

PHEN

Prostate Health Education Network, Inc.

PHEN Partners With The African Methodist Episcopal Church's (AME) Health Commission To Provide Prostate Cancer Educational Resources and Support

September 1, 2023.....The African Methodist Episcopal Church's (AME) Health Commission, and the Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN) are partnering for PHEN to provide free prostate cancer educational resources and support to AME churches. The partnership agreement was signed in July, 2023, by Bishop Francine Brookins, Chair of the Health Commission, Rev. Dr. Natalie Mitchem, Executive Director of the Health Commission, Rev. Miriam Burnett, MD, Medical Director of the Health Commission, and PHEN President Thomas Farrington.

Under the agreement, PHEN will provide materials to the churches for distribution to their members so they can access PHEN's online educational resources for early detection screening (PHENPSA.com), treatment options (PHENPath.com) and clinical trials (PHENTrials.com). In addition PHEN will host a special monthly online support session for church members.

"We have collaborated with PHEN over a number of years to raise prostate cancer awareness, and we are excited to partner with PHEN to provide educational resources to our churches to support our members and communities in the fight against prostate cancer." Our goal is to save lives by increasing vital knowledge about this deadly disease," says Rev. Dr. Natalie Mitchem.

Prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer for Black men and the second leading cause of cancer deaths. The American Cancer Society estimates that 288,000 men will be diagnosed and 34,000 will die from the disease in 2023. Black men are diagnosed with prostate cancer at a rate more than 70% higher and die at a rate 120% higher than all other men. This is the leading racial disparity for any type of major cancer for men or women.

"PHEN has worked with hundreds of churches through our church partnership program since our founding in 2003. However, this partnership with the AME Health Commission is unique, and provides the force and support of the AME Church body to enhance our efforts at a time when the prostate cancer crisis in Black communities across the country is accelerating," says Thomas Farrington, PHEN founder and president.

About the AME Church

The **African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME Church)**, was founded in 1816 as the first independent protestant denomination to be founded by Black people, **however**, it welcomes and has members of all ethnicities. The AME Church has 20 districts, each with its own Bishop; 13 are based in the United States, while seven are based in Africa. The global membership of the AME Church is around 2.5 million members, and it is one of the largest Methodist denominations in the world.

About PHEN

The Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN) is the leading prostate cancer patient education and advocacy organization focused on the needs of Black men. The organization was founded by Thomas Farrington, a prostate cancer survivor in 2003 with a mission to eliminate the prostate cancer racial disparity, and provide resources for the fight against prostate cancer to support the needs of all men.

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