



NEWS RELEASE

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SBC21 and National Network for Young Adults ANNOUNCE TRANSFORMATION VIRTUAL TOUR

NASHVILLE, August 28, 2020 /SBC21/ – World Renown Motivational Speaker, Author and Transformation Guru Eric Thomas, PhD will keynote the Annual National Network of Young Adults Leading in Transformation (LIT) conference starting September 10th. The Strengthening Black Church for the 21st Century(SBC21) has reimagined one of the denominations most impactful young adult gatherings and will present ***The Transformation Virtual College Tour***, offering 5 stops along the way, September 10, 11, 17, 24 and 25th.

Organizers say ***The Transformation Virtual College Tour*** is an idea and concept that will reach young adults beyond the college campus, engaging every jurisdiction. Dr. Michael L. Bowie, Jr. National Executive Director for Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century says, “Like most gatherings in 2020, we are being creative, innovative and out of the box! “This virtual experience will hold true to its purpose – to inspire, teach and create an atmosphere for young adults to discern their call and to equip them for leadership, said Dr. Bowie. “What I am most excited about is our goal for this content and inspiration to reach young adult clergy, leaders and lay from across the connection,” he said.

Nathalie Nelson Parker, NNYA Program Coordinator says young adults can expect the presence of more than 100 leaders each stop, endless networking, community building. A recipe for a LIT Experience, she explained. “In light of recent deaths and the vitriolic speech surrounding racial equity, we are committed more than ever to engage young adults and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of this world.”

The LIT events have been known to attract leaders who connect with the church and culture in creative ways. “Dr. Thomas works with leading organizations like Nike, NFL, and schools and colleges across the country and I believe is the empowering leader we need to make a deposit into the next generation of UMC young adults, said Nelson Parker. “This is the time for creativity; this is the time for leaders to be more creative than we ever been before; this is the time for the church to be the church, and this is the time for a change,” explained Dr. Thomas.

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VIP registration for SBC21 Partners for a limited time is just \$35 to attend all virtual stops. **Register today at thelitconference.com**. For more information about virtual vending, recruiting, or sponsorship opportunities, contact Nathalie Nelson Parker at nnya@sbc21.org.

ABOUT NNYA

The National Network of Young Adults is a program of Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. Its' mission is to recruit, train, and resource African American and racially diverse young adults (ages 18-35) as they hear, discern, and respond to God's call upon their lives. By connecting young adults to a greater network of other transformational young leaders, campus ministers, mentors, and partners, we build an ecosystem of support to serve within and beyond the UMC.

ABOUT SBC21

Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century is a National Racial Ethnic Plan of the United Methodist Church. We are dedicated to helping predominately black congregations become effective and fruitful in mission and ministry. This is done by offering specific services to collaborating churches based on needs identified by Annual Conference Bishops, Cabinets, local congregations, clergy, and laity.

Our SBC21 partner churches receive relevant tools, coaching, training, strategic planning, hope, inspiration, and encouragement to go forward with fresh vision. Our core programs are the National Network for Young Adults, National Prison and Social Justice Ministry and the Collaborative Coaching and Training Network.