

Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting of Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene
on Saturday, March 20, 2021

I. The 2021 annual church meeting of the Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene was called to order online via Zoom (due to the continuation of the global COVID-19 pandemic), by Lead Pastor Richard Griffiths at 3:15 PM on Saturday, March 20, 2021 with a video of worship sequence, reflection on 1 Corinthians 2: 1 – 5 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. Brothers Dave Sharpe moved and Glenmore Reynolds 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 2020 annual church meeting. Bro. Shubert Jacobs moved and Sis Janett Hill seconded the motion to accept the minutes with any necessary corrections. The motion to accept the minutes carried unanimously by voice vote.

III. At 4:05 PM, the Secretary assumed the role of chairing the meeting, as Pastor Richard Griffiths read the Pastor's report.

Sis. Vigla Allison moved and Sis. Candace Ashmeade seconded a motion to accept the Pastor's report. There was a brief period of discussion which included the clarification of:

- Levitical Formation
- Roles of Stewards, Student Coordinator and Executive Director
- Commendation of the job of the Lead Pastor Richard Griffiths

The Pastor's Report was approved unanimously by acclaim. Pastor Richard Griffiths resumed chairing the meeting.

IV. Pastor Richard Griffiths then explained that in lieu of the annual church membership vote to elect board members, BBCN had received from the Metro New York District Superintendent approval to suspend board elections for the 2021 church year because of the unusual circumstances precipitated by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Each board member's term would be extended by one year: (i) board members whose term ends at the 2021 church meeting would serve for another year and be up for election at the 2022 church meeting; and (ii) board members whose term ends in 2022 would serve for another two years and then be up for election at the 2023 church meeting.

The BBCN Board then became the nomination committee and renominated the 12 delegates and four (4) alternates that were voted on for the 2020 Metro New York District Assembly to serve as the same for the 2021 Metro New York District Assembly. 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.

A link was placed in the chat and on the website to vote for the Delegates and Alternates to the 2021 Metro New York District Assembly. It was noted that the District Assembly would be available of Online Attendance for everyone to attend.

V. The church Treasurer, Brother Curtis Dale prayed and presented the Treasurer's 2020 Financial Report with Income and Expenses for 2020 and the Budget for 2021. He noted that the Lord Should Be Praised for His Faithfulness and Goodness.

Sis Melanie Blackwood moved and Sis. Loisen Harris Jacobs seconded a motion to accept the Financial Report. A period of questions and answers followed. Highlights of the discussion:

- Online Giving
- Reopening of Church and After School Enrichment Program
- U.S. Government COVID-19 Paycheck Protection Program Loans

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. Appreciation was extended to the following people: Bookkeeper – Sis. Everith Palmer, volunteers who made Sunday Worship happen and everyone who gives time back to the church.

After the report was read, Sis Genise Reid moved and Pastor Althea seconded the motion to accept the report. Highlights of discussion after the report included:

- Plans for Properties owned by Bronx Bethany Church of Nazarene
- Mortgage renegotiation

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 is the job of the Stewards to oversee people. She encouraged the church to be intentional in connecting with someone. Special thanks was made to Sis Francine Palmer Mullings on her assistance in online meetings via Zoom.

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

There were no questions.

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

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

Highlights included:

- Saying Goodbye to Sis Doreen Rutty who went home to be with the Lord during 2020. She established the food pantry and served as director for 13 years.
- Partnering with Bronx-wide Peoples Platform

Sis. Sharon Davis moved and Sis. Judith Clarke 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 on Renewing Wesleyan Witness as emphasized in the Book – “Christian Social Innovation: Renewing Wesleyan Witness”. He also stated that BBCN would become more missional with a New Website and Video On Demand. He reminded us that “It is not for us, it is for them.

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

- Online Prayer Groups
- Special Thanks to Sisters Andrea Robinson, Jessica and Jessena Maxwell and Brother Garnet Burey for their leadership with Online Bible Quizzing.

Sis. Sherril Taylor moved and Sis. Deborah Hunter-Brown seconded a motion to approve the Christian Maturity Report. The following two questions were asked and answered after the 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. Sis Melanie Snape Blackwood presented a report on the Bronx Bethany Community Corporation

Sis. Vigla Allison moved and Sis. Janett St. Hill seconded a motion to approve the report on the Bronx Bethany Community Corporation

XI. Bro. Shubert Jacobs presented a report on the reopening of Bronx Bethany for in person worship.

Sis. Sherril Taylor moved and Sis. Winsome Sharpe seconded a motion to approve the report on the Reopening of Bronx Bethany Church.

1. 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 104 yea votes and 1 nay votes.

Pastor Richard Griffiths requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sis. Janett St. Hill moved and Sis. Erma Clarke seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Pastor Richard Griffiths closed the meeting in prayer at 7:34 pm with special prayers for Sis. Janet St. Hill and family on the passing of her sister and for Sis. Volda Watson who lost her son.

Respectfully submitted,

Francine Palmer Mullings

Sis. Francine Palmer Mullings

Board Secretary