

Paine College

*“From Voice to Vision: Turning Student Leadership
into Student Impact”*

Presented by:

Paine College

Student Government Association



**PAINE
COLLEGE**

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Eleven o'clock in the Morning

**David and Betty C. Peterson Health Education Activities Learning (HEAL) Complex
Augusta, Georgia**

Reverend Sean Palmer



Reverend Sean Hasker Palmer brings over 20 years of experience in Higher Education and 14 years in Black Cultural Center leadership. He has served in both historically Black and elite academic institutions, establishing himself as a national expert in cultural center development and advocacy.

Currently, Reverend Palmer is the Executive Director of the YMI Cultural Center in Asheville, North Carolina—the oldest Black Cultural Center in the United States. Prior to this role, he served for eight years as the director of the award-winning Upperman African American Cultural Center at UNC Wilmington.

A proud alumnus of Macalester College (St. Paul, Minnesota), Clark Atlanta University (Atlanta, Georgia), and Duke University (Durham, North Carolina), Sean's professional journey includes serving as Assistant Director of the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture at Duke University and Director of Student Activities and Residence Life at Paine College.

Recognized for his creative leadership, strategic thinking, and compassionate mentorship, Sean has received multiple awards for his work with students and student organizations. He is especially known for his ability to support students in crisis and inspire innovative programming.

Deeply committed to community and cultural engagement, Sean serves as a Commissioner on the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor through the National Park Service, Vice President of the National Board of the Association of Black Cultural Centers (ABCC), and an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

His academic interests include Leadership, Gullah Geechee culture, Hip Hop, Black Religious Traditions, Africana Literature, and Political Science. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Leadership Studies at North Carolina A&T State University.

An avid reader, singer, and event planner, Sean also served as the stated-supply pastor of Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church—the oldest Black Presbyterian congregation in North Carolina. He is currently working on his debut book project, *Black and Therefore Beautiful: Meditations for My People*.

Program

Mr. Martin Martinez '27, Presiding
First Vice – President, SGA Executive Board
Business Administration, Major

Invocation.....Miss Santana Green '27
Second Vice – President, SGA Executive Board
Sociology, Major

Scripture.....Miss Chynna Burney '28
Treasurer, SGA Executive Board
Sociology, Major

Purpose of the Student Government Association..... Mr. Chance White '28
Chief of Staff, SGA Executive Board
Sociology, Major

Campus Announcements.....Miss Rickhia Tarver '28 & Mr. Jaylen Miller '28
Miss & Mister Paine College, SGA Executive Board
Sociology, Major Mass Communications, Major

Introduction of the Speaker.....Miss Kennadi Whitehead '28
Secretary, SGA Executive Board
Business Administration, Major

Musical Selection.....Paine College Choir
Mr. Trey McLaughlin, Director

The Address.....Reverend Sean Palmer
Executive Director, YMI Cultural Center

Remarks.....Mr. Panashe Mukumba '27
50th President, Student Government Association
Business Administration, Major

The Paine College Hymn (on back of program)Frank Yerby '37

Benediction.....Reverend Dr. Luther B. Felder, II
Campus Pastor

The Paine College Hymn

Mr. Frank Yerby, '37 and Mr. Mark Fax

O College of our heart's desire,
 resplendent in our gaze,
Awake in us thy sacred fire
and let us to thy truth aspire
throughout the coming days.

And may the thing that thou hast sought,
 our nation's woeful lack,
True union of the heart be brought
and differences be set at naught
 between the white and black.

Paine College, guardian of the way
 that each young foot must tread,
Thy gates are open to this day
and our firm, martial strides display
 hearts clean and unafraid.