

Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting of Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene
on Saturday, February 8, 2020

I. The 2020 annual church meeting of the Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene was called to order by Lead Pastor Richard Griffiths at 3:13 PM on Saturday, February 8th with a video of worship sequence and prayer by Pastor Richard Griffiths.

Pastor Richard Griffiths asked for a motion and second to accept the agenda. He then reminded the meeting that only members are eligible to vote and cast motions. Pastor Althea Taylor moved and Brother Barrington Tugman seconded the motion to accept the agenda, and the congregation agreed by acclaim.

II. The church Secretary, Sis. Francine Palmer Mullings, read the minutes of the 2019 annual church meeting. Sis. Pamela Barnes Adegun moved and Bro. Javier Burt-Miller seconded the motion to accept the minutes with any necessary corrections. The motion to accept the minutes carried unanimously by voice vote.

III. At 3:45 PM, the Secretary assumed the role of chairing the meeting, as Pastor Richard Griffiths read the Pastor's report.

Bro. Curtis Dale moved and Sis. Bernadette Stevens, seconded a motion to accept the Pastor's report. There was a brief period of discussion which included:

- Changing the reference to "Valet Team" to "Parking Ministry"
- Clarification that the membership transfers were transfers of membership out of Bronx Bethany and not transfers into Bronx Bethany.
- Twenty Eight People were Received into Membership in 2019
- The addition of –The Renaming of the street on the corner of E227 and Paulding Ave to Rev Dr. V. Seymour Cole Way on Saturday, July 14, 2019 in honor of Pastor Emeritus Dr. V. Seymour Cole

The Pastor's Report was approved unanimously by acclaim. Pastor Richard Griffiths resumed chairing the meeting. Pastor Richard Griffiths presented a special gift of appreciation to Paulo Tennant who did not seek reelection to the BBCN Board.

IV. The Report of the Nominating Committee was reviewed. Members of the committee were Sis. Marcia Constable, Sis. Michelle Lara Arthur, Sis. Veronica Burt-Miller, Bro. Nicholas Burt-Miller, Bro. Curtis Dale, Bro. Patrick Drummond and Bro. Stelton (Peter) Syblis.

The nominees for Trustees, of whom four (4) were to be chosen, were Bros. Curtis Dale, David Mendes, Glenford Ottey, Cliveth Reid and Sister Nichelle Maynard Elliott. The nominees for Stewards, of whom one (1) was to be chosen, were Sister Sandra Morris and Brother Stelton 'Peter' Syblis.

Ballots were distributed and completed by attendees to select Trustees, Stewards, and for delegates for District Assembly. The Tellers / Ushers who counted the ballots were: Sisters Erma Clarke (Lead Teller), Annette Lovelace, Sandra Morris, Carol Pitter and Judith Rerrie and Brothers Jonathan Carter and Junior Morris.

At Pastor Richard Griffiths' request, Pastor Althea Taylor moved and Sis. Janice Reid seconded the motion to suspend the standing orders and resolve into committee to vote for NMI President. The motion was adopted unanimously. The members completed ballots for NMI president, for which there was only one nominee, Sis. Loisen Jacobs. Sis. Vigla Allison moved and Brother Dave Sharpe seconded the motion to exit the committee and return to the general session. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Ballots for the 12 delegates and four (4) alternates for the 2020 Metro New York District Assembly were distributed. Delegate nominees were Sisters Veronica Burt-Miller, Michelle Lara Arthur, Xucia Carr, Roshell Reid, Cheryl Tugman, Alvina Duhaney-Vassell, Rose Rubin, Janett St. Hill, Pansy Thomas, and Brothers Kirk Banton, Nicholas

Burt-Miller, Curtis Dale, Nicholas Lewis, Junior Morris, Glen Reynolds and David Wilson. Nominees for alternates were Sisters Everith Palmer and Donna Wade, and Brothers Shubert Jacobs and Paulo Tennant.

The tellers collected all ballots and proceeded to count the votes. The tellers were: Erma Clarke (Lead Teller). Carol Pitter, Alexis Williams, Sharon Davis, Annette Lovelace. The ushers were: Joy Nichols, Faith Fraser and Cheryl Tugman.

V. Brother Paulo Tennant presented the 2019 Financial Report with Income and Expenses for 2019 and the Budget for 2020. He noted that the Lord Should Be Praised for His Faithfulness and Goodness.

Bro. Curtis Dale moved and Sis. Marcia Constable seconded a motion to accept the Financial Report. A period of questions and answers followed. Some of those questions and answers were the following:

Question: Do we have any Restricted Assets?

Answer: No

Question: What portion of the mortgage is due this year?

Answer: We pay \$27, 000 - \$9,000 goes to interest

Question: Did we pay our Budget Obligation Last Year?

Answer: Yes

Question: Why is Leadership Development only \$20,000

Answer: Ministries will be consolidated for Leadership Development. It will be built into the departments.

Question: What is the State of the Vine Church as a church plant?

Answer: It is going well. It is slow work and good work. Small Group happens at the Rock Club. Another small group is to be established this year. Relationships are being established. Three people are applying for their Local Ministers License. About 12 people for weekly small fellowship and 70 people during High Holy Worship Times.

Question: How will the space for the Children's Church be developed?

Answer: A company has been contracted to plan and upgrade the facility.

Emphasis will continue to be for Children not Multiple Purpose. It will be child specific for adults to adjust.

Question: Is the budget amount enough for Safety?

Answer: Increase will be enough. There is a Safety Team who is in place and work assiduously behind the scenes. NYPD and Private security companies have been contracted.

Question: What is the nominating Process?

Answer: Pastor Richard Griffiths selects the nominating committee based on their commitment to the church and the work of the church. The Lead Pastor vets the names presented by the Nominating Committee. People are also asked if they are willing to serve and they must accept the nomination.

Question: Are we in Contract for Paulding Avenue that was voted on?

Answer: Yes

Question: Are there any plans for the growth of the Church in terms of Number – Only 27 people received membership?

Answer: Qualitative growth is more important than quantitative growth during this season. Importance will be placed on Leadership Development so that we become missional and promote healthy growth. Move as ONE church. God is growing a church so that He will draw others unto Him.

Clarifications:

- Description of Sycamore and Hillcrest Properties
- Housing allowance is allotted to Pastor Richard Griffiths and all other ordained ministers.
- Training Leadership Development will be for all Staff and Volunteers and not just Staff
- Bronx Betel a church in the South Bronx will be receiving Financial and Human Resources support from Bronx Bethany. Focus of Bronx Bethany will be a Planting Church.

The motion to accept the Financial Report was approved unanimously by voice vote.

VI. The next agenda item was the report of the **Trustees**, given by Trustees Chair Bro. David Mendes. The report focused on Safety and Church Properties. Appreciation was extended to the following people: Parking Ministry, Bookkeeper – Sis. Everith Palmer, volunteers who make Sunday Worship happen and everyone who gives time back to the church.

After the report was read, Bro Cliveth Clarke moved and Sis. Bernadette Stevens seconded the motion, to accept the report.

Question: What is the long-term plan for 964 E227th Paulding Ave.?

Answer: All property will be addressed in the Capital and Fund Development Planning
There were no more questions.

The Trustees Report was accepted unanimously by voice vote.

VII. Sister Judith Clarke, Chair of the Stewards, presented the report of the **Stewards**. Sis Judith Clarke noted that it was the job of the Stewards to oversee people. There are some people who are super connected and some people are not. She encouraged us to be intentional in connecting with someone. The development of the Church's database will help us know who we are and connect to each other. Special thanks to Tanya Thompson and Xucia Carr.

After the report was read, Bro Barrington Tugman moved and Sis. Tanya Thompson seconded the motion, to accept the report.

There were no questions.

The motion to accept the report was adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Pastor Richard Griffiths noted that the Bronx Bethany Church will be moving from the narrow focus on Sick and Shut-ins to include broader Congregational Care.

VIII Sis. Loisen Jacobs presented the report of the **NMI Council**.

Highlights included:

- Special Thanks to Sis. Mavis and Sis Doreen Ruty and the Pantry Ministry
- Special thanks to Sis. Doreen Atherton and her Shelter Ministry Team
- Young men are needed for Tuesday [shelter ministry? CLARIFY]
- Wayne and Erica Myrie are new leaders of the Marrieds Ministry

Sis. Coleen Mendes moved and Sis. Lana HoShing seconded a motion to accept the NMI report. There were no questions.

The motion to accept the NMI report was accepted unanimously by voice vote.

Pastor Richard Griffiths noted that we will be focusing us on Renewing Wesleyan Witness as emphasized in the Book – “Christian Social Innovation: Renewing Wesleyan Witness. We will be more missional with a New Website and Video On Demand. It is not for us, it is for them.

IX. Pastor Carlene “Joy” Reynolds presented highlights from the Christian **Maturity** Report.

Thanks to the data director for the Safety Check In

Big thank you to the Volunteers for the Children’s and Nursery Ministry.

Sis. Tamar Walker left as the leader.

Special thanks to Bro. Paul, Sis. Eulalee and Francis with Jusani Morris and Nicholas Lewis.

Sis. Esther Little moved and Sis. Carmen Hylon seconded a motion to approve the Christian Maturity Report.

Question: Did Tamar Walker migrate?

Answer: No.

Question: Are Special Needs of children being considered in the redesigning of Space?

Answer. Yes.

The motion was accepted unanimously by voice vote.

X. The results of the **elections** were announced, as follows:

1. The four persons with the highest vote counts for position of Trustees, and their vote counts, were the following: Sis. Nichelle Maynard-Elliott (156), Bro. David Mendes (135), Bro. Glenford Ottey (134) and Bro. Curtis Dale (130).
2. The person with the higher vote count for position of Stewards, and the vote count was Sis. Sandra Morris (120).
3. Sis. Loisen Jacobs was elected as NMI President, (155 yea votes, and 8 nay votes).
4. The slate of persons elected to represent Bronx Bethany at the Metro New York District Assembly in May as delegates were the nominees listed above. The slate was elected with 161 yea votes and 2 nay votes.

Pastor Richard Griffiths requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sis. Shyrill Powell moved and Sis. Racquel Smith Anderson seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Pastor Richard Griffiths closed the meeting in prayer at 6:17 PM .

Respectfully submitted,

Francine Palmer Mullings

Sis. Francine Palmer Mullings

Board Secretary