

# Durham Committee Holds 81st Annual Meeting

Howard N. Lee, a veteran North Carolina public official whose service has included state senator, secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development and mayor of Chapel Hill, among other positions, was the speaker at the annual meeting of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People (DCABP) on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at Community Baptist Church in Durham.

The DCABP, also known as The Durham Committee, celebrated its 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary. The meeting was held at Community Baptist Church and the Rev. Percy Chase is pastor.

This was the final meeting of the organization under the leadership of former state senator Ralph Hunt, who stepped down from his post after having served as chair for the last two years. Newly elected chair Omar Beasley, who has been serving as first vice chair for the last two years, was sworn in to serve as chair for the remainder of this year, while other leaders of the organization elected in 2015 will continue to serve out the balance of their two year terms.

The theme of the meeting was "United in Service Advancing the Community".

The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People is a broad-based organization in Durham's African American community whose constitutional mission is "to serve as a representative of and as a leadership body for the Black citizenry of the City and County of Durham... in promoting the welfare of that citizenry in civic, cultural, economic, educational, health, housing, political and youth affairs."

The DCABP constitution also says that its principal function is "to work collectively toward the elimination of racial discrimination or racial distinction in public and general private affairs." The organization's political action committee (PAC) is often noted as one of the three most powerful PACs in the city, along with the People's Alliance and The Friends of Durham.



Speaker Howard N. Lee, left, and new chair of the Durham Committee Omar Beasley.



Judges Elaine O'Neal, left and William A. "Drew" Marsh, III, right, administered the oath of office to Omar Beasley as new chair of the Durham Committee, center.



Members of the Hillside High School Dance group who performed. In bottom photos is after their performance and above is part of their performance. Ms. Pamela Oxendine, director of the group.



Pastor Wanda Boone



Min. Deborah Bryson



Clarence Birkhead



Omar Beasley and his wife, center and family officers, and Pastor Percy Chase, far right.



2015 Officers of the Durham Committee