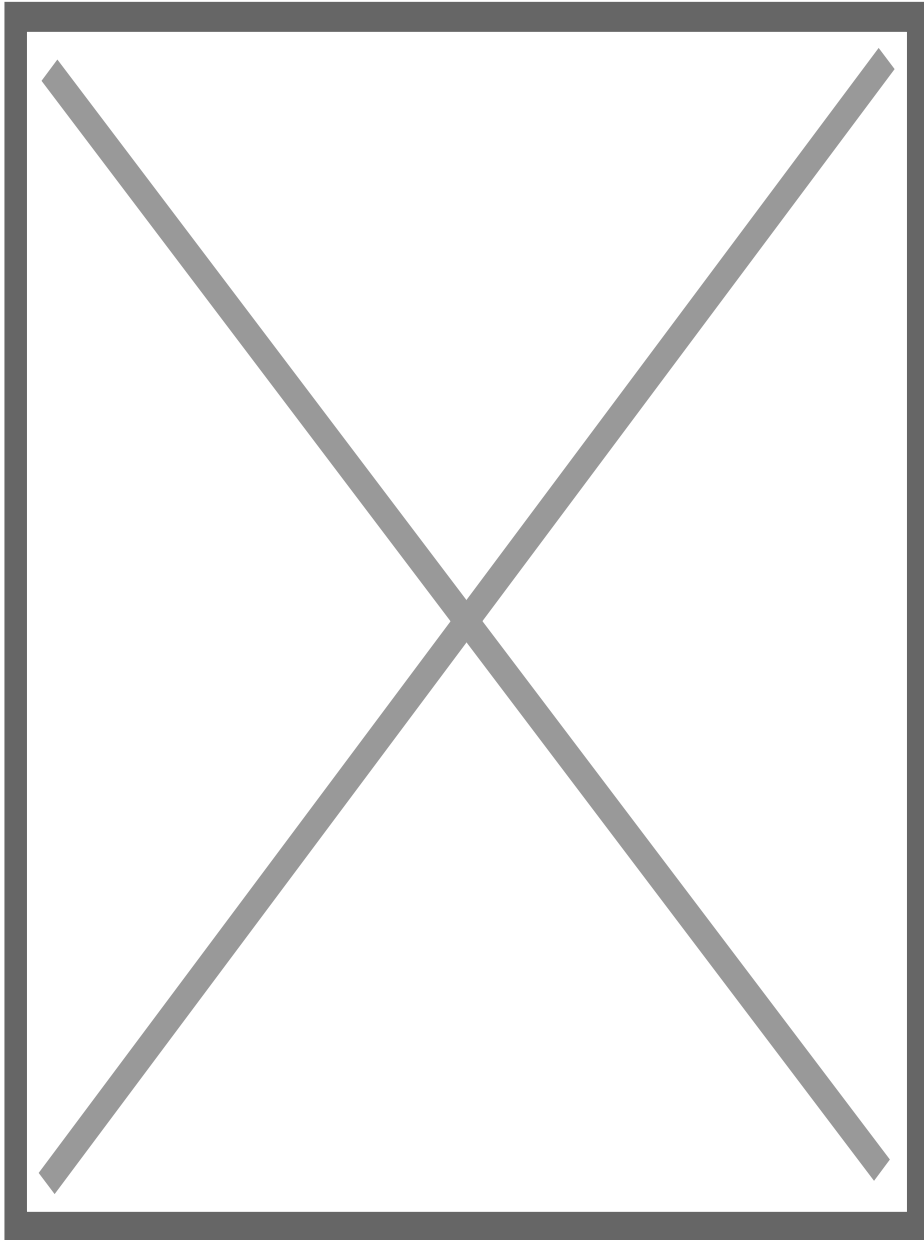


Black Baptists open advocacy center in DC

by [Jeff Brumley](#)

July 24, 2026



Boise Kimber, president of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., speaks at an event launching the Center for Social Justice in Washington, DC, July 14. (NBCUSA via Facebook)

A historically Black denomination has opened an advocacy center in the heart of Washington, DC, to protect civil rights, champion religious freedom and to be a voice for the poor and marginalized.

The National Baptist Convention USA Inc., announced the launch of its Center for Social Justice to counter the extreme threats to democracy and freedom currently besetting the nation.

“We are positioning ourselves at the center of policy and discussions that affect African Americans and our faith communities,” NBCUSA President [Boise Kimber](#) said.

Located in the historic United Methodist Building near the US Capitol and US Supreme Court, the center also will counter the erosion of voting rights and “speak for those who cannot speak for themselves,” he said.

NBCUSA is the nation’s largest Black denomination with an [estimated membership](#) of between 5.2 million and 7.5 million, and it was the denominational home for Martin Luther King Jr. until he co-founded the Progressive National Baptist Convention in 1961.

The center demonstrates a thorough dedication to advancing justice and civil rights and to ensuring communities are heard in the discussion of the nation’s future, said US Rep. Yvette Clarke, D-NY, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, on the center’s opening day earlier this month.

The location so near to the Supreme Court and the Capitol serves as a powerful reminder that public service and advocacy are deeply intertwined, she said.

The center continues the historic advocacy of the Black Church that was vital in the struggle for equal opportunity and justice and to ensuring every person in the US was protected by the Constitution, Clarke added.

“This center is uniquely positioned to elevate the voices of faith leaders and the communities they serve by helping to strengthen the dialogue between policymakers and the people whose lives are shaped by the decisions made here in Washington.”

The establishment of a permanent and intentional presence in the nation’s capital will provide NBCUSA and its allies an opportunity to share gospel values in the halls of power, said Willie Singletary, social pastor at Christian Compassion Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

Communities are crying out for fairness and dignity as families face increasing economic challenges, attacks on voter rights and growing health care disparities, he said.

“We are not coming to Washington to advance a political party, we’re coming to advance biblical principles. We’re not here to seek power, we’re here to hold power accountable to righteousness. We’re here speak truth to power as the prophet Micah reminds us that the Lord requires us to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.”

The urgent need for the center was evidenced by the masked White supremacists who marched two or three blocks away during the nation’s 250th anniversary celebration, said Jonathan Jackson, D-Ill., and the son of civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, who died in February.

“Our (National) Museum of African American History is celebrating its 10-year anniversary and this administration is trying to erase the truth of our history, so as we celebrate America’s 250th anniversary we also are going to make sure that we keep our African American history alive,” Jackson said.

The condition of American society can only be described as one of “moral and social brokenness,” said Rosalyn Oscar, social justice chair for NBCUSA’s Women’s Auxiliary and a Democratic state senator in Florida.

“As laws are written and policies are debated, thousands of Black women are losing their jobs and Black representation is under attack,” Oscar said. “Our theology demands the presence in DC as faith in action compels us to fight against all this harm and injustice and attacks on Black people that’s going on right now.”

US Rep. Jahana Hayes, D-Conn., said the center will be carrying out Christ’s command to feed the hungry.

The Civil Rights Movement demonstrated the positive influence the church and the center will function as the movement’s eyes and ears, she said. “We’ve seen this before, and not only have we seen it, we have also overcome it.” —Baptist News Global