

Diversity and Inclusion in Our Churches

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The historical and contemporary witness of Black church leadership within the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, the Southwest, and Hawaii (ABCOFLASH) stands as a cornerstone of civil rights, prophetic justice, and spiritual resilience in Southern California. Navigating the unique intersection of historical Black Baptist identity and the regional ABCUSA structure requires strategic leveraging of pastoral authority, communal autonomy, and cultural heritage. This specific framework addresses the distinct challenges and opportunities faced by Black pastors, executives, and lay leaders as they navigate institutional dynamics, advocate for equitable resource distribution, and pioneer multicultural kingdoms.

This tailored seminar seeks to equip Black leaders in Southern California with the strategic insights and historical-theological tools necessary to maximize their impact within regional structures while fortifying their local ministries. Grounded in the Black prophetic tradition and the historic ABCUSA policy statements on racial justice, participants will explore how to navigate autonomous governance, address structural blind spots within broader association boards, and forge equitable cross-cultural alliances across Southern California's complex urban and suburban mission fields.