



## Preservation of African American Cemeteries

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March 1, 2011

To The Pastor and Congregation:

For hundreds of years, the Black Church has been the voice of the Black Community, whether living or dead. So many of our local churches raised and buried our families and have left a tremendous impact on many generations.

Yearly, PAAC, Inc. host an annual Memorial in May Cemetery Preservation Conference. Archeologists, historians, genealogists, cemetery preservationists, church secretaries, funeral home directors, cemetery associations and those interested in learning the proper techniques in documenting, preserving, restoring, protecting and properly maintaining African American cemeteries and gravesites will gather for a two day workshop.

We are asking for your participation in sponsorship for the 2011 conference because the key to unlocking the past lies within our churches; what one might call, the original record keepers of those that lived and died in the Black community.

With the passing away of our elders, the moving away of the church and the community from the original homestead, many of our once thriving cemeteries have fallen to neglect and abandonment. Leaving many in our churches today with the question, what do we do with the cemetery and where can we receive help?

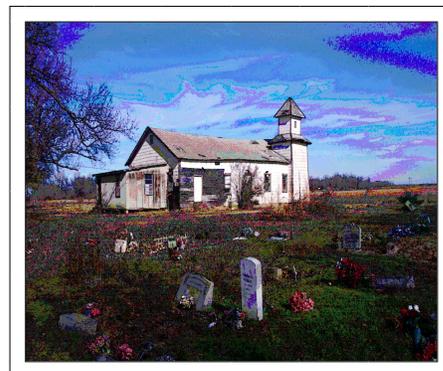
PAAC, (Preservation of African American Cemeteries) can answer those questions for you. We invite you to attend our two-day cemetery preservation conference and learn various methods of documenting and preserving cemeteries, particularly those that have fallen to less than adequate conditions.

Enclosed you will find the conference agenda and application. If you have any questions or would like to participate on the "Who's Answering the Call?" panel, please contact me at 501- 425-5578.

Sincerely,

*Tamela*

Tamela Tenpenny-Lewis  
PAAC President



*The Preservation of African American Cemeteries, Inc., was founded in 2003. The goal of PAAC is to form a network of persons and/or groups committed to locating, researching, educating, documenting, reclaiming and preserving African American Cemeteries.*

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