



NBA President & CEO Mark D. Anderson posing with NBA staff and peer group conveners at the Combined Peer Learning & Wellness Group Gathering in Spring 2026; R: Mark speaking to attendees at the Combined Peer Learning & Wellness Group Gathering.

Celebrating Milestones and Looking Towards The Future

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, milestone is defined as “a significant point in development.” Whether it’s a mile marker in a race, a new phase of a project, or coming to a certain age, reaching these landmarks offers an opportunity to celebrate how far one has come, while also motivating us to look ahead with renewed purpose.

In this season of ministry at the National Benevolent Association, we celebrate meaningful milestones in faithful partnership, courageous leadership, and shared commitment to justice, care, and community transformation.

This year, NBA celebrates 10 years of Mission & Ministry Grants, a program rooted in the belief that transformative ministry flourishes when courageous leaders have access to the resources they need to respond to the needs of their communities. Over the last decade, NBA has awarded more than \$2.2 million to ministries and organizations across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), supporting new programs, strengthening existing efforts, cultivating leaders, and addressing emerging community challenges.

NBA also celebrates 10 years of Peer Learning & Wellness Groups, sacred spaces where leaders in health and social service ministries, justice work, congregations, regions, and partner organizations find connection, renewal, and mutual support. These groups have transformed isolation into belonging by creating room for peer accompaniment, honest dialogue, spiritual care, and shared learning. As several cohorts recently concluded and alumni gathered through virtual and in-person celebrations, NBA honored the deep relationships and lasting impact these groups have made.

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Alongside these anniversaries, NBA has recently embraced important new milestones that will shape the years ahead.

In Fall 2025, the NBA Board of Trustees approved an update to the organization's mission, vision, and values, recommitting to justice not only as a public witness, but as a daily practice that shapes how resources are stewarded, leaders are accompanied, and systems are strengthened for the long term. Our new mission statement, "Empowering

health and social service leaders, organizations, and ministries to do justice and transform communities," offers a clear foundation for this next chapter.

Additionally, this past summer the Trustees also approved a new strategic pillars framework, providing a shared roadmap for organizational priorities, decision-making, and mission impact. This framework will help NBA remain responsive, aligned, and mission-focused as it seeks to help build a world of thriving

communities where justice and care ensure the well-being of all humanity.

As NBA prepares to mark its 140th anniversary next year, we give thanks for the staff, partners, donors, leaders, and supporters who have helped make these milestones possible. Together, we celebrate what has been built, honor the communities and ministries sustained along the way, and look forward with hope as we aim for new milestones rooted in justice, care, and faithful accompaniment.



NBA Vice President for Information Technology Tyler Hoffman speaking at the 2026 CHHSM Annual Gathering.

NBA Technology Consulting Services Offers Support to Nonprofits

NBA recently began offering technology consulting services to help Disciples-

affiliated organizations, congregations, and ministry partners better understand and use technology. "A strong technology foundation is essential for nonprofits working to push their impact past its usual boundaries," said Tyler Hoffman, NBA Vice President for Information Technology. "This includes not only selecting the right tools, but also taking the time to empower staff through good training and smart processes." This initiative offers services that may include technology assessments, deeper consultation, and education

for staff and users. Through these discounted, affordable services, NBA hopes to make digital transformation more accessible and empower partners with practical tools, training, and techniques that help them further their missions.

If your organization is interested in learning more, you are encouraged to reach out to nba@nbacares.org to begin an exploratory conversation about how NBA's technology consulting services can support your work.



NBA's Senior Coordinator for Justice Initiatives Rev. Angel Luis Rivera Agosto.

Building Hope and Connection Through Justice

NBA's Justice Initiative program aims to confront social injustice by mobilizing groups to address social action. This serves as the heart for justice-related

ideas with collaboration from communities. Three branches make up this initiative:

Digging Deep focuses on shifting mindsets from those rooted in normality to focus on compassion. Through the fostering of dialogue, it moves toward a mindset of justice.

Organizing Hope is a leadership experience that empowers participants to achieve justice in times of uncertainty. It aims to inspire ways to address the “urgency

of now” by cultivating leaders who affirm their faith during hard times.

Cultivating Connectivity serves as the heart for intersectionality. It is an approach that invites us to listen across differences and act in solidarity with communities whose realities sit at the crossroads of injustice.

Look out for more information about NBA's Justice Initiatives events and resources coming soon!



From L to R: Co-host Mark D. Anderson, Rev. Katie Hays, Emmanuel Freeman, Rev. Terri Hord Owens, and co-host Rev. Bere Gil Soto.

NBA's New Podcast to Offer Stories, Ideas for Communities of Justice and Care

NBA is launching a new podcast, *Creating Communities of Justice and Care*!

Hosted by NBA President & CEO Mark D. Anderson and Director of Young Adult Leadership Development Rev. Bere Gil Soto, the

podcast will explore the people, ideas, and practices shaping communities of justice and care today.

Season One features conversations with guests from across the NBA community and beyond, such as Rev. Katie Hays of Galileo Church; NBA Board of Trustees member Emmanuel Freeman, Disciples General Minister and President Rev. Terri Hord Owens, and many more.

Whether you're a nonprofit leader, clergy member, advocate, caregiver, student, or someone seeking to create a more compassionate world, *Creating Communities of Justice and Care* invites you into conversations that inspire action, reflection, and connection.

Coming Fall 2026. Subscribe wherever you get your podcasts and join us as we explore what it means to create communities of justice and care together.



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Help Create What's Next

Innovation at NBA is not simply about trying something new. It is about faithfully adapting to meet real community needs, strengthening leaders and organizations, and investing in approaches that help care, justice, and transformation take root.



You are invited to help NBA build what is next: new tools, new stories, new partnerships, and new pathways for generosity that strengthen health and social service leaders and the communities they serve. Will you join us by making a gift to help NBA put innovation into action?

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