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National Summit on Mass Incarceration and Social Justice Heads to Atlanta

2026 #BeTheHOPE Summit Calls Faith Leaders and Justice Advocates to Move from Awareness to Action

ATLANTA, GA — As mass incarceration continues to impact individuals, children, families and communities across the nation, faith leaders, justice advocates, directly impacted individuals and community leaders will gather in Atlanta for the **2026 National Summit on Mass Incarceration and Social Justice, October 29–31, 2026**, with a special **Pre-Summit Intensive on 6pm Wednesday, October 28**.

Presented by **Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (SBC21)**, the national faith-based gathering will convene leaders from across the country to share practical strategies, proven models and collaborative solutions for addressing mass incarceration, reentry and systemic injustice.

“The impact of mass incarceration on people and communities is massive, and we must find solutions that are not centered solely around punishment, but restorative justice,” said **Dr. Michael L. Bowie, Jr. Summit Convener and National Executive Director of SBC21**. “There is a better way than continuing to lead the world in incarcerating our citizens. And as immigrant detention and incarceration rise, we cannot ignore the devastating impact on children, families and communities. **We must find a better way.**”

Learn. Collaborate. Experience. Activate.

More than a conference, the Summit is designed as a movement from **learning to action**. Participants will learn through national teaching sessions, collaborate with multifaith and ecumenical leaders, experience innovative justice work firsthand through an **Atlanta Immersion Experience**, and activate their learning through hands-on **Activation Labs** that help turn ideas into actionable strategies for their communities.

2026 Summit Features

- **Atlanta Immersion Experience**
- **Beyond Survival Documentary & Conversation**
- **Interactive Activation Labs**
- **SBC21 IMPACT Awards**
- **National Networking & Collaboration**
- **Multifaith & Ecumenical Engagement**
- **Powerful Worship & Inspiration**

The 2026 Summit will be held at Ben Hill United Methodist Church in Atlanta and will bring together **SBC21, United Women in Faith, the Multifaith Initiative to End Mass Incarceration, Women on the Rise, the North Georgia Conference of the UMC, Ben Hill United Methodist Church**, and other national and local partners committed to advancing justice, restoration and community transformation.

Since 2015, the National Summit has equipped pastors, clergy, prison ministry leaders, directly impacted individuals, advocates and community leaders with tools and strategies to strengthen ministries and advance lasting systemic reform.

Registration Now Open: Early Bird Registration: \$109

Pre-Summit Intensive: 5:30 pm Wednesday, October 28, 2026

National Summit: October 29–31, 2026

About the National Summit on Mass Incarceration and Social Justice

Presented by Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, the National Summit on Mass Incarceration and Social Justice is a national faith-based teaching and activation gathering that equips faith and community leaders with practical strategies, relationships and resources to address mass incarceration and advance restorative and systemic change.

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