

Two pastors vying for presidency of NAACP chapter

First contested election in years to be held Jan. 7

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EASTON — When Brother Thomas Bright announced he would step down as president of the Easton chapter of the NAACP after more than two decades in office, he said it was time for new blood.

Now, two pastors are running for the office, making this the first contested race in many years. The election will be held Monday, Jan. 7.

Rev. David Moore, of the Grace Baptist Church in Phillipsburg, was selected by the chapter's nominating committee. His opponent, Rev. Clyde McRae, of the Open Bible Evangelical Church of God In Christ in Easton, was nominated by NAACP members.

"Monitoring" is the word that best describes Moore's plans if elected. "I feel there is a need for leadership to continue to monitor regional

problems in the whole Lehigh Valley," he said. "Unless you constantly monitor and assess the situation, you don't know where problems are."

McRae said one of the best ways to serve the black community is to increase the NAACP's visibility.

One of the most effective ways to do that, he said, is to have a place to hang a shingle.

"One of my goals is that this branch needs an office where they can have files, and a telephone with a part-time worker. Now I don't know what's what. If there is a person who needs help they can come in."

The cost wouldn't be too great, McRae said, and there may be grants available to fund the project.

McRae said he can best sum up his goals for the NAACP by quoting scripture, particularly the 133rd Psalm: "Behold how good and pleasant it is

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Express photograph/PETER A. PAOLICELLI

Rev. David Moore says the one word to describe his push to become head of the local NAACP is "monitoring" — monitoring regional problems.



Express photograph/KEN WHITE

In his office at the Open Bible Church, Rev. Clyde McRae talks about why he wants to be president of the local NAACP. McRae agrees that the group needs an injection of "new blood" to build on its achievements.