

National Baptist Convention headed to Kansas City in '98

By Traci Carl
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — With prayers and spiritual songs, Kansas City leaders welcomed Saturday the annual convention for the nation's largest minority religious organization.

Mayor Emanuel Cleaver and Henry Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc., signed several contracts, making it official that the religious group's convention would be held September 1998 in Kansas City.

Cleaver described the convention as "the most-coveted African-American convention on the planet."

"This will represent the high water mark for my 20 years in office," the mayor said.

Cynthia Linden with the Convention and Visitors

Bureau of Greater Kansas City said the contracts included a promise from the mayor's office for fund raising and economic support. Linden said the mayor's office had helped put together \$150,000 of in-kind services and scholarships.

Lyons promised that the convention will bring more than \$30 million to the city. The association of black churches, based in Nashville, Tenn., has 8.5 million members and represents 33,000 churches.

The announcement came just weeks after the National FFA Organization said it was considering finding a new location for its annual meeting, partly because it needed more hotel rooms. The group, known previously as the Future Farmers of America, has been Kansas City's largest convention, attracting 37,200

people each year.

Leaders of the Baptist group said a year ago that more hotel rooms would be needed to bring their convention to Kansas City.

But the Marriott hotel in downtown Kansas City, which is less than a block from Bartle Hall, where much of the convention will be held, imploded an old hotel two weeks ago to make room for 1,000 more hotel rooms.

Although some estimates said the convention will bring 30,000 to 40,000 people to Kansas City, Lyons said the meeting would bring 50,000 people to the city.

The week-long convention will focus on economic and finance issues.

"It's just like a church business meeting," said Harold Simons, vice president of the National Baptist League and

a Kansas City, Kan., resident.

Another convention will be held in June in St. Louis. Simons said that meeting will focus on educational and instructional issues.

GOLDEN WINDOW & DOOR STORE

SEE US

For All Of Your Window And Door Needs



4548-H Old Pineville Rd.

525-1188

WILLIE WILLIAMS



INDEPENDENT TIRE & AUTO SERVICE CENTER

NORMAN GARNES



3655 Beatties Ford Road • Charlotte, NC 28216

The Million Man March, The King Holiday, and Black History Month Have Been Significant Events In The Black Community. These Events Talked About Unity and Economic Independence. Now It's Time To Act! Independent Tire Center Is Black Owned and Operated By Young, Black Men. We Perform All Types Of Automotive Work On All Types Of Vehicles. Come and See What We Have To Offer.

OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

Valvoline® Oil Change \$17.95
Mail In Rebate - 3.00

Your Cost After Mail-in Rebate

\$14.95

(704)398-0271



Mail-in Rebate. See Store for details. Rebate request must have original rebate form available only at participating locations.

PEOPLE WHO KNOW USE VALVOLINE.

Church news

Continued from page 11A

tion, call 892-4539.

•Shepherd's Fold AME Zion

2516 South Tryon St.
The Afterschool Enrichment Program convenes weekdays from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. There are certified teachers on staff who will teach math, science language arts, etc. For more information call 334-8455.

At 4 p.m. Pastor William Lee and the Musical Voices of Silver Mount Baptist Church will lead the First Gospel Ministry celebration for 16-year-old Minister Christopher Davon Stackhouse. For more information call 334-8455.

•St. Marks United Methodist

917 Clanton Road
A special black heritage program will be 5 p.m. Sunday. The Rev. Rico White of Marvin AME Zion Church in Waxhaw will be the guest speaker.

•St. Phillip Missionary Baptist

Huntersville
The Rev. Larry A. Daniel and his family will be celebrating his first anniversary at 11 a.m. Sunday. Dinner will be served at 1:30 p.m. Dr. Paul W. Drummond will be the speaker for the 3 p.m. afternoon service. For more information call 875-6180.

Bishops

Continued from page 11A

bishop hurt the church by acting on a disputed issue before the church reached a consensus.

Browning sympathizes with the bishops who brought the charge but said "it's not a matter that's going to be settled by a court case ... it's a matter of the heart."

Browning, whose 12-year term as bishop ends next year, notes that, after a heated fight, there is a relative acceptance today of women ministers. And he hopes the battle over homosexuality can be resolved the same way.

"I don't think everybody will be happy about it," he said. "But I think we eventually will reach a level of tolerance that will reflect the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

•Statesville Presbyterian

3435 Nevins Road
They will sponsor a five-week Bible study series every Monday beginning through March 25. All sessions will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, please contact Elouise Etheridge at 596-4550.

•University Park Baptist

2400 Keller Ave.
The church family will conduct worship service 7 p.m. Friday. The service is titled "Our Friday Night at the Park Service." The Rev. Claude R. Alexander is pastor. For more information, call 392-1681.

REFRIGERATORS
WASHERS, STOVES

as low as \$129.95 ea. All Name Brand Used Appliances



DRYERS,
as low as \$99.95 ea.

Appliance & Furniture World, Inc.

3815 Wilkinson Blvd. • Charlotte, NC 28208

We Service All Makes!

SAVE \$15.00
Mention Ad for FREE DELIVERY!

394-5115

3 PIECE LIVINGROOM SETS as low as \$499

Every 2 Minutes We Make A Loan.

LET'S MAKE THE NEXT ONE YOURS.

As soon as you walk in, you'll notice there's a difference between UCB and other banks. It's our Personal Touch that lets you know borrowing money isn't going to be so trying after all.

Whether it's a new home or an additional room, a car or a boat, a dream vacation or a college education . . . whatever you have in mind, United Carolina Bank will make borrowing as quick and hassle-free as possible. The reason? We work with you every step of the way to help you get the money you need.

Working together with our customers. It's the reason we're able to make so many loans for so many people. People just like you.

Please stop by any UCB office or call 331-6300.

The Personal Touch. Easy As UCB.

UNITED CAROLINA BANK



Text telephone number for the hearing impaired, 1-800-876-6545.
©1996 United Carolina Bank. Member FDIC.