

Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting of Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene
on Saturday, March 19, 2022

I. The 2022 annual church meeting of the Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene was called to order in the BBCN Sanctuary and online via Zoom (due to the continuation of the global COVID-19 pandemic), by Lead Pastor Richard Griffiths at 3:39 PM on Saturday, March 19, 2022 with prayer by Pastor Richard Griffiths. Pastor Richie apologized for the late start and the Executive Director David Vassel gave instructions on how to navigate the website for the documents for the hybrid church meeting.

Pastor Richard Griffiths asked for a motion and second to accept the agenda at 4:00 p.m. Sis. Janet Hill moved and Brother Shubert Jacobs and the congregation agreed by acclaim voice in person and chat online vote.

II. A video recording of the church Secretary, Sis. Francine Palmer Mullings, reading the minutes of the 2021 annual church meeting. Bro. Curtis Dale and Sis. Carmen Hylton seconded the motion to accept the minutes with any necessary corrections. The motion to accept the minutes carried unanimously with the following corrections: Page 3 Clive Clarke no e on Sis Janet's name. Page 1 Sis Janet St Hill. 1st page

III. At 4:19 PM, the Secretary assumed the role of chairing the meeting, as Pastor Richard Griffiths read the Pastor's report.

Moved – Janet St. Hill

Seconded – Pansy Thomas

Sis. Vigla Allison moved and Sis. Candace Ashmeade seconded a motion to accept the Pastor's report. There were no questions

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 2022 church year because of the unusual circumstances precipitated by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Two Board Members stepped down: Sis. Judith Clarke and Brother Glenford Ottey. Bro. Richard Ashmeade recognized them with gifts from the BBCN congregation. Pastor Richard Griffiths prayed for them and their household.

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 2022 Metro New York District Assembly.

V. Sister Judith Clarke, Chair of the Stewards, presented the report of the **Stewards**. Highlights included: 24 Hour Prayer Line which started 12 a.m. February 20, 2022, More work to be done for the Sick and Shut in special thanks to Danielle Baptiste, Sis Frances Williams and Sis. Claudette Daley.

After the report was read, Sis. Joy Nicholson moved and Sis. Janet St. Hill seconded the motion to accept the report.

Sis. Marilyn Maye asked “If Sis Judith Clarke is stepping down, will we short one steward?” Pastor Richie explained that there is a restructuring of the Board. At the next elections, you will be voting for just Board members and then the Pastor will assign Board Members.

Bro. Glenmore Reynolds prayed a prayer of Thanksgiving to God for Pastor Dr. Richard Griffith’s accomplishment.

The motion to accept the report was adopted unanimously by voice in person and chat online vote.

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

Highlights included:

- Youth presenters during the third Saturday – Prayer and Fasting.
- Pastor Amalia Henao who bloomed where she was planted in Colombia during the pandemic.
- Missions in South Africa, Uganda, Haiti, Louisiana
- Sis. Sonia Jennings and Sis. Valerie Llewelyn who started and worked in the Shelter Mission who went home to be with the Lord
- Sis Doreen Atherton who has been a great support and Ministry Partner in the Shelter Mission
- Pantry Ministry and Community Walk.

Bro. Curtis Dale moved and Sis. Marcella Brown 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.

VII. The next agenda item was the report of the **Trustees**, given by Trustees Chair Bro. David Mendes via Zoom.

After the report was read, Sis. Loisen Harris Jacobs moved and Bro. Paulo Tennant 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 question of the status of the property that was acquired. Plans are underway for capital development as a whole instead of just the property which needs repair

The Trustees Report was accepted unanimously by voice in person and chat online vote.

VIII The church Treasurer, Brother Curtis Dale prayed and presented the Treasurer's 2021 Financial Report with Income and Expenses for 2021 and the Budget for 2022. He noted that the Lord Should Be Praised for His Faithfulness and Goodness.

Sis. Sharon Davis moved and Sis. Utilda Brown 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

Questions from Bro. Paulo Tennant: "Does the income include the sale of the property? If you removed the sale of the property what would the Excess income be the opposite?"

Bro. Curtis Dale: “Yes that is correct. The sale of the properties were included in the budget.”

Sis. Loisen Jacobs noted that we should continue to be generous because we will not be selling any properties this year.

Pastor Dr. Richard Griffiths noted that we got a surprise income of \$27, 500 from Bronx Wide Peoples Platform.

Questions from Bro. Patrick Drummond:

“Is this is an audited report?”

Answer: “We are audited every three years but we missed an audit due to the Pandemic. There will be an audit this year.”

Question: “We have a high debt to equity ratio. Do we have a plan to reduce yet?”

Answer from Dr. Pastor Richard Griffiths” “Yes as addressed in his Pastor’s Report.

Question: Sis. Marilyn Maye wanted a comparative analysis of the giving before the Pandemic and now. Sis Coleen Mendes, the Director Finance said that the trend has been going up. Since the One Fund campaign was the generosity in Tithes and Offering. It declined by over \$300,000 from 2019. Pastor Dr. Richard Griffiths said that the congregation has been very responsive and generous when called upon.

The Executive Director, also noted that the sale of Hillcrest was used to pay down a significant amount of the debt on Paulding Avenue that we acquired the day after the shutdown.

Bro. Jacobs noted that we should also consider social emotionally and economical effects of the war and pandemic.

Pastor Richard Griffiths and Bro. David Vassel said the priority continues to the Social Emotional and Spiritual Well-being of everyone. The Pandemic has also afforded new opportunities.

Bro. Patrick Drummond asked “What kind of alliances will be forging?

Pastor Dr. Richard Griffiths shared his vision.

The motion to accept the Financial Report was approved unanimously by voice in person and chat online vote.

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 95 yea votes and 3 nay votes.

Sis. Judith Clarke mentioned Bro. Jusani Morris for his outstanding help with the Sick and Shut In.

Sis. Marcella Brown thanked the Pastors who carried on the church between Pastor Dr. Samuel Vassel and Pastor Dr. Pastor Richard Griffiths.

IX Pastor Richard Griffiths requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sis. Candace Ashmeade moved and Sis. Moira Peddie seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Pastor Richard Griffiths closed the meeting in prayer at 6:28 pm and blessed all the families online and in the sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,

Francine Palmer Mullings

Sis. Francine Palmer Mullings

Board Secretary