

## Pittsburgh says goodbye to beloved civil rights leader

### Cancer claims life of Eugene “Freedom” Blackwell, 43

Cancer couldn't keep the Rev. Eugene “Freedom” Blackwell down. The 43-year-old pastor of House of Manna Faith Community in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of Homewood, PA, traveled to Portland in late June for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Confined to a wheelchair after losing his left leg through cancer surgery a year earlier, Freedom didn't miss out on his chance to be an advocate for Pittsburgh Presbytery's overture on the Plight of the African American Male.



“He stood bravely in Committee 10 on one leg, making a fervent appeal that (the General Assembly) adopt this overture,” said Sheldon Sorge, General Minister of Pittsburgh Presbytery in an article by the Presbyterian News Service. “He had been suffering from osteosarcoma for nearly three years, losing his left leg late last year. The cancer was metastasizing as we gathered in Portland, but he kept the faith even though he was unable to sleep or eat. Following GA, his physical condition deteriorated even as his faith remained strong, until he joined the Church Triumphant. His earthly battles are done, while ours continue as we move forward to engage the challenge our church has set before us.”

Freedom died Aug. 29 from the same cancer that took his leg. But the disease couldn't take his spirit as he battled through the illness to see through the important work of the overture for which he helped write. In honor of Freedom's work with the Plight of the African American Male overture, Pittsburgh Presbytery has named future work associated with this overture “Freedom Rising: The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Reaching Out to Young African American Men.”

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The Synod of the Trinity is dedicated to keeping our presbyteries and congregations updated on events happening within our region. If you haven't visited our website recently, here's what you have missed:



### **Fire destroys Philadelphia church**

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Overbrook regrouping after blaze.

### **Kiskiminetas welcomes new General Presbyter**

Rev. Dr. Don Wilson began his call in May. Learn about his ambitions and passion for running marathons.

### **Commissioner Corner**

Meet Dianne Kareha (Lehigh Presbytery) and William Moore (Presbytery of Lake Erie).

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### **Employment Opportunities**

Job listings are updated regularly as received.

### **Coming Soon!**

The Synod of the Trinity will celebrate its 300<sup>th</sup> birthday beginning in October. Look for details as they are finalized.

**Being More Together**

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