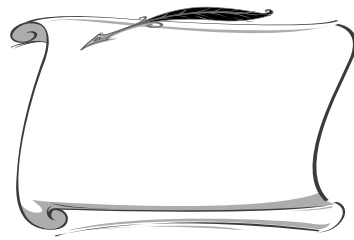
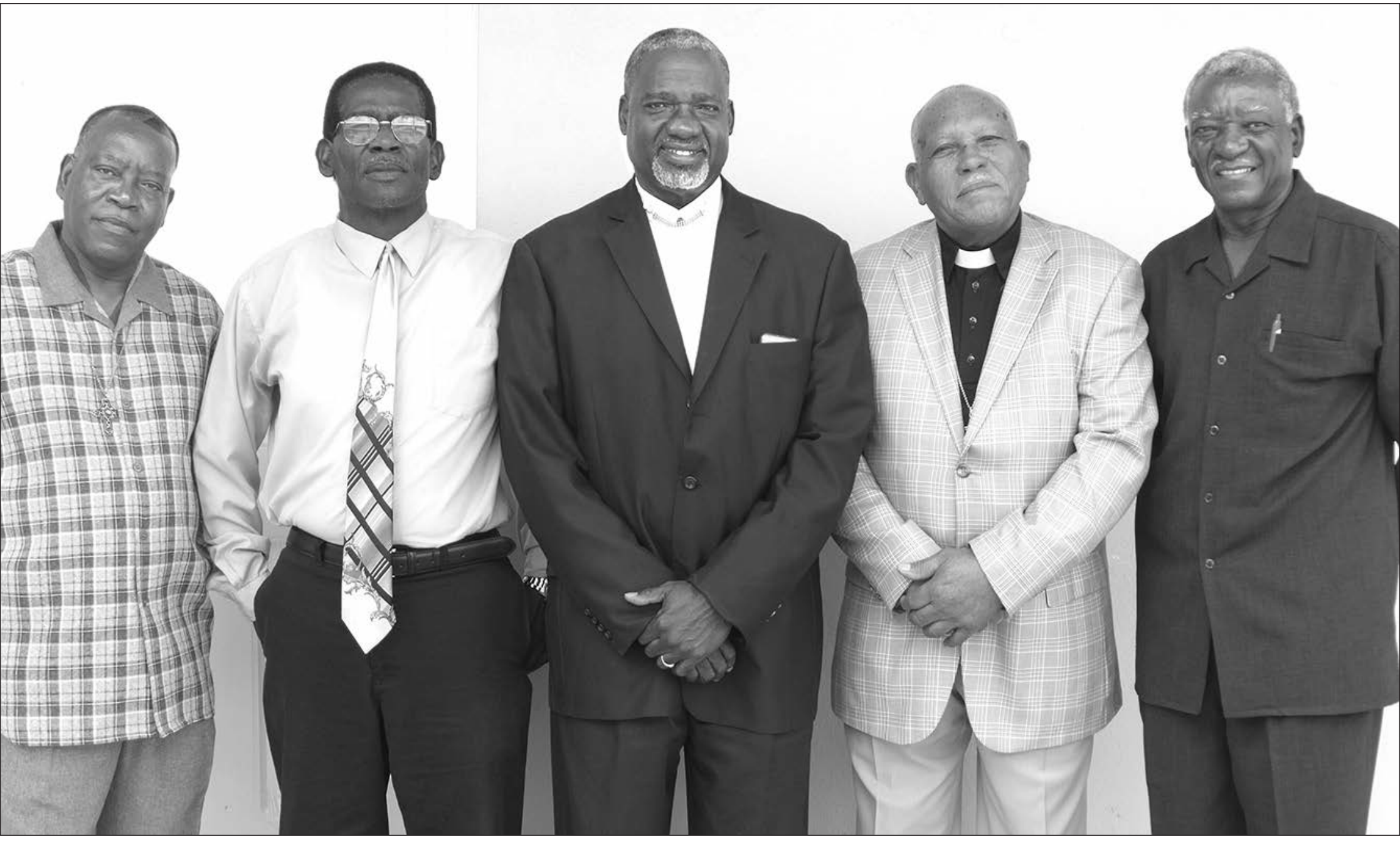


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CONVENTION DATES ANNOUNCED – Organizers of the Zion United Baptist Convention (ZUBC), West Grand Bahama District's 46th Annual Convocation announced the dates for the upcoming event, which will feature Greater Piney Grove Baptist, Atlanta, Georgia Senior Pastor Dr. William E. Flippin. Pictured from left are Bishop Washington Williams, Bishop Arnold Pinder, Rev. Paul Mullings, Rev. Leonard Pinder and Rev. J. C. Wallace. (PHOTO: SHARELL LOCKHART)

ZUBC set to host 46th Annual Convocation

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Zion United Baptist Convention (ZUBC), West Grand Bahama District will host its 46th Annual Convocation at Upper Zion Baptist Church, Pinder's Point beginning Monday, May 1 through Sunday, May 7, 2017 under the theme, 'Holiness unto the Lord now and forever,' revealed Rev. Paul Mullings, ZUBC Assistant Superintendent and Mt. Calvary Baptist Church senior pastor. According to Rev. Mullings, "Our Convocation will take place at a time when The Bahamas is in the midst of a General Election campaign; in the

ZUBC West Grand Bahama district we have 15 Zion churches with over 4,000 members, who support and physically campaign for all the major political parties and as such, we are inviting all of the candidates from the five constituencies on Grand Bahama to a special Prayer Gathering set to occur at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. "Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia senior pastor Dr. William E. Flippin will be the featured guest preacher at the 46th Annual Convocation and will join us as well as District Superintendent Rev. Michael Pinder, Upper Zion Baptist Church in offering a special covering prayer unto the Lord for the candidates while admonishing them to adhere to the

words of King Solomon, as recorded in Proverbs 3:6, which states, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy path." "During the Convocation we will receive the support of the East Grand Bahama district under the leadership of Pastor Henry Cooper and our District Superintendent Rev. Pinder, who will give his charge and officially open the convention, as well as he will preside over the Business Session on Wednesday giving an account of his stewardship." Rev. Mullings also noted one of the main focuses of ZUBC during the Business Session will be to discuss and adopt a 10-year Tactical Plan for the West Grand Bahama District; with pas-

sors sharing a vision of high spiritual standards and socio-economic development for themselves and the local congregation by following the examples and principles as laid out in God's word while pursuing this vision through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, the 10-year Tactical Plan mission will be focus on all ZUBC pastors, executives and members working together to improve themselves, their families and their communities by providing the opportunity for spiritual growth and development within the framework of its Convention. ZUBC Convocation sessions will be held both during the day and evening and according to Rev. Mullings, "On Thursday evening (May 4) our conven-

tion will hear from Pastor Freddie Laing, St. Matthew's Baptist Church, Pelican Point as well as our National youth Coordinator and Assistant District Superintendent for the East Grand Bahama district; during the day sessions we will address a number of social ills and events currently facing our nation and on Sunday (May 7) at 3:00 p.m. our President Bishop Wenith Davis will deliver the Closing message. "We cordially invite the entire Grand Bahama community from West Grand Bahama to East Grand Bahama and all the neighborhoods in between to attend all our sessions; however, the Wednesday, May 3 business session will be closed to the public as it is for delegates only."

Parker-Edgecombe appeals to single mothers, young voters in Bimini

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An exuberant crowd of Free National Movement (FNM) supporters assembled in Bimini on Monday (April 24) evening for the party's mass rally, to hear from a number of FNM candidates, including candidate for West End and Bimini, Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe, as well as the party's leader, Dr. Hubert Minnis. During her address, Parker-Edgecombe made a special appeal to first time voters and single mothers, to make, 'the right choice' for the betterment of themselves, as well as that of their children. "FNM's time is drawing nigh, we cannot afford to sleep at the wheel and have the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) return as the government of The Bahamas. This country is in need of a government that is transparent, honest, without corruption and one that will put the people first. I know that I am ready for that government, are you?" she asked. Speaking to several promises, she claimed the PLP made, Parker-Edgecombe said, "They told us that when they taxed you, that very same money would be used to make your lives better; guess what ... "Not only did they put a tax on you that crippled your finances and your home, but they refused to invest in you off of your own money, that is a slap in the face

and I want you to return it, two times on May 10." Additionally, Parker-Edgecombe said, "they told you to go to Social Services; it was said that if you can't afford the taxes and you find yourself in trouble, then we have Social Services there for you. Who does that? "Who bruises their people and then tries to patch them up by telling them to go to a place and when they get there, there is hardly anything for them? Social Services has been so overwhelmed that there are single mothers every day who go through those doors and come away crying; I know of several stories that I can tell," Parker-Edgecombe maintained. "Single mothers across the country I say fight for your children, they need you, they need you to make a decision that any government that does not mean you well, does not deserve to be in place. Vote them out!" She admonished the supporters, that on May 10, Election Day, choose the FNM as the next government of The Bahamas, as it is as their slogan states, 'It's the people's time.' "When the ballots are counted, the boxes are sealed, this country will realize that the FNM is that body, that organization that will do better for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Let your voices be heard; this isn't just about you, the past we cannot change, but the future, we can. Our future young people cannot wait; you cannot allow for this govern-

ment, who means you no well to be returned. "There are thousands of you who are graduating from high school who have no job, no scholarship, none whatsoever and to top that off, they barely give you any functioning programs that you can be a part of. This is not the sign of a caring government. Let us all be real with ourselves, let the voice of reason be imbedded in you and you realize that yes, we are here to have a good time, and we are here to be proud of what we believe in. But, at the end of the day this is about country first; we cannot have the PLP as the government of this Bahamas. "Four times we were downgraded, we cannot be downgraded anymore. The money, your money, that you have worked so hard for is on the verge of being devalued, don't let that happen. This government doesn't mean you well. It doesn't take a rocket scientist for you to know when you are thriving and many of you are experiencing challenges on a daily basis. "Do not be fooled by the sweet talk and the promises that were made many years ago, and continue to be made by the PLP in your community. Bimini you know what you were promised, high school programs, all of that sweet talk, scholarships for your children, have you received it? What have you received Bimini? And if you have received nothing, then you give them nothing," said Parker-Edgecombe.

The country is in need of a serious turnaround and West Grand Bahama and Bimini will be a part of it all, she added. "We will vote them out. I hear that Bimini has a new sector as well, outside of Bailey Town and Porgy Bay. I hear behind the gates there is a movement that will join you. I hear that all of you in Bimini, are going to join hands together and you are going to ensure that never again is there any type of gold dust in Bimini. "



YOUNG VOTERS – Free National Movement candidate for West Grand Bahama and Bimini, Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe, is pictured with a young voter in Bimini Monday, April 24 prior to the mass rally.