



GENERATING RESOURCES
AND SERVICES TO IMPACT
OUR COMMUNITY

2023

THE UNION FOUNDATION

ASSESSMENT PAPERS



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Who We Are

We are The Union Foundation—a partnering entity of Union Baptist Church, the oldest, continually run black Baptist congregation in the state of Ohio. From its founding in 1831 to today, Union Baptist Church has been a vital center of the Black community, providing critical social, political, and educational opportunities to its congregants and Greater Cincinnati. The Foundation's primary purpose is to impact our surrounding community in a positive manner by providing services aimed at improving the lives of community members and enriching their cultural assets.



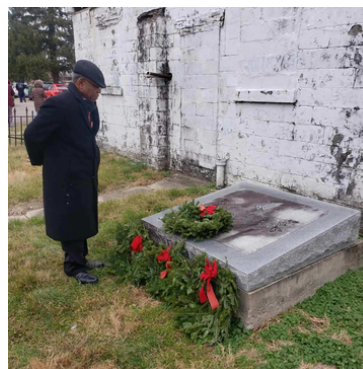
The rectory at Union Baptist Cemetery, one of two cemeteries under the stewardship of the Union Foundation.



Community engagement and interaction lies at the heart of our mission.



The Union Foundation supports a thriving youth ministry at Union Baptist Church as one of its many service-centered programs.



We support and honor our sacred commitment to preserving two historical Black cemeteries, and have undertaken to revitalize the cemetery grounds, begin to archive the physical and genealogical records associated with the cemeteries, and develop a sustainable mechanism of church and community partnerships to ensure future stabilization of both cemeteries.



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A Sacred Call To Service

The Union Foundation is rooted in the historical experiences of our ancestors in Greater Cincinnati. Founded in 1831 by a small number of free Black citizens determined to carve out an existence for themselves and their progeny in spite of compelling local and national forces against them, Union Baptist Church (UBC) became what is now the oldest, historically Black, Baptist church in the state of Ohio. Union Baptist Church established a proud tradition of service indicative of independent black congregations in the nineteenth century. It provided a myriad of services to the city's disenfranchised Black population—spiritual guidance, social services, educational, recreational opportunities, and most prominently, funeral and burial services. UBC labored to counter discriminatory practices forbidding the interment and burial of black bodies alongside the city's white populace in any of the city's numerous public burial grounds and cemeteries. Because of their work, there now exists a dignified final resting place for some of the most prominent individuals, venerated populations, and hidden historical figures in the history of Ohio.



Vision & Mission



Mission

The Union Foundation supports all the ministries of the Union Baptist Church, Inc., in this millennium to enlarge its commitment to Jesus Christ, to His Word, and services relevant to nurturing the holistic person (spirit, soul, mind, and body) so as to fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20, through evangelistic ministry programs, and human services that minister to the holistic needs of the varied family structures of the community at large.

Vision

The Foundation's primary purpose is to impact our surrounding community in a positive manner by providing services aimed at improving the lives of community members and enriching their cultural assets. The Foundation accomplishes this mission through partnerships with the Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati and other charitable organizations to provide food, clothing, health education financial literacy, and family mentoring services to families in Southwest Ohio.



The Foundation supports a broad range of community-focused service initiatives including feeding homeless populations, sponsoring community events, and providing youths with enriching life experiences.



Historical Preservation

The Union Foundation plans to continue its mission of community engagement and partnership by offering culturally enriching opportunities and programming for our youth congregants, and free community programming open to both congregants and the general public alike. To that end, we have begun to capitalize on the societal push to preserve historic Black resting places in America by aligning ourselves with smart community partnerships in both the private and public sectors. Doing so has allowed us to apply for and receive regional, state, and federal grants aimed at addressing the physical and archival needs of the two cemeteries under our stewardship.



Union Baptist Cemetery

Established in 1864, Union Baptist Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Hamilton County at its original location purchased, maintained and still used by an African-American congregation. The current federal initiative to revitalize cemeteries and their records is an amazing opportunity to both contribute to civic re-education that acknowledges core principles of government and preserve the myriad pieces of material culture—from headstones, structures, records, images, proclamations, and more—that give a long overdue voice to the lived experiences of Blacks in America

United American Cemetery

Originally founded in 1848, then re-dedicated in the 1880s as the "Colored American Cemetery" after a forced cemetery removal, today's United American Cemetery sits on 11.5 acres of land and is the final resting place for more than 5,000 Black Cincinnatians whose lives, and most especially deaths, afford us an unparalleled opportunity to understand our collective national history.



Advisory Board

The Foundation has assembled a talented team of experts in their respective fields who are committed to steering projects towards a sustainable future. We strive to adopt sound ethical practices and governance, responsible financial management policies, and ensure the Foundation maintains adequate resources to advance its mission.

LEO YAKUTIS

Data Specialist

Leo is an Information Technology Management Sr. Consultant who specializes in developing institutional infrastructures.



JACOB K. MOODY

Management Consultant

Jacob serves as support executive leadership for non-profit organizations in health and community development.



CLAUDETTE A. MOODY

Sustainability Consultant

Claudette is a professional mobilizer and organizer with four decades of expertise in strategic planning and development.



ROGENA STARGEL

Grant Management

Rogena is a Magistrate with the Hamilton County probate courts with extensive experience as a CFO, comptroller, and corporate accountant.



CARRIE RHODUS

Preservation Specialist

Carrie is the Operations Manager for Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati.



LOUISE STEVENSON

Accessibility Officer

Louise ensures researchers and laymen physical access to the church and its historical records.



DR. HOLLY Y. MCGEE

Historical Consultant

Holly is an Associate Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Cincinnati. She specializes in African American and South African History, and is a published academic and trade press author.



EDIE YAKUTIS

Rabbi

Edie is a project management specialist with more than two decades of experience working in a variety of roles at Microsoft Corporation.



*“How good and pleasant it is when
God’s people live together in unity!”*

Psalms 133:1

DEQAH HUSSEIN-WETZEL

Urbanist Media



Deqah is a Somali-American urban history scholar, podcaster, and architectural historian. Her expertise lies in mid-twentieth century African-American home life and the history of urban development.

PATRICIA WALLENDJACK

Consultant



Patricia is a philanthropic professional with more than two decades of extensive experience directing, managing, and reporting grants multiple institutions of higher learning and major corporations.

DORENE DILLARD

Cemetery Chairperson



Dorene is responsible for the daily operations of cemeteries under the stewardship of the Foundation. She establishes the goals, objectives, and guidelines necessary for the cemeteries to function.

SARAH STROUSE

Project Manager



Sarah is an experienced development manager with an extensive background in sourcing data-supported efficiencies and organizational cost savings.

The Board of Trustees

Our Advisory Board works closely with the Union Foundation Board of Trustees, an eleven-person body with a governing structure inclusive of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Webmaster, and other professionals from the private and public sectors. Its sole purpose is to advance an evangelistic community outreach through ministries such as food pantries, substance abuse recovery and prevention, a youth summer food and enrichment program, a women's missionary society, radio and television, college student outreach, health and wellness, small care groups, the Benefit Bank, a prison ministry, the Kroger Community Rewards, and the Freddie Powell Jr. Memorial Scholarship fund.

PROVEN AWARD SUCCESS

LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL RECOGNITION



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

2002

Union Baptist Cemetery

2023

United Colored American
Cemetery



THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORICAL PRESERVATION FUND

Awarded \$400,000 to fund a broad range of planning, development, and research projects related to cemeteries under the stewardship of the Foundation.



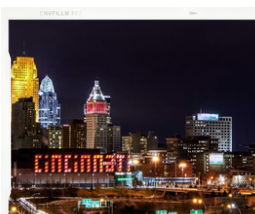
CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING (CDS)

Awarded \$165,000 by the Office of Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH).



HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Awarded \$10,000 for cemetery landscaping recovery.



THE OFFICE OF CITY OF CINCINNATI COUNCIL MEMBER MARK JEFFREYS

Awarded \$2,000 for cemetery preservation efforts.



OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION

Awarded \$2,000 for cemetery preservation efforts.



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Thank You!

We are excited to continue our efforts to build collaborations and partnerships with other Churches, philanthropic, non-profits, the public sector and business organizations. With YOUR help, we can continue to generate the goods, services, and sets of knowledge that enrich society as a whole.