

# Board of Directors

## UrbEd Inc.

2017 - 2018

### **Dr. Juwan Z. Bennett, PhD. Chairman**

#### ***Professor, Temple University***

Juwan Z. Bennett is a professor in the Criminal Justice Department at Temple University. He is also the executive director for the Temple University Urban Youth Leadership Academy, a program designed to equip the next generation of African-American leaders. Juwan currently serves as the Co-founder & Assistant Pastor to the New Life Christian Fellowship Baptist Church.

Juwan is also a Ronald E. McNair Research Scholar, and is working with Education Professor Dr. James Earl Davis examining how alternative education programs can be successful at preventing juvenile delinquency. As a result of his research endeavors, he was invited by Dr. Elijah Anderson to attend his Urban Ethnography Workshop at Yale University.

### **Anthony Phillips, Vice-Chairman**

#### ***Executive Director, Youth Action Inc.***

Anthony Phillips is the Executive Director of Youth Action, a civic engagement non-profit that provides students in Philadelphia with leadership mentorship, service learning training, and funding to explore socially responsible leadership & lead service projects in their communities. He has worked in educational & youth development non-profits including: City Year Philadelphia, Summer Search Philadelphia, Breakthrough Philadelphia, Student Bridges in Massachusetts, W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars Institute at Princeton, Spark the Wave, Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale, the Philadelphia College Prep Roundtable, Northeast Center for Youth & Families, Scholar Academies, Africare, WorkReady Philadelphia and The Institute for Responsible Citizenship. A native of Philadelphia, Anthony holds a B.A. in African American Studies and Philosophy from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine and received his master's degree in Black Religion in the African Diaspora from Yale. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

**Alexandria Anderson-Johnson, Secretary**  
**Educator, Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School**

Alexandria Anderson-Johnson earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology from Drexel University. After several years of working for the Department of Human Services, she decided to embark on her career as an educator. She has earned a Master's Degree in Education with a concentration in Special Education from Holy Family University. Since earning her Master's Degree, she has been an educator for twelve years. This year, she has decided to join the Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School family and make a difference in the lives of the students and families in which she will serve. She is currently completing courses to earn a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership from Holy Family University.

**Dr. Donna Jones, M.Div. Co-Treasure**  
**Pastor, Cookman United Methodist Church**

The Reverend Dr. Donna Lawrence Jones currently serves as founding pastor of the Cookman Community Baptist Church in North Philadelphia. Prior to 2011, she served as pastor of Cookman United Methodist Church at 12th and Lehigh Avenue. The people of Cookman have been very active disciples of Jesus Christ locally, nationally and internationally in the areas of education and restorative justice, impacting vulnerable adolescents and their families. With Rev. Jones, Cookman has developed personal and community empowerment ministries, including an alternative high school for youth (ages 14 to 20) who have experienced truancy; a youth and young-adult led entrepreneurial and leadership development initiative; and a unique program of family group decision making which enables families and their young people to avoid court and other punitive sanctions.

Rev. Jones holds a Doctor of Ministry in Renewal of the Church for Mission from Palmer (formerly Eastern Baptist) Theological Seminary, a M.Div. from Lutheran Theological Seminary and a B.S. in Biology from Temple University. Rev. Jones is also an adjunct professor in the Urban Studies department of Eastern University. Prior to entering the full-time ministry, Rev. Jones was a sales and marketing manager DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Company.

**Dante Austin, Co-Treasure**  
**Deputy Sheriff, Philadelphia Sheriff's Office**

Dante Austin is a Deputy Sheriff with the Philadelphia Sheriff's Office. From 2014-2017, Dante was assigned to working with juveniles in the criminal justice system. Prior to starting his career in law enforcement, Dante served in the Military Intelligence Corps of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Dante is a senior at Rosemont College where he is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

### **I. Jerome Mack, Member**

#### **Student, Pennsylvania State University**

Isaac Jerome Mack is an aspiring STEM researcher and practitioner, he believes the state of education will change when more people stop waiting for someone and just be that someone. Currently a Penn State toxicology major, born and raised in Philadelphia. Isaac Jerome Mack is an aspiring STEM researcher and practitioner, he believes the state of education will change when more people stop waiting for someone and just be that someone. Currently a Penn State toxicology major, born and raised in Philadelphia.

### **Sterling Grimes, Member**

#### **Lead Educator, Mastery Charter School**

Sterling Grimes teaches 11th and 12th grade English at the Pickett Campus of the Mastery Charter Schools network. He also serves as a team lead and manages the school's professional development for culturally responsive teaching. Sterling is also a founding member of The Fellowship: Black Male Educators for Social Justice where he supports high school initiatives. In the community, Sterling has served as a program director for Maryland Leadership Workshops, a non-profit providing leadership development to middle and high school students in Maryland and remains an active brother of the Rho Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Sterling holds a B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland College Park and an M.S.Ed. from the University of Pennsylvania.

### **Ismael Jimenez, Member**

#### **Educator, School District of Philadelphia**

Ismael Jimenez is a dedicated educator, who for the last eleven years has worked with students in Philadelphia from preschool age to high school. After working as a secondary social studies teacher at Germantown High School until it was closed, Ismael then was appointed to Kensington Creative and Performing Arts High School. Along with being an active PFT member, Ismael has facilitated several professional developments with colleagues in the school district and at postsecondary institutions like University of Pennsylvania, Penn State University, and Princeton University on issues ranging from structural racism to bridging the knowledge gap of students between high school and postsecondary institutions. Currently, Ismael is co-chair of the Caucus of Working Educators and co-founder of the Philadelphia an active participant in several other organizations that seek racial justice in education. The philosophical orientation that guides Ismael's teaching and activism is rooted in the theoretical educational framework developed by Paulo Freire which emphasizes the interconnected nature of education with participating in the transformation of the world.

Ismael Jimenez is a dedicated educator within the school district of Philadelphia, who for the last 9 years has taught African American

### **Timothy Welbeck, Esq. Member**

#### **Attorney, Council on American Islamic Relations Philadelphia Chapter**

Timothy Welbeck is an attorney, Lecturer, and contributing writer. As an attorney, Timothy presently serves as the Civil Rights Attorney for Council on American Islamic Relations Philadelphia Chapter. As a professor, Timothy presently instructs Hip-Hop and Black Culture, and "No City for Young Men: Hip-Hop and the Narrative of Marginalization" at Temple University. His scholarly work focuses on contemporary African American culture, hip-hop as a microcosm of the African American experience, the intersection of race and the law, and contemporary issues of racial identity in America. Accordingly, Timothy has lectured and/or presented at symposiums, conferences, and institutions nationally and internationally, including: Magdalen College of Oxford University, Villanova University, University of California, Northridge, et al. Additionally, his work as an attorney and scholar has allowed him to contribute to various media outlets, such as the BBC Radio 4, The Philadelphia Inquirer, NPR, The Huffington Post, The International Business Times, 900 WURD AM, et al. Timothy graduated cum laude from Morehouse College, where he was awarded the Corella and Bertrand Bonner Scholarship, the HOPE Scholarship and the Oprah Winfrey Scholarship, and received his legal training at Villanova University. Timothy lives in Philadelphia with his wife Rashida, and three children, and they fellowship with Restoration Church.

### **Tamir D. Harper, Ex-Officio Member**

#### **Executive Director, UrbEd Inc.**

Tamir Harper is a senior at Science Leadership Academy. At 17 Tamir serves as the longest serving member of the Philadelphia Youth Commission, and a four year member of Superintendent Hite's student advisory council. Serving in those roles allowed Tamir to grow to being an education advocate. In 2016, Tamir served as a panelist for the U.S. Department of Education which was moderated by previous Secretary John King Jr., and most recently got the opportunity to join the Student Voice team as the Policy Director.

### **M. Samuel Dennis, Staffer**

#### **Finance Director & Board Staffer, UrbEd Inc.**

Samuel Dennis currently attends Science Leadership Academy, Samuel is working as the Finance Director for UrbEd. While striving to obtain a Master's degree in Biomedical Engineering, Samuel has been around the Philadelphia tech scene as an intern for Technical.ly Media. While he's not busy with a number of academic enrichment and mentorship programs, Samuel can be found in the Overbrook section of West Philadelphia getting coffee, showing interest in Japanese culture, or coding within his home.