

## National Missionary Baptist Convention of America (NMBCA)

The National Missionary Baptist Convention of America (NMBCA) is a significant African American Baptist denomination in the United States, with a membership of over 400,000 in 2024.

- **Origins:** Founded in 1886 in Montgomery, Alabama, the NMBCA emerged from the need for African American Baptists to establish their own institutions and organizations, separate from the predominantly white Baptist denominations.
- **Key Figures:** Reverend William Henry Stewart, a prominent African American Baptist pastor, played a key role in the founding of the NMBCA.

More info: <https://www.nmbca.org/>.

### Core Beliefs:

- **Protestant Christianity:** The NMBCA adheres to the core tenets of Protestant Christianity, including belief in the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), the Bible as the inspired word of God, and the salvation of humankind through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Baptist Principles:** The Convention emphasizes the autonomy of local churches, the importance of believer's baptism by immersion, and the priesthood of all believers.
- **Community Focus:** The NMBCA plays a vital role in the African American community, providing social services, education, and spiritual guidance.

### Practices and Rituals:

- **Worship Services:** Traditional worship services typically include singing, prayer, preaching, and the reading of Scripture.
- **Sunday School:** Sunday School is an important part of the educational and spiritual development of members.
- **Bible Study:** Bible study groups are common in many NMBCA churches.
- **Church Dinners and Social Events:** These events provide opportunities for fellowship and community building.

### Places of Worship:

- **Local Churches:** The NMBCA consists of thousands of local churches across the United States.

### Leadership Structure:

- **Hierarchical:** The Convention has a hierarchical structure with national, state, and local levels of leadership.
- **Elected Officials:** Leaders are elected by the membership at various levels.
- **President:** The President of the NMBCA is the highest-ranking official of the denomination.

### Main Symbols:

- **Cross:** The cross remains a central symbol of Christian faith.
- **Dove:** Symbolizing the Holy Spirit.