



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SBC21 Announces Renewing Our Faith Summit to Equip Churches and Ministry Leaders for Vibrant, Faith-Filled Ministry

One-day Birmingham gathering will bring clergy, laity and ministry leaders together for practical strategies, meaningful conversation and renewed spiritual commitment

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (SBC21), in partnership with the Department of Multiethnic Ministries of the North Alabama Conference of The United Methodist Church, will host the **Renewing Our Faith Summit** on **Saturday, November 14, 2026**, at **St. Paul United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama**.

Designed for clergy, ministry leaders and church members, the one-day summit will create space for participants to renew their faith, strengthen their leadership and explore practical strategies for cultivating vibrant, healthy faith communities.

The Renewing Our Faith Summit will feature **Olu Brown** as keynote speaker, with workshops led by **Dr. Kylan Pew of Gammon Theological Seminary** and **Candi C. Cylar**. The gathering will be convened by **Dr. Michael L. Bowie**, National Director of Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century.

Workshops will include **“Moving from Noise to Calling,”** led by Dr. Kylan Pew, and **“Reclaiming Rest as a Discipline of Hearing (Clergy Inspired),”** led by Candi C. Cylar.

“Moving from Noise to Calling” will invite participants to consider the many voices and distractions competing for their attention. The workshop will create space to reflect on purpose, calling and how we listen for God's direction in the midst of the noise.

Designed especially for clergy, **“Reclaiming Rest as a Discipline of Hearing (Clergy Inspired)”** will explore rest as more than recovery from the demands of ministry. Participants will consider how intentional rest can become a spiritual discipline that creates space to listen, discern and lead from a healthier place.



As churches navigate changing communities, evolving ministry needs and the challenges facing today's faith leaders, the summit will encourage participants to consider what it means to remain deeply rooted in faith while embracing new possibilities for ministry, leadership and community impact.

Participants can expect a day of **fresh insights, practical tools, meaningful conversations and opportunities for connection** with others committed to strengthening the church. Lunch will also be provided for attendees.

A Gathering Focused on Renewal and Action

The Renewing Our Faith Summit reflects SBC21's ongoing commitment to helping congregations **repurpose, reimagine and revitalize** their ministries for greater vitality and impact.

Rather than focusing solely on the challenges confronting today's church, the gathering will invite participants to look forward. Participants will strengthen their spiritual commitment while identifying practical ways to lead, serve and engage their communities with renewed purpose.

Through keynote teaching, workshops and shared learning, attendees will leave equipped with ideas and resources they can take back to their congregations and put into practice.

Event Details

WHAT: SBC21 Renewing Our Faith Summit

WHEN: Saturday, November 14, 2026

WHERE: St. Paul United Methodist Church, Birmingham, Alabama

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Olu Brown

WORKSHOP LEADERS: Dr. Kylan Pew and Candi C. Cylar

WORKSHOPS: *Moving from Noise to Calling* and *Reclaiming Rest as a Discipline of Hearing* (Clergy Inspired)

CONVENER: Dr. Michael L. Bowie, National Director, SBC21

Space is limited, and advance registration is encouraged.

Registration and additional information:

<https://na.eventscloud.com/website/98140/>



About Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century

Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (SBC21) is a collaborative ministry committed to strengthening predominantly Black congregations within The United Methodist Church. Through leadership development, training, resources, strategic partnerships and opportunities for connection, SBC21 equips churches and leaders to strengthen ministry, expand their impact and cultivate vital congregations prepared to serve their communities in the 21st century.

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