROKENNESS THROUGH INTERSECTIONALITY  
(1:15-2:45pm)  
Facilitators: Rev. Wendell Griffen, Rev. Dr. Dennis Wiley  
It is one thing for the Black Church to *resist in theory* the intersectionality of oppression that negatively impacts marginalized individuals and communities in this nation and world. It is another thing, however, for the Black Church to *reclaim in praxis* the prophetic urgency of both naming external oppression that flourishes beyond its walls and eradicating internalized oppression that abounds within. This workshop will disclose the stories of (1) how a local black congregation has dared to model the beloved community by radically welcoming, including, and empowering all people while celebrating differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and (2) how a local black pastor eloquently alerts us to “the fierce urgency of prophetic hope” in order that we might not only resist the forces of retrenchment, alienation, division, and despair during this regressive political climate, but that we might also reclaim the prophetic initiative to affirm and build an inclusive world reflecting God’s love for justice *and* diversity.

BREAK (2:45-3:00pm)

RESTORING OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY (3:00-4:30pm)  
Facilitators: Dr. Patricia Griffen, Rev. Dr. Christine Wiley  
Intersectionality is a term that describes how individuals can face multiple threats of discrimination when their identities overlap a number of marginalized distinctions with regard to race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, health, and other characteristics. The systemic oppression of African Americans is reflected in the intersections of these characteristics where multiple forces and institutions create a traumatic effect on individuals, families, and groups. This workshop explores the impact of this intersectional oppression by looking specifically at sexual orientation, gender identity, race, and gender. Included will be an overview of historical trauma suffered by this population. Finally, through interactive discussion, we will examine what the church’s response should be in order to create the beloved community, affirming and inclusive of all of God’s people.