

“Words of Encouragement, Words to Inspire a New Generation All of U’s

About a month ago, LaTonya Goldsby, one of the founders of Black Lives Matter Cleveland, asked me if I would consider providing “words of encouragement, words to inspire a new generation” as part of a Black History month program at the church.

I was honored for LaTonya on February 22, 2017, at Lively Hope Missionary Baptist Church’s Black History/Black Future Month program. Thank you, LaTonya, for inviting me.

“Words of encouragement and inspiration. We have to be able to imagine and act – strategically, in an organized fashion, with goals and outcomes. We have to act as if we believe that something different is actually possible, and that we are the architects of our lives. And, that even in the face of defeats – for there surely have been and will continue to be defeats – we must continue to act.”

Referencing my Tree of Life journal:

“In this journal, I jot down snippets of essays or writings of activists, intellectuals, and artists who I admire and who inspire me. Their creations are roadmaps to remind me that racism, sexism, poverty, heterosexism, political oppression, battles over civil rights and voting rights, etc. have deep roots. But you know what else is the legacy of

protest and demands that unleash the spirit of conscientious objection to oppression, exclusion, and vilification!

Indeed, it is critical for all of us to remember that we have a role to play. As I neared the end of my presentation, I quoted the poignant words of black writer, mother, lesbian, womanist activist Audre Lorde from "Learning from the '60s," in *Sister Outsider*