

THE ROAD AHEAD

POST 2012 ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Mission: To strengthen Churches & Ministries business base and build congregational capacity for strong economic and sustainable leadership.

THANK YOU

Dear Friend,

On the behalf of the New York Clergy Economic Council and the United States Elect Chambers of Commerce, we would like to take this opportunity to express our profound thanks and appreciation for taking out time from your busy schedule to attend the first New York Clergy Economic Summit. **WITHOUT YOU, THIS CLERGY ECONOMIC SUMMIT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL.**

Being the first summit, there were last minutes changes and interventions which compromised speakers and panel discussions time and our strategy to achieve optimal results. In that light, you may not have had the opportunity to present in a timely fashion or have the time for effective presentation.

To this we owe you an apology. But thanks for the understanding you displayed and how you came across. **THIS CLERGY ECONOMIC SUMMIT HELD ON JUNE 5, 2012, WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE JOURNEY.**

The road churches have been commuting in the last decade have been laden with land mines and bobby traps with untold hardships and difficulties: Many churches have been closed or lost to foreclosures, pastors death or illnesses caused by stress, others are straddled on the fence due to fiscal irresponsibility and mismanagement, and others don't just know where to go financially.

WITH NO ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT GRANTS OR MONEY AND WITH NO ACCESS TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTION OR FOUNDATION MONIES, WHERE DO CHURCHES TURN FOR HELP?

The 2012 Clergy Economic Summit was the beginning of a journey to crafting a sustainable economic future for churches and ministries in New York and across the country and eventually the world.

Christianity is the most popular religion in the United States, with around 77% of polled Americans identifying themselves as Christians in 2009 (Source--From Wikipedia). About 62% of those polled claim to be members of church congregation. In the mid 1990's the United States had the largest Christian population on earth, with 224 million Christians. Income generated from these Churches numbers in the billions impacting on the gross domestic product.

THE ISSUE AT STAKE DOES NOT AFFECT ONLY SMALLER CHURCHES OR CONGREGATIONS, BUT MEDIUM AND LARGE AS WELL.

The pain of churches inability to obtain project financing, tap into government grants, establish income generating social enterprise, have/maintain retirement benefit/life insurance package, fight foreclosures, pay bills and balance the budget, is the multiplier effect of congregational unemployment, foreclosures, victims of predatory lending, lack of affordable housing and small business fatigue. **THIS IS NOT A GOOD POLITICAL NEWS: MANY CLERGIES ARE ON LIFE SUPPORT.**

BUT CHURCHES CANNOT SIT BY AND REMAIN IDLE WHEN IT'S LIFE AND SURVIVAL IS AT STAKE. THE TIME HAS COME WHEN THE CLERGY AND THE CHURCHES VOICE MUST BE HEARD; THE TIME HAS COME WHEN THE CLERGY'S MUST SET ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND UNITE; THE TIME HAS COME FOR A PARADIGM SHIFT ON HOW CHURCHES THINKS AND DO BUSINESS; THE TIME HAS COME FOR A NEW SCHOOL OF THOUGHT IN CHURCH ECONOMICS;

My friend, your help in crafting a better future for churches through support, council and partnership cannot be overemphasized.

We look forward to a dialogue with you; we look forward to your helping us build a resource access network or base; we look forward to you helping us conduct capacity building training for pastors and their leadership.

THE ROAD AHEAD MAY BE A LONG, HARD AND DIFFICULT JOURNEY, BUT LIKE THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, IT IS NOT WITHOUT PRICE

WE WILL OVERCOME.

THANK YOU THANK YOU

FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS THAT WILL CREATE A MOVEMENT THAT WILL NAVIGATE FAITH LEADERS TO THE PATH OF SUSTAINABILITY IN MOMENT OF WORLD SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COLLAPSE AND CHANGES.

CHURCH LEADERS NEED A PARADIGM SHIFT OF SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH

Getting Faith Leaders Ahead of the Curve and Think Out of the Box cannot be so timely. Children of This World Have Been Wiser than the Children of Light, using our resources (tithes and offering, community efforts) to their advantage. But No More. Church Leaders are rising to their rightful place-- LIGHT IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS.

Presenting a United Front to Address issues of congregational economic and social decay and degradation.

Bishop Dr. Jonathan E. Owhe
President/ CEO
New York Clergy Economic Council, Inc.
United States Elect Chamber of Commerce

PRESS RELEASE

2016 CLERGY ECONOMIC SUMMIT

ADDRESSING CONGREGATIONAL ECONOMIC INJUSTICE AND FINANCIAL INEQUALITIES

By Bishop Dr. Jonathan E. Owhe

The issue of Civil Right speaks of addressing racial divide, economic inequalities and social injustice, founded upon the constitutional belief that all men are created equal, and they have certain inalienable rights.

The position of the churches, majority of whom are economically disadvantaged and fiscally bankrupt cannot be overlook or treated with levity. THIS HAD BECOME A CIVIL RIGHT ISSUE: ADDRESSING THE ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES AND BARRIERS TO FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCES THAT CHURCHES AND THEIR CONGREGATION NEED IN OTHER TO SURVIVE THE STORM.

The frustration being faced by Bishops, Apostles, Pastors, and Ministers in our world should not be, when without doubt most communities are being salvaged, built and cared for by these same leaders. Faith leaders are agents of change addressing the spiritual, mental, economic and social injustices that our communities are facing.

Faith leaders with smaller churches (congregation of 50 to 250) are slowing dying from financial frustration because the pasture is not getting greener. Many faith leaders have mortgage their own personal houses and properties to survive the economic onslaught. Many have left ministry all together because of ministry related illnesses and family stress.

The question is- WHO IS COMING TO THE AID OF THESE CLERGY'S?

Unfortunately, faith leaders, because of their confidence in Jesus Christ, exhibit such faith and confidence, and have learned in whatever condition, to be independent of circumstances. But they are LONELY VOICES IN THE WILDERNESS. They have been fighting this economic disparities and injustice alone for too long. THE HOUR HAS COME FOR A PARADIGM SHIFT in:

---clergy ability to access resources and create sustainable wealth (enough to position them and their congregation to maintain their homes, put food on the table, have life insurance and send their children to college)

---clergy ability to create employment through negotiation with local business and establishment of social enterprises

---clergy ability to be fiscally responsible through fiscal training and discipline

---clergy ability to help maintain stability in the community through systematic affordable housing package and anti-foreclosure strategies.

---clergy ability to address and maintain the health determinates in their congregation--immigration, health, finance, etc.

THE QUESTION THAT SHOULD BE ASKED: HOW HEALTHY ARE OUR CONGREGATION?
HOW CAN THE CLERGY'S AND THEIR CHURCHES BE ON SUSTAINED GROWTH PATH, WITH FISCAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE?

The measurement of this, is what the 2012 CLERGY ECONOMIC SUMMIT at the Marriott, Down Brooklyn will answer on June 5.

We will be bringing leading experts to the table who for years have been seeking for an opportunity like this forum to share their knowledge and expertise and help the clergy and churches.

At this summit we are creating a WAVE THAT BISHOPS, PASTORS, APOSTLES AND MINISTERS WITH DYNAMIC VISIONS AND DREAMS, can surf again, lifting up their hands and giving glory to the Almighty God. Most leaders coming to this summit are like Moses, some like Miriam, others like Aaron, Deborah, Samson, David, Paul and Peter.

We want to create a movement that will BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN STRONG AND WEALTHY CHURCHES AND THE WEAK AND STRUGGLING CHURCHES.

THERE IS A COUNT DOWN, for the Church of Jesus Christ to come to that place of glory which our Lord Jesus Christ envision. The Lord is coming for a Church that is vibrant, strong, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. LET'S WORK TOGETHER IN A UNITED AND COOPERATIVE SPIRIT to craft a future for our churches and ministries.

THIS IS **THE ROAD AHEAD**

NEW PRESS RELEASE

2016 CLERGY ECONOMIC

**PRE-SUMMIT HIGHLIGHT IN SUPPORT OF A NEW MOVEMENT
TO GARNER SUPPORT THAT WILL STRENGTHEN
PASTORS AND CHURCHES AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

Contact Bishop Jonathan E. Owhe (516)330-3714

RYAN MACK'S Open Letter to the Black Church: WE NEED STEP UP

Written By Ryan Mack, President of Optimum Capital Management and Author of Living in the Village. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Expenditure Survey in the year of 2008 calculated the average annual contribution of Black households to religious organizations was \$683. With well over 9 million Black households in America, that means well over \$6 billion in 2008 was contributed to Black churches across the country. What is done with this money and are the churches doing all they can to make sure this money is fruitful?

In the year of 2008 I spoke with over 80 pastors in the NYC area to discuss how they can more effectively use their church as an empowerment vehicle these are just a few of my findings...

- Pastors who couldn't even tell you what their phone bill was for the past 3 months, let alone give a good record of the uses of the tithes and offerings they accumulate weekly.
- Churches that remain boarded up 6 days per week only to open on Sunday for a 2 hour service then close again while a perfectly good space goes unutilized by the community throughout the week.
- Pastors so concerned about not losing membership to "competitors" they refused to partner with other churches in the community on any projects.

Yes, I have A LOT of complaints about the Black church as I am sure many people do. There are a few scattered measures of success of churches that have done well in creating pockets of empowerment within their community such as Allen AME in Queens, NY; Abyssinian in Harlem, NY; Hartford Baptist Memorial in Detroit, MI; and more.

Financial stewardship is not for the benefit of oneself, but it is for the benefit of putting oneself in a stronger position which will enable one to be a stronger blessing to other people. I have compiled a list of tips for the Black church to follow.

1. Drop the flashy imagery—The material things you purchase sends a message to public whether you like it or not. Yes...you may be able to afford the nice car, but do you really need it? I believe that Jesus was rich by worldly standards of His time but he didn't live like he was rich. There is nothing wrong with a pastor getting a decent salary because the word says in 1Timothy 5:17, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine." However, that doesn't mean to take that salary and purchase the most expensive car on the lot. What if Jesus came to

heal the blind man or feed the poor driving a Bugatti? Jesus clearly understood that just because he had it didn't mean he had to flaunt it as there were better things to do with his capital. Also, there are many who feel negatively towards a pastor who seems to be flashy...why are we giving Satan more ammunition to use against the church? I am not saying you have to drive an old beat up "hoopty" but perhaps the latest and flashiest fully loaded BMW might be a bit much.

2. Lead by example to not covet possessions: And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15
3. Stay humble: "For every one who exalts himself will be humble, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 14:11
4. Partner with other churches– Churches that refuse to partner with other churches are going directly against the word of God. You mean to tell me that with four churches on the same block we can't combine them into two churches and use the other two buildings as a day care center and the other as a franchise both of which will create employment opportunities? We can't do this unless the leaders of each church drop their guard of competition and work together. One of the initiatives I was trying to push with the smaller churches was to coordinate program schedules and leverage the membership of each church to jointly market programs. Instead of 3 events by three churches held on a Saturday with a divided community, how about one event sponsored by three churches held on a Saturday with a united community and thereby more people? None of us is as strong as all of us and for churches to continue to try to build as if they are alone in the community is irresponsible and not effectively leveraging the strongest community in the community...US! No more competing against each other... we must start completing each other! You might not be a megachurch, but through effective partnerships with other churches in the community you can develop the same ability to have the impact of a megachurch.
5. Unite with other churches to maximize potential: "Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight." Romans 12:16
6. Build your network of professionals/experts and pay them– Right within your membership and/or community you have many talented professionals who are providing the services you need to purchase to make your church more efficient. The church needs help to operate and too many times we get trapped in this poverty mindset. What services have you forgone because you are too afraid the membership will be upset they don't get their after church lunch that you pay for out of pocket? Perhaps you can sell the food to the membership?
7. Use the experts in your community to have them provide free workshops for your membership. This works twofold because they get to market their product or service expertise and build their business, and you get to educate your membership. Have lawyers in the community provide legal seminars, financial planners provide financial literacy workshops, local restaurant owners provide free cooking classes, and so forth. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17
8. Seek expert advice in your community that can help your church grow – "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety." Proverbs 11:14
9. Support their business by paying for their expertise – "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until morning." Leviticus 19:13
10. Get your books in order– I understand that for many churches being granted a 501(c)3 status means they can avoid paying taxes, but if this is all this means to you I promise you there is a lot of money you are leaving on the table you could be earning. One of the reasons United Way and other larger organizations are able to get so much funding is because funders can trust them to spend their dollars responsibly. This trust comes only from sound records and financial statements. So hold up on that minor church renovation and use those funds to pay a community CPA to help you produce professionally audited

financial statements. Pass these statements out to your membership and publish records of your spending for all people to see as transparency is one of the fastest ways to get REAL funding that will last.

11. Financial statements are the key to your church raising REAL funds for your programming: “But all things should be done decently and in order.” 1Corinthians 14:40
12. Create effective programming that will keep your doors open more than one day per week— One would be hard pressed to think of a successful business model that states the business can remain viable by remaining open only one day per week. Your membership wants to be active and it is up to you to create methods of keep them active multiple days per week. Tutoring services for youth, day care services for single parents, and/or renting out the space for other businesses to conduct empowerment programming are three simple ideas OUTSIDE of the standard Bible study that all can generate income and cause the membership to view the church as a more vital resource to the community. There should be something for your membership to do in your church every day.
13. If your books are in order you should hire a grant writer to go after funding for the programs you are conducting. Most will agree that you should create a separate nonprofit entity that operates separately from your church to go after major funding outside of tithes and offerings. Hire an attorney from your church to assist in the establishment of this separate business entity.
14. Keeping your church busy during the week is vital: “Through sloth the roof sinks in, and through indolence the house leaks.” Ecclesiastes 10:18
15. Leverage the land you own – If you own your church outright you have more power than you know. This is especially where partnerships become important. I remember a conversation I had with a pastor who stated he couldn’t afford to purchase a \$2million building. He tried to raise the capital but failed. The building was purchased by an organization that is from outside of the community. I told that pastor if he has partnered with another pastor from the community who also owned his own church they could have purchased the property jointly. Now instead of the vision of a much needed community center in the community there lies a vision of a business of someone who doesn’t live in the community.
16. Land leveraged properly from the bank can do the following:
17. Build real estate projects for the community using your membership as the builders thereby creating jobs for your membership. I have helped thousands find employment by connecting them with local organizations that provide free training in the field of construction...many of which were formerly incarcerated. Your church can help those in the community who are properly trained to find jobs on the construction site you created through your development. Allen AME church in Queens, NY has done a tremendous job of this as at one point amassing over \$100million in real estate assets and were at one point the largest employer in Queen, NY!
18. Starting a franchise or multiple franchises for your community. Those who will run and operate the franchises could be from your church thereby creating jobs for your membership. Hartford Baptist Memorial in Detroit, MI has done a great job of this.
19. Building a charter school in your community which reflects the values you want to be taught to the youth in your community. Perfecting Church of Detroit, Michigan has done a great job of this through their opening of the Marvin L. Winans Academy of Perfoming Arts, which opened in 1996.
20. Building assisted living facilities, day care centers, and many other ventures are possible through the effective use of leveraging the property owned by the church. The community is waiting on your church to lead by example: “Not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.” 1Peter 5:3
21. Set up an effective investmentstrategy – It could be time to make some people mad by cutting costs. The church should have an effective money management strategy that covers three phases of expenses.
22. Zero to one years of operating expenses: Should be invested in cash and cash equivalents.

23. One to five years of operating expenses: Should be invested in a laddered fixed income strategy to outpace inflation and retain some degree of liquidity.
24. Five years plus of operating expenses: Should be invested in conservative investments that have slightly more risk but give you a slightly larger yield such as corporate bonds or large cap stocks with a dividend yield. Be careful here as you do not want to take on too much risk. The goal of your investment strategy should not be to make the church get rich, but rather to conserve its capital responsibly while earning a return that outpaces inflation and compounds.
25. If your church is large enough you might be able to hire an asset manager (\$500K to \$1 million in assets or larger before most will work with you). If your church is small hire a financial advisor from your church or community to assist you in this process. Check out my book "Living in the Village" (www.livinginthevillage.com) to learn how to select the right advisor. When all said in done the strategy you choose for your church should do the following:
 1. Conserve your principal
 2. Appreciate your capital to at least outpace inflation
 3. Minimize your risk
 4. Minimize your taxes (if you have established an external company that is not exempt from payment of taxes. Hire a corporate attorney from your church to ensure that you have set up all of your legal entities properly.)
 - Churches must be faithful with the capital entrusted to them: "If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you true riches." Luke 16:11
 - Time to get an endowment– A church endowment is a must because your church and the finances of your church should outlive you. There are many churches that have endowments so large they could operate solely from the interest earned on the endowment investments and could feasibly never take another tithe or offering yet still be operational. Hire an attorney from your church to establish and structure an endowment fully loaded with a separate board. Consider also hiring an insurance agent to discuss options of funding this endowment with various types of insurance policies (life, annuity, etc). This should be done with extreme council to ensure those who are contributing to the endowment are also being responsible and you are not simply padding the pockets of an insurance agent who is looking to make a hefty commission.
 - Your endowment board should consist of multiple people who are within the field of finance to ensure the proper management of the funds and can give an objective and unbiased perspective where there is no conflict of interest (i.e. an insurance agent, an attorney, a banker, an established entrepreneur, etc.).
 - The endowment will make sure the funds of your church outlive you: "A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous." Proverbs 13:22

In the Black community, which has been hardest hit by this economy, we are in need of TANGIBLE solutions! The Bible states, "Thus says the Lord: 'Cursed in the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord.'" (Jeremiah 17:5) It frustrates me when so many turn to the President Obama as the solution and put all their trust in him and not in Jesus Christ. As much as I am a supporter of President Obama, as much as I believe in holding him accountable, he is NOT the source of our salvation and to trust solely in him will leave us cursed!

The Bible also states, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places," (Ephesians 1:3) The Black community seems to be in a constant waiting period. We are waiting on the President to save us,

we are waiting on some inspirational speaker/leader to come to save us like the second coming of MLK...this verse says we don't have to wait anymore. It says that Jesus Christ "HAS blessed us in Christ with EVERY spiritual blessing in the heavenly places". This means it has already been done. Here we are waiting on God, but God is waiting on US. We have all that we need to create jobs, create empowerment, wealth for the community, business enterprise, and more. We just have to learn how to use the resources that God has given us effectively. There could be an enormous economic revival that comes from within the walls of the church if the church could just become more efficient in its management and operations. Every major problem of the Black community from low financial literacy rates, high unemployment, low educational quality, and massive incarceration can be fixed through the church at a much more efficient rate if they are managing their resources effectively.

Black church...WE NEED YOU!

"If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?" 1Timothy 3:1-7

NEW PRESS RELEASE

2016 CLERGY ECONOMIC

PRE-SUMMIT HIGHLIGHT IN SUPPORT OF A NEW MOVEMENT TO GARNER SUPPORT THAT WILL STRENGTHEN PASTORS AND CHURCHES AND FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Contact: Bishop Jonathan E. Owhe (516)330-3714
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What Role Does Churches & Faith-Based Play in Community Economic Development?

Produced by:

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Public and Community Affairs Department

The desire to improve the economic prospects of a given community is something city, state or federal shares with faith-based Community Economic Development (CED). A principal difference between CED and faith-based CED is that a faith-based congregation often plays the role of primary coordinator and organizer of the efforts to enhance the economic prospects of a given community. In essence, the faith-based congregation plays a role similar to that typically played by a state or municipal government.

When Reverend Floyd Flake became pastor of Allen African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Queens, New York, in 1976, the neighborhood surrounding the church was dotted with empty storefronts and other signs of a dying local economy. A number of the buildings in the community were poorly maintained. The streets were littered with broken glass and trash. Flake recalls, “We realized we were sitting in the middle of an area that was deteriorating, and the only way to protect our investment was to begin buying other properties.”⁶ Flake’s first effort at faith-based CED was the building of a 400-unit apartment complex for senior citizens, financed in part by a \$10.7 million grant from HUD.⁷ Building on that first step, Allen A.M.E. has developed eleven nonprofit entities and several for-profit businesses to serve the needs of its community.

A partial list of these entities follows:

- ❖ The Allen Home Care Agency, LTD—provider of skilled nursing and personal care services;
- ❖ The Allen Housing & Development Fund Corp.—property manager: manages and maintains 300 units;
- ❖ Allen A.M.E. Senior Transportation—provider of transportation to elders;
- ❖ Allen Federal Credit Union—provider of banking services;
- ❖ Allen A.M.E. Hall Estates—developer of 50 new affordable two-family homes;
- ❖ The Allen Transportation Corporation—for-profit charter bus company.

First among these is the Allen Neighborhood Preservation Corporation (the Preservation Corporation). Created in 1978, the Preservation Corporation “has engaged in rehabilitating vacant houses, assisted owners in upgrading and remodeling their homes, acquired property for new housing development, and managed the 30,000-square-foot Multi-Service Center constructed by the City of New York.”⁸

In addition to renovating existing homes, the Preservation Corporation has sponsored the development of more than 170 units of new affordable housing. These units are not clustered around the Church. “This is scattersite housing that has helped to renew and stabilize neighborhoods.”⁹ A substantial number of these units were purchased by individuals unaffiliated with Allen A.M.E. Church. A number of the organizations are housed in the South Jamaica Multi-Service Center. Among other things, prenatal and postnatal care is available at the Center. It also houses a number of other state and federally funded social services programs.

In addition to providing affordable housing and various social services, the Church “became a builder of businesses, buying and rehabilitating more than 15 boarded-up storefronts in its Queens, NY, community. Today, these storefronts house a travel agency, medical and legal professional offices, a barber shop, a restaurant, a home-care agency and a preschool.” Over the course of the last twenty years, the Church has been instrumental in revitalizing its community. No longer are the streets littered with glass. Instead, they shine with pride. The major boulevard near the Church is populated with a number of successful ventures, some owned in whole or in part by the Church, others owned by local business people. Allen’s commitment to the revitalization of its community has paid handsome dividends for both the community and the Church. The Church’s membership has grown from 1,200 in 1976 to over 10,000 members in 1998.

When a faith-based congregation uses its resources and reputation to engage in CED activities as an element of its sacred mission, that is ‘faithbased CED.’ In other words, faith-based CED occurs when community economic development becomes an integral part of the ministry of a faithbased congregation. Pastor Flake notes, “Church-sponsored, nonprofit community corporations do not preach the gospel, they bring life to it every day of the week.”

NEW YORK CITY CLERGY'S ECONOMIC SUMMIT

June 7, 2016. at 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

THE NEED FOR THE SUMMIT

CLERGY IN NEW YORK are concerned about:

CONGREGATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT, 65% parishioners(great voting bloc) are unemployed;

CONGREGATIONAL IMMIGRATION UPSET, almost 90% of parishioners in most African and Hispanic congregation, are immigrant or foreign born and are being marginalized;

CONGREGATIONAL FORECLOSURES, about 65 of 100 foreclosures that occurs (city wide) are among people of faith;

CONGREGATIONAL FRUSTRATION IN PROJECT FINANCE, almost 90% of minority owned churches cannot get finance for projects;

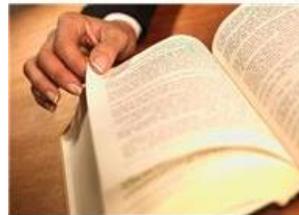
CONGREGATIONAL FRUSTRATION IN FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY, the clergy are being stereotyped as fiscally irresponsible;

BACKGROUND

FOR LONG, IT SEEMS, BISHOPS, PASTORS AND MINISTERS ARE WINNING ON THE SPIRITUAL FRONT, BUT IT SEEMS THEY ARE LOOSING ON THE FINANCIAL FRONT.

WHAT ADVANTAGE DO WE HAVE WHEN WE HAVE TREASURES IN HEAVEN AND ARE BEGGARS ON EARTH?

THE WISDOM OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC POWER, FINANCIAL SUCCESS AND VISION ACCOMPLISHMENT BELONGS TO GOD; WITHOUT A VIBRANT AND STRONG CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR PEOPLE WILL REMAIN IMPOVERISHED, PASTORS WILL CONSTANTLY HAVE STRUGGLING MINISTRIES, UNABLE TO PAY THEIR BILLS, BE IN DEBT AND FORECLOSED ON. THIS SUMMIT IS A HANDS-ON WORKING FORUM TO HELP NAVIGATE BISHOPS, PASTORS AND MINISTERS ON HOW TO TAP INTO THE WORLD OF FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROJECTS THROUGH SYSTEMATIC PROJECT PLAN AND DESIGN, IDENTIFY RESOURCES THAT WILL ENABLE THEM SUSTAIN THEIR CONGREGATION AND MINISTRY, ACQUIRE THE KNOWLEDGE FOR DAILY PROJECT DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION.



This will address

**Congregational Unemployment; Increasing Church Plate Income
Church Project Financing; Fiscal Responsibilities**

Predatory Lending & Foreclosure; Immigration Reform; Health Reform

EXPECTED PRESENTERS

SECRETARY, OFFICE OF FAITH BASE, US DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICE
COMPTROLLER, NYC DEPT OF FINANCE; BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT
BANKING & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS; NYS COMMISSIONER FOR HOUSING

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