



*A Non-Governmental Organization
with United Nations ECOSOC
Consultative Status*

***With Education, Advocacy
and Activism, We Interrupt Injustice!***

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW AND IMPACT REPORT

FUELING THE FUTURE OF BLACK LIVES

"But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

Amos 5:24 (CEB)

Speaking Truth to Power costs!!

**We ARE an IBI - Independent Black Institution, and
we need your investment to remain Independent!!**

Join our "Fifteen4TheFuture" Campaign!

It's the Faith "Invest"ation!

Your Story is Our Story... Support the Proctor Network!

With Vision... By Faith... Through Action



The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc. (SDPC), “Proctor” for short, engages the global epicenters of economic equity, human rights policies, and communal experiences. Through education, advocacy, and activism, we interrupt injustice. In our quest of futuring Black lives, we create sustainable infrastructures for people of African descent.

SDPC’s mission is to nurture, sustain, and mobilize the African American faith community in collaboration with civic, corporate, theological institutions, and philanthropic leaders, to address critical needs of human rights and social justice in local, national, and global communities.

From Truth Telling Commissions, the Annual Clergy & Lay Leadership Conference, Critical Conversation webinars, global voyages, and more, SDPC has engaged in the education and advocacy for crucial human rights issues at the forefront of global concerns. Critical to our work is engaging clergy, faith and thought leaders, seminarians, community and grass-roots activists, and next generation leaders to penetrate America’s culture of violence, through the work of truth telling, rooted in a communal ethos of hope and love.

We aim to create equitable and sustainable futures for people of African descent. This is accomplished through the work of the Office of Clergy Resource and Leadership Development, through the establishment of clergy and lay leader cohorts known as Called and Black (Congregations), Micah, and Thriving in Ministry. SDPC also accomplishes this through collaboration with Reparatory Justice partners and immersive global encounters through the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the now **Permanent** Forum for People of African Descent (PFPOAD). In collaboration with Operation PUSH and McCormick Theological Seminary’s CJRTR, we also accomplished a truth telling commission in Chicago, IL, following the Dept. of Homeland Security’s “Operation Midway Blitz” that unleashed violent, undisciplined mercenaries into Chicago/Chicagoland communities.

Embarking upon our 23rd year of mission and ministry, SDPC, is poised to strengthen our intergenerational ministry to meet the future as sub-Saharan Africa is predicted to be a major global hub in the 22nd Century.

The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, The Social Justice Network, is a 501c3, 501c9 and a United Nations Non-Governmental Organization representing a global network of over 10,000 faith-based leaders and organizations, primarily in the African American community.



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General Secretary/Chief Executive Officer



Felicia L. Gates

Chief Financial Officer



Iva E. Carruthers, MTS, PhD

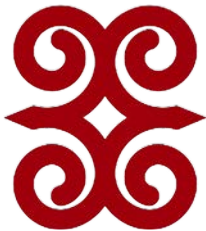
General Secretary Emerita & Co-Founder

PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS



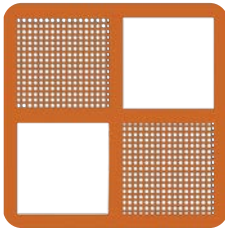
SDPC focuses on Black faith communities and organizational leadership through three key avenues to confront systems of injustice - Education, Advocacy, and Activism.

SDPC serves to cultivate a connected global consciousness for justice uniquely offering our constituents opportunities to cultivate community-centered and transgenerational theological frameworks for justice through praxis and immersion experiences.



Education

Through our monthly Critical Conversations, we directly address and confront transgenerational trauma and community experiences (i.e., education, health, and wealth) of Black Americans and the African Diaspora. We also host truth commissions, an annual leadership convening, and local events to share information and best practices.



Advocacy

We investigate strategies, methods and strategic partners to increase various forms of wealth creation, reparatory justice, and just policies for African Americans and people of African descent.



Activism

Promoting the need for access to basic human rights and quality of life, including broadband; clean air, energy and water; access to affordable health care and inclusion in medical trials to address unique health differences in non European-descendant populations, especially African-descendant populations.

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PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT

An intimate look at SDPC's 2025 accomplishments

United Nations Consultative Status

SDPC has obtained NGO (non-governmental organization) UN Consultative Status with ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) accreditation. This affords SDPC the opportunity to engage in meetings, various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, ad-hoc processes on small arms, and special events organized by the President of the General Assembly.

ECOSOC – The UN Economic and Social Council – one of six main UN organizations responsible for coordinating economic, social and environmental work marked its 80th Anniversary on January 23, 2026. Established in 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations, ECOSOC held its first meeting in 1946. Its mandate – to coordinate the economic, social, and cultural activities of the United Nations and promote international cooperation and development – has placed it at the heart of advancing the principles of the UN Charter. Multilateralism, inclusivity, and global solidarity have been central to ECOSOC's mission from the outset.

For eight decades, ECOSOC has provided a unique platform where Member States, the UN system, civil society, and other stakeholders come together to address the world's most pressing challenges. From post-war recovery and decolonization to climate change, inequality, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ECOSOC has helped guide international responses and foster collective action for a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world.

Because of our ECOSOC designation, we are able to convene special sessions and report to the Special Rapporteur. We are especially active with:

1. UN Permanent Forum for People of African Descent (PFPOAD)
2. UN Commission on the Status of Women

As an NGO that is accredited and in good standing with the UN each year, we bring a delegation to attend each global gathering. In addition, we have an opportunity to apply to speak from the floor during the general discussion and to make oral interventions during the interactive dialogues.

Global Vision

SDPC continued its engagement with the UN, attending the April convening of the Fourth Session of the UN Permanent Forum for People of African Descent (PFPOAD). SDPC led a delegation, including Dr. Carruthers, who reported to the assembly on AI and digital equity; Ben Chavis of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Rev. Mark Thompson of Make It Plain. Also in attendance was Evanston's Robin Rue Simmons of First Repair, representing the first successful reparations framework in a U.S. city. SDPC participated in the First Repair Stakeholders Authority Forum, discussing next steps in Evanston's landmark reparations initiative, and also regularly participates in the biennial Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race, held around the globe.



PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT



Futuring Black Lives

SDPC attended the final Garnett-Nabrit Lecture at American Baptist College, honoring SDPC board member, Rev. Dr. Forrest E. Harris, Sr. who retired after 25 years of service – the longest serving president of a historically black college or university at the time of his retirement. Additionally, we were pleased to partner with Washington Interfaith Staff Community (WISC), Sojourners and 25 other co-sponsors for *Faithful Witness Wednesdays*. Vigils were held live in Washington, DC to call on Congress to exercise greater moral courage in upholding Article I powers and preventing executive overreach. In light of reductions in funding to FEMA, we partnered with the African American Traumatology & Emergency Preparedness Society (AATEPS) in a *Trauma and Emergency Prep* training at Malcolm X College in Chicago. Rev. Durr represented SDPC at an advocacy training celebrating Bread for the World's 50th anniversary where Dr. Carruthers was honored as a former Chair and board member. Both Dr. Carruthers & Rev. Durr attended the *Alabama Freedom Together Fund* gathering in Montgomery, AL. Rev. Durr attended the Children's Defense Fund's youth policy forum in Washington, DC as well as the 70th Commemoration of the Montgomery, AL, bus boycott, hosted by the Southern Youth Leadership Development Institute, an organization led by our 2020 Beautiful Are The Feet Honoree, Mrs. Doris Crenshaw. Rev. Durr also celebrated the 30th Anniversary of Great Cities Institute of the University of Illinois at Chicago - College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.



Truth Telling: America's Culture of Violence

SDPC will continue to uphold our commitment to Truth Telling. Through a partnership with the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and The Center for Reparatory Justice, Transformation and Remediation (CRJTR) at McCormick Theological Seminary, following Rainbow PUSH's Saturday Forum in October 2025, we recorded the testimonies of those impacted by a recent military-like tactical raid on an apartment building on Chicago's South Shore neighborhood by the current administration's Operation Midway Blitz. Targeting alleged illegal immigrants, and Venezuelan drug dealers, this raid took place late night, handcuffing tenants and children, separating them from their parents. These testimonies fueled a deeper engagement, and with an additional partner, Nehemiah Rising, the HART Truth Telling Commission was held in January 2026. SDPC, along with the Center for Reparatory Justice, Transformation and Remediation, curated a faith-based Tool Kit, complete with analyses and resources to assist congregations and communities prepare themselves for future actions as well as any redress available. This educational resource will ignite a faithful communal vision of protection and care to inspire actions of change.



PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT



Critical Conversations

Critical Conversations, hosted by the Office of Clergy Resource and Leadership Development (OCRLED), are insightful discussions that educate, empower, and inspire! These dialogues concentrate on critical issues and concerns of clergy, their communities, and beyond, focusing on those matters that impact us most in their breadth, scope, and relevance.

The 2025 season of Critical Conversations saw us taking on a myriad of subjects addressing the effects of the post-2024 elections, namely the aftermath of Project 2025, Project Esther, emergency preparedness, as well as acknowledging the toll this season has had on us all, mentally and spiritually.

2025 season also saw our first in-person Critical Conversation, “Are You Truly Prepared for an Emergency?” held in August, at one of our partner churches, South Shore UMC. We also held an important conversation on the Black Church and the world of artificial intelligence and further reinvigorated our audience by examining our resilience and the power of hope.



EXPERIENCES



Expanding Local Partnerships

One aspect of futuring Black lives involved “adopting” neighboring Irvin C. Mollison School. Named after the 1st African-American jurist appointed to the federal bench by late President Harry S. Truman in 1948. Mollison, a K-8 school is an International Baccalaureate school, offering instruction in both English and Spanish. It hosts a full day preschool program and a full range of afterschool activities. We also deepened our relationship with the Bronzeville Historical Society.

Furthering our engagement reach, we gathered with local clergy in Chicago to initiate collaboration on issues affecting their neighboring congregational communities and extended an invitation to our 2026 convening.



Summer 2025: TRRR/Panafest

Sensing the current global climate, General Secretary Emerita, Dr. Iva Carruthers hosted a study immersion trip to South Africa, in collaboration with the biennial convening of the Transatlantic Rountable on Religion & Race (TRRR). The immersion trip focused on historical evidences of global fascism, racism and Christian nationalism targeted towards People of African Descent. Seminary credit and Continuing Education Units were available for this indepth spiritual and learning experience. In addition, Dr. Carruthers was honored by TRRR for her years of collaborative work with TRRR.

July was also a time of honor and celebration. A delegation traveled to Ghana, West Africa to witness the enstoolment of General Secretary Emerita Dr. Carruthers as Queen Mother Nana Aba Bentuma I, Developmental Queen of Cape Coast, West Africa. Our partnership with The God Box Foundation keeps us connected to West Africa in an effort to reconnect with the Continent.





EXPERIENCES

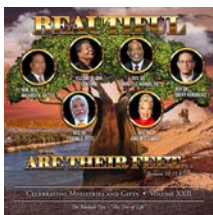
2025 Annual Clergy & Lay Leadership Conference

SDPC traveled to the historic Little Rock, Arkansas, for its annual convening at the Statehouse Convention Center, February 17-20, 2025. Attendees included faith and thought leaders, grassroots organizers, and seminarians (representing over 30 institutions). Overall, a total of 512 individuals attended the 2026 conference, including 137 seminarians.

General Secretary's Luncheon

The General Secretary's Luncheon has evolved from a special plenary convening to share the report of the year's ministry with a focus on a particular prescient issue. It also includes the presentation of the Ella Jo Baker Human Rights awards (recognizing individuals who embody the grassroots leadership, courage, service, and transformational impact exemplified by Ella Baker). This elevated the Luncheon to a celebratory moment of recognition and movement memory. The 2025 Ella Baker Human Rights Award recipient was Hon. Cori Bush.

Beautiful Are The Feet Honoree Event



The Beautiful Are The Feet Award is a lifetime achievement award honoring a select group of distinguished leaders whose lives and work embody the spirit of Romans 10:15 – bringing good news, peace, and hope to the world. The award uplifts the accomplishments of clergy, scholars, activists, and community builders who have made a transformative impact through their service and vision.

Esteemed 2025 Beautiful Are The Feet Honorees were Ambassador Michael Battle, Mrs. Elizabeth Eckford, Rev. Dr. Forrest E. Harris, Sr., Rev. Dr. Obery Hendricks, Rev. Dr. Tyrone Pitts, and Rev. Dr. Gina M. Stewart.





Thank you to our 2025 sponsors!

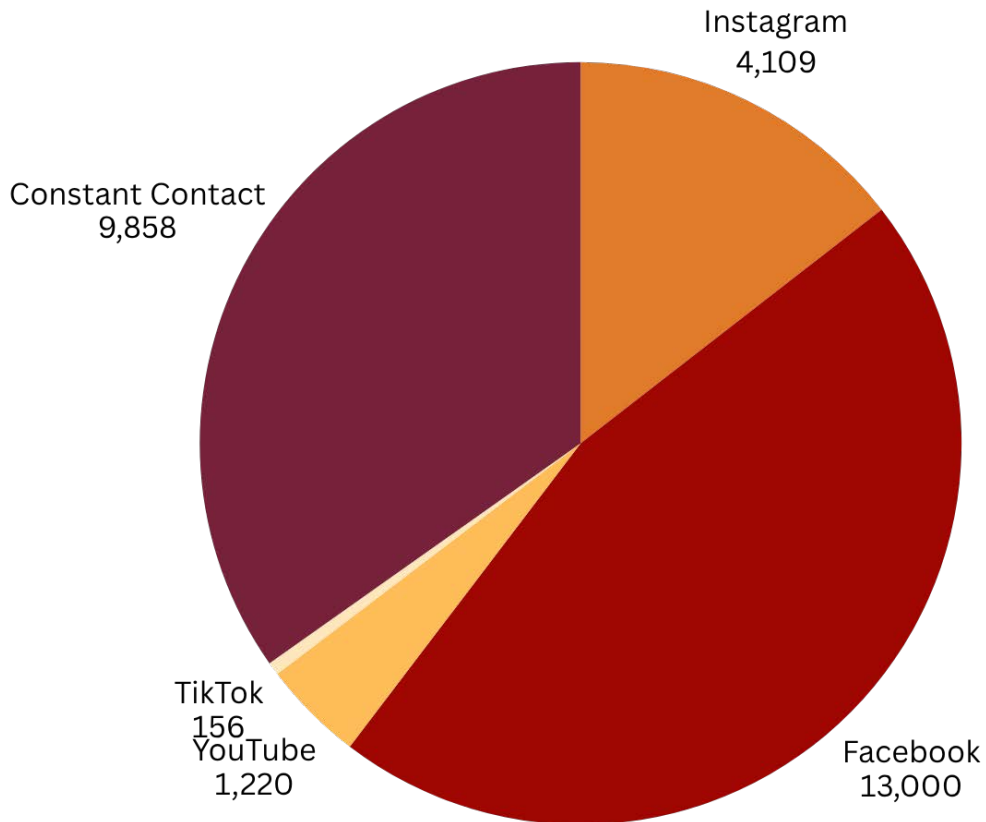
1. AFSCME
2. American Baptist Home Missions Societies (ABHMS)
3. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFCME)
4. American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO (AFT)
5. BJC Center for Faith, Justice and Reconciliation
6. Center for Responsible Lending
7. Children's Defense Fund
8. Door Dash
9. Everytown for Gun Safety
10. Kettering Foundation
11. McCormick Theological Seminary
12. Methodist Theological School of Ohio (MTSO)
13. Movement 4 Black Lives
14. Presbyterian Church USA Interim Unifying Agency (PCUSA)
15. SMU - Perkins School of Theology
16. Trinity United Church of Christ
17. Union Theological Seminary
18. United Church of Christ Building & Loan Fund
19. United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW)
20. Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

2025 PARTICIPATING SEMINARY INSTITUTIONS

1. Brite Divinity School-TCU
2. Candler School of Theology
3. Duke Divinity School
4. Eden Theological Seminary
5. Howard University School of Divinity
6. Iliff School of Theology
7. Lancaster Theological Seminary
8. Lutheran School of Theology
9. Meadville School of Theology
10. Mercer-McAfee School of Theology
11. Methodist Theology School of Ohio
12. New Brunswick Theological Seminary
13. Oblate School of Theology
14. Pittsburgh School of Theology
15. Princeton Theological School
16. Seminary of the Southwest
17. Union Theological Seminary
18. Vanderbilt Divinity School
19. Wayland Baptist Theological Seminary
20. Yale Divinity School

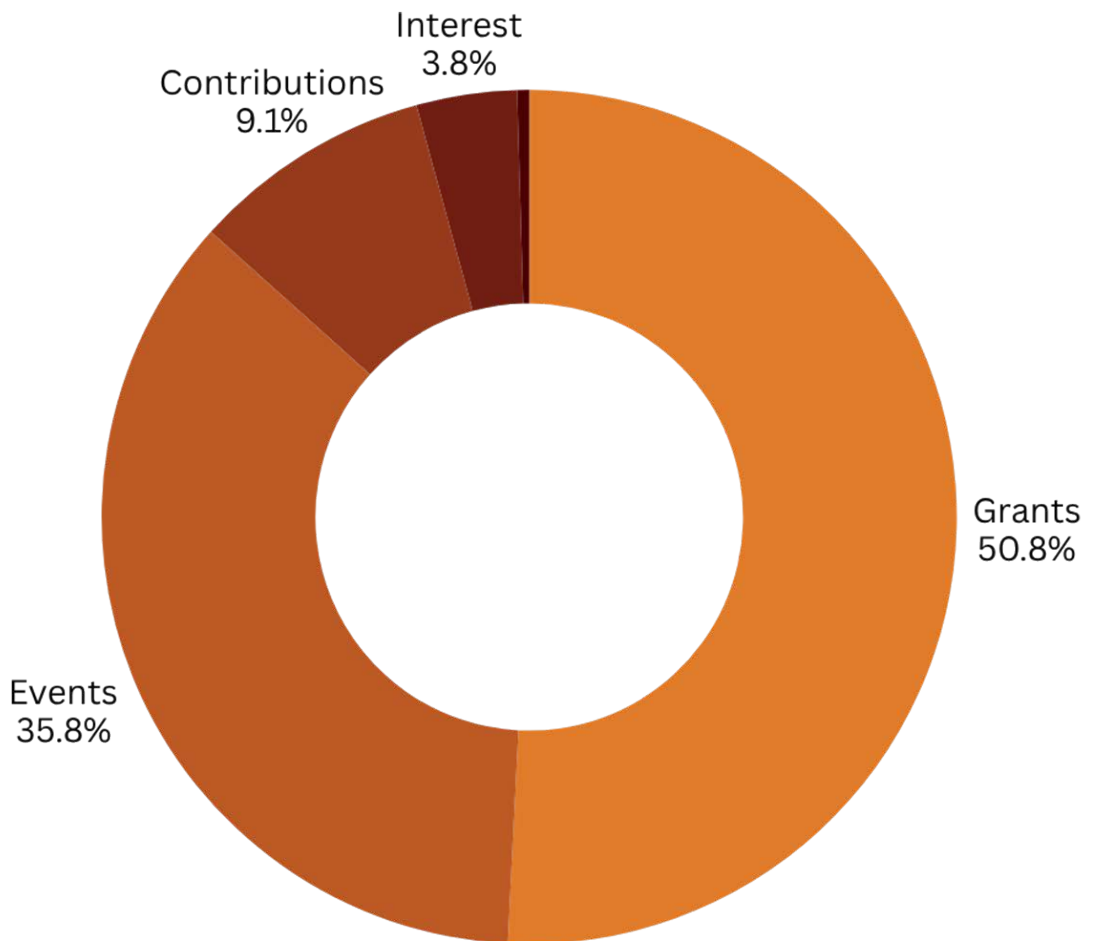
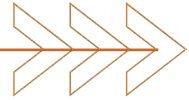


2025 DIGITAL FOOTPRINT



**28,343 Digital Followers
and growing!**

2025 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



Total Revenue: \$1.26 million



NEXT STEPS

Through Education, Advocacy and Activism, We Interrupt Injustice!

New and continued partnerships are essential to the life of SDPC. We are grateful for our partnerships with Evanston's First Repair and the Northshore NAACP, Rainbow PUSH Coalition, McCormick Theological Seminary, Southern Youth Leadership Development Institute (Montgomery, AL), and others. Further, we are grateful for continued global relationships with the National Council of Churches, World Council of Churches, The God Box Foundation, and Professor Emeritus Dr. Allan Boesak, University of Pretoria (South Africa)/SDPC Theologian in Residence. As we celebrate these relationships, we are grateful for continued partnership with American unions inclusive of AFSCME, UFCW, AFT, and AFL-CIO.

- **Infrastructure & Capacity Building**

2025, and continuing into 2026, we began the process of building the next level of organizational capacity with a series of developmental in-service meetings with staff and Board members to anchor our viability in this dynamic period.

- **Focused Strategic Position**

SDPC is well positioned to build capacity to offer opportunities for praxis spaces, immersion experiences, fellowships, and global peer-to-peer engagement.

- **Strengthening & Growing Partnerships**

We continue to build partnerships that help us build a foundation in which the future of Black life – here and abroad – will be centered, protected, and enhanced through engaging and equipping this emerging generation of faith leaders.

Our mission is to educate, advocate, and activate!

And, through Education, Advocacy, and Activism, we interrupt Injustice!

Help us sustain the quality programming you've come to expect from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc. by partnering and committing to our **FIFTEEN4TheFuture!** campaign, with a monthly 'investment' of \$15.00/month ...just .50¢ a day!... as we continue to move towards a 22nd Century vision of faith and futuring Black lives.



Fifteen4TheFuture!

Ways to Give:

Visit: <https://bit.ly/Fifteen4TheFuture>

...OR

CashApp: 

ZELLE 

Givelify 





Project 2025 Toolkit



Emergency Preparedness Toolkit:
“Therefore Keep Watch”



REV. DR. SAMUEL DEWITT PROCTOR



1921-1997

The late Rev. Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor was Pastor Emeritus of the Abyssinian Baptist Church of New York City and Professor Emeritus at Rutgers University. Dr. Proctor also served as President of Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA and North Carolina A&T State University. He held administrative positions with the Peace Corps in Nigeria and Washington, DC and the National Council of Churches. He was Pastor-in-Residence for the Institute for Child Advocacy at Children's Defense Fund/Haley Farm. He was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from more than 50 colleges and universities. Dr. Proctor was a prolific writer and preacher, authoring *We Have This Ministry*, *How Shall They Hear*, and *Sermons from the Black Pulpit*, among many other books and articles.

SAMUEL DEWITT PROCTOR CONFERENCE, INC.

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