



THE WHITE HOUSE  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## **NEW Episode: *The White House 1600 Sessions* Podcast “The White House and the 2026 Faith, Freedom, and Democracy Symposium”**

*White House Historical Association President Stewart McLaurin Reflects on  
the 2026 Symposium*

**June 8, 2026 (Washington, D.C.)** – The White House Historical Association today released [a new episode of \*The White House 1600 Sessions\*](#) podcast which explores the Association’s recent [Faith, Freedom, and Democracy Symposium](#), held on May 1, 2026, in partnership with Westminster Abbey Institute. Stewart McLaurin, president of the Association, reflects on the Symposium and examines faith’s transformative role in American society, recounting highlights of the convening through session recordings and grounding historical context.

The Symposium featured four panels and a lunch program with speakers including scholars, clergy, historians, and diplomats. Each panel approached the topic of faith in early America, exploring the revolutionary moment that gave rise to American religious liberty, the spiritual landscape of the early Federal City, and the impact of faith on the early presidency.

The program concluded with a concert at St. John’s Church in collaboration with the British Embassy Washington. The Choir of Westminster Abbey performed classical English works and the world debut of Nico Muhly’s commissioned composition, *That Great Architect*.

“I was truly struck by the Symposium’s scholarship and artistry,” said Stewart McLaurin. “I am thrilled to reflect on and share this day of programming with our wider audiences, in keeping with our foundational mission of broadening access to White House history.”

This episode of *The White House 1600 Sessions* offers a deeper look into the conversations from the Symposium through commentary from Stewart as well as select video clips from the panels, lunch program, and concert at St. John’s Church with the Choir of Westminster Abbey.

*The White House 1600 Sessions* podcast is available on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

The full video of this podcast episode is also available on the White House Historical Association’s YouTube channel [here](#).

For more information, please contact [press@whha.org](mailto:press@whha.org).

**The White House 1600 Sessions**

The White House Historical Association's President Stewart McLaurin is the host of *The White House 1600 Sessions*, the Association's official audio and video podcast devoted to exploring the history, cultural impact, untold stories, and personal accounts of America's most iconic residence and highest office.

### **About the White House Historical Association**

Founded in 1961 by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, the White House Historical Association is the nonprofit, nonpartisan organization entrusted with preserving and sharing the history of the White House. Supported entirely by private philanthropy and the sale of educational books and products, the Association reaches millions of students, teachers, and lifelong learners through research and scholarship initiatives, public programming, and the authoritative titles published by its independent press. Throughout each presidency, the Association works with the Offices of the First Lady and the White House Curator to acquire and preserve historic objects for the White House Fine and Decorative Arts Collection. The Association also operates The People's House: A White House Experience, a free, immersive, educational museum in Washington, D.C., which welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. To learn more about the White House Historical Association, please visit [WhiteHouseHistory.org](http://WhiteHouseHistory.org).

###