

MINUTES
THE NEW JERSEY MINISTRY NETWORK OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD PRESBYTERY
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 – Regular Meeting (Summary)

Presbyters Present: Superintendent Don James, Nestor Arellano (Ethnic/Language – Filipino), John Bechtel (ECN), Spencer Click (ECS), Mario Gonzalez (NE), Russ Hodgins (WCN), Paul Jackson (WCS), Wes Kenyon (N), Kurt Kinney (Assistant Superintendent), Andy Lynn (DYP/NextGen), Walter Nistorenko (S), Mike Pignaloso (NW), Frank Reitzel (Executive Secretary)

Also Present: Fabian Kalapuch (Church Planting and Missions Director)

Auditors Present: Brooke Altschul, Jermel Mayo

Absent: Carl Colletti (Honorary Presbyter), Pablo Pizarro (Ethnic/Language – Hispanic), Nancy Tonnessen (auditor)

The superintendent convened the meeting at 8:12 am.

DEVOTIONAL

Paul Jackson shared a devotional about becoming bigger people – building bigger people not building bigger buildings. God wants to make you more like him. God wants to use you for good works. His main thoughts came from 1 Peter 2: Cry like a baby, Think like a priest, Act like an alien.

- Born again babies crying for the word (v. 2): If we want our people to be people of the word, we need to model that. We learn from the example of others. Study it well. Interpret it right. Pray for prophetic application. The Bible is more than a place to get a sermon outline.
- Think like a priest – think intentionally that we are priests of the most-high God (vss. 4-5, 9): You are...that you may display the excellencies of God. Guard your thoughts. I need to allow others in the body to help me – I'm not the only priest. I don't have all the gifts. I'm called to make sacrifices (Col. 1:24).
- Act like an alien (v. 11) – living and modeling like God: All ET wanted to do was phone home and go home. Keep setting your hope fully on home (v. 11). Live kingdom principles as if you're in heaven. Live the big picture.

Discussion, prayer requests, and prayer followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion prevailed to accept the ✓ Network Presbytery Meeting Minutes: *February 7, 2023*. It was noted that sectional committees should have their own Confidentiality Agreement to sign off on, especially the assistant presbyter who can sit in on presbytery meetings.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Much of the superintendent's report was contained in the agenda (especially see the "Church Matters" section of the agenda):

- We have been trying to help Fountain of Life since the sanctuary burned down.

- “Seek and Save” is coming soon and is taking a lot of work and time. Calvary Assembly of God in Springfield (New Jersey) hosted the evangelism training.
- There has been a lot of planning for Network Summit. The Theme is “Beyond Babylon.” Prayer for this strategic event is needed.
- The superintendent attended the Missions Connect and shared some of its wisdom.
- He is helping churches move forward.

A motion prevailed to accept the superintendent’s report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

CPA Juli D’Ascendis entered the presbytery meeting at 1:55 pm and reviewed the financial documents, including:

- ✓ Consolidated Financial Reports: *February 2023*
- ✓ Thrive Fund report: *Jan – Feb 2023*
- ✓ Summary Budget vs. 2022 Actuals
- ✓ Minister Tithe Report by Section: *Jan – Feb 2023*
- ✓ Ministers Who Did Not Tithe: *Jan – Feb 2023*

It was suggested that we continually emphasize all the good that the Thrive Fund does in as many ways as possible. A motion prevailed to approve the financial report. A motion prevailed to approve the budget to go to Network Summit.

The following were given to the presbytery: ✓Tithing Policy and ✓Bylaws; ✓Tithe Letter Samples; ✓Senior Retired List

CRC REPORT

It was reported that the CRC (Community Resource Center) committee had a good meeting. Everything was pretty much straight forward.

DMD REPORT

Fabian reported on a new church plant in Trenton and, prayerfully in the future, in Camden. He also discussed missionaries, a missionaries prayer guide, and handed out a missions giving report. He will give the presbyters a list of missionary associates. A motion prevailed to accept the DMD report.

NEXTGEN REPORT: MARCH 2023

Andy Lynn reviewed the ✓ written report. Fine Arts, contrary to the written report, has now trended upward. He explained “Blueprint” which has a new emphasis for pastors and their teams. It will be held on October 28.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The superintendent reviewed the background for a corporate spending limit policy to be placed in the Policy and Procedure Manual. Network Summit discussion along with his tithing letter inspired this. Two other districts/networks have their versions of this in their P

and P manuals. A motion prevailed to approve the ✓ NJMN BUDGETARY POLICY GOVERNING UNBUDGETED EXPENDITURES.

- The ✓ committee meeting minutes regarding the General Council Inclusivity Resolution were given to the presbytery. It was agreed that the way the auditors are set up in our Network is working effectively.
- The superintendent met with Brian Griswold regarding *Operation Guardrail*-type help. Brian has made individual counseling available for ministers. The *Conquer Series* is a resource to help anyone struggling with pornography.
- The superintendent asked the presbyters to prepare their sectional ministers to give an offering to “Seek and Save” (seekandsave.ag.org) at Network Summit. More information is coming.

CREDENTIAL DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- A motion prevailed to change the Policy and Procedure Manual (p. 9) so that the auditors can be present during credential disciplinary discussions. It was agreed to delete the words, “and credential disciplinary.”
- The superintendent reported on two credential holders going through the restoration process.

CHURCH MATTERS

The following churches were discussed:

- ✓ Burlington (Kingsway Church’s PAC campus) closed in January 2021. The paperwork is being cleaned up.
- ✓ Cherry Hill (Kingsway Church’s Latino PAC campus) closed in January 2020. The paperwork is being cleaned up.
- ✓ Jersey City (Jesus Our Savior AG) is no longer a PAC of El Shaddai AG (Wharton).
- ✓ North Plainfield (Charisma Ministries) has closed as an Assemblies of God church.
- ✓ Somerset (Centro Cristiano Nueva Vida AG), a PAC of Temple Rock, has closed. COVID influenced its closing.
- Toms River (Vital Church) has merged with Life Chapel in Point Pleasant.
- A motion prevailed to approve ✓ Trenton (Village at the Cross – new church plant) as a District Council Affiliated Assembly.
- The following are open churches:
 - East Brunswick’s (Lighthouse Christian Fellowship) interim is Dave Mazzella.
 - Pennsauken’s (Calvary Assembly of God) interim is Tony Parenti.
 - Rockaway Assembly of God has a new pastor: Adriana Moguee.
 - Somerset’s (Eternal Life Christian Center) interim is Zollie Smith.
 - Vineland’s (Living Hope Assembly of God) interim is Rich Leland.
- Two churches pastored by pastors with no AG credential were reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS

- A motion prevailed that Donna James’s name be submitted to the NJMN Council in session for ratification as the General Council Nonresident Executive Presbyter Female nominee from the New Jersey Ministry Network. The superintendent excused himself for the vote.

- The superintendent suggested that for Sectional Councils, Secretary-Treasurer nominations do not need a discussion with candidates before the election process. Two names just need to be placed before the body. At least one can remove their name if they so desire. This will help things to be done decently and in order.
- A motion prevailed to approve the ✓ United Women’s Advisory Committee. A motion also prevailed to approve the suggested assistant along with the Connection Team.

PROSPECTIVE CREDENTIALS

- ✓ Ordination Candidate Journals were given to the presbyters (who they will be laying hands on and praying over) so they could write in them.

The following applications for ministerial credentials were presented. Separate motions prevailed to approve the following applicants at the respective level of credentials and recommend to the General Council Credentials Committee that their applications be approved:

Certified:

- ✓ Stephanie Huff

Licensed:

- ✓ Ebenezer Ackah
- ✓ Amanda Bowers
- ✓ Cynthia Walls-Ortiz
- ✓ Samuel Yeboah

Reinstatement:

- ✓ Sarah Cohen

CREDENTIALS RESIGNED

A motion prevailed to approve Charlene Friedman’s resignation.

CREDENTIAL TRANSFERS

It was noted that ✓ Tim and Bethany Pike transferred out to the Puerto Rico District.

INFORMATION ONLY

The following were briefly reviewed and given to the presbytery.

- ✓ Sectional Council Elections (updated) – The superintendent noted that attendance was down.
- The northeast regional prayer event will be held in Bensalem on June 9. A meeting of all northeast region presbyters is planned for June 8.
- ✓ Acts 2 Journey; ✓ Pipeline Meetings
- ✓ Bylaws Updates (with highlighted changes and plain copy)

- ✓ Credential Holder List – *Alphabetical*; ✓ Credential Holder List – *by Section*; ✓ Credential Holder List – *Widows/Widowers*
- ✓ Church List – *by Section*; ✓ Church List – *Alphabetized by Name*

A motion prevailed to adjourn at 4:37 pm.

Frank E. Reitzel, Jr.

Executive Secretary

Yellow = CONFIDENTIAL, PRESBYTERY ONLY; ✓ = SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS