

MINUTES
THE NEW JERSEY MINISTRY NETWORK OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD PRESBYTERY
Tuesday, January 31, 2023 – Zoom (Summary)

Presbyters Present: Superintendent Don James, Josh Bechtel (ECN – substituting for John Bechtel), Spencer Click (ECS), Mario Gonzalez (NE), Russ Hodgins (WCN), Fabian Kalapuch (DMD), Wes Kenyon (N), Kurt Kinney (Assistant Superintendent), Walter Nistorenko (S), Mike Pignaloso (NW), Pablo Pizarro (Ethnic/Language – Hispanic), Frank Reitzel (Executive Secretary)

Auditors Present: Jermel Mayo, Nancy Tonnessen

Absent: Nestor Arellano (Ethnic/Language – Filipino), John Bechtel (ECN), Carl Colletti (Honorary Presbyter), Paul Jackson (WCS); Brooke Altschul (auditor)

The superintendent convened the meeting at 9:06 am.

DEVOTIONAL

The superintendent shared a devotional from Matthew 6 (blessing, beatitudes). Jesus highlighted the power of the blessed life, giving, praying, and fasting. Prayer connects us to God. Fasting disconnects us from the world. You won't move forward until you give. In Matthew 6:5-6, Jesus talked about hypocrisy in prayer, contrasted with the power of the secret place (the Holy of Holies with God). When the priest entered the Holy of Holies, it was the holiest act on the holiest day in the holiest place. It used to be one day a year. Now it is open to all of us. We have the same access to God as the high priest. Don't take for granted this incredible access to God. Requests and prayer followed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion prevailed to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion prevailed to receive and archive the **✓ Network Presbytery Meeting Minutes: *October 11, 2022***.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The superintendent gave an update on some of our churches in transition. Overall, church pastors have been installed and pastoral elections have taken place. A lawsuit has been settled. The superintendent has been meeting with church boards and did a pastor-board training in Lakewood with Bro. Colletti. A motion prevailed to accept the superintendent's report.

DYD/NEXTGEN REPORT

Andy Lynn (DYD/NextGen) joined the Zoom Meeting at 9:51 am and was on for 20 minutes. He highlighted the points outlined in his written report (**✓ NextGen Report: *Jan. 2023***).

There is a correlation between giving and engagement with community, ministry and spiritual fruit. (Where your treasure is there your heart will be also.)
They need to raise \$75,000 for *Seek and Save* for sound systems and gear.
About 100 of our churches have some kind of NextGen ministry.
A motion prevailed to receive the DYD/NextGen report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The superintendent will be meeting with Christian licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC) Brian Griswold and his associate regarding helping spiritual leaders in pornography and sexual challenges (Operation Guardrail).
- A committee is being finalized to discuss the General Council ✓ Inclusivity Resolution. Additionally, it was concluded that it would be best not to make any changes with the bylaws concerning the DYD. Also, the DMD will continue to have voice/no vote on the presbytery.

CHURCH MATTERS

The following open churches were reviewed:

- Burlington (LifeGate Assembly of God) has a new pastor: Benjamin Dieterly.
- East Brunswick's (Lighthouse Christian Fellowship) interim pastor is Dave Mazzella.
- Englishtown (Crossroads Assembly of God) has a new pastor: Dan Dabrowski.
- Glassboro (Calvary Hill Church) has a new Pastor: Joe O'Maley.
- Newark (Bethel AG) has a new Pastor: Thomas Correa.
- Pennsauken's (Calvary Assembly of God) interim pastor is Tony Parenti.
- Rockaway Assembly of God's interim pastor is Adriana Mogee.
- Somerset's (Eternal Life Christian Center) interim pastor is Zollie Smith.
- Vineland's (Living Hope Assembly of God) interim pastor is Rich Leland.
- Whiting Assembly of God has a new pastor: Todd Huff.

Three pastors, who pastor an AG church with no AG credential, were reviewed:

NEW BUSINESS

- A motion prevailed to approve a ✓ Housing Allowance Resolution.
- The superintendent informed the presbytery that we do not have corporate spending limit guidelines in our district documents. The superintendent recommended reading Rich Hammar's book on *Church Governance*. The superintendent and a committee will meet to bring clarity to this.
- The superintendent has been working with Gordon Lane regarding pastors desiring to go on Sabbaticals but are unable to find someone to lead while they are gone. We have interim pastors who are willing to help.
- The superintendent is looking to lighten up presbytery duties and schedules so they can have more time to meet with credential holders.
- There will be evangelism training for *Seek and Save* (seekandsave.ag.org) on March 11 at Calvary AG in Springfield, New Jersey. Joe Oden, General Council's National Director of

Prayer and Evangelism will be leading. This is preparation for *Seek and Save* in Newark (May 30-June 3). Convoy of Hope will also be coming to Newark. People can register through the website. Background checks will be run through *Seek and Save*.

- The ✓Tithing Letter needs a small tweak and will be reviewed next week at our meeting.

CREDENTIAL MATTERS

Credential resignations were approved for the following ministers:

- ✓Christopher Everett
- ✓Scott Moore

A motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 am.

Frank E. Reitzel, Jr.

Network Executive Secretary

Yellow = CONFIDENTIAL, PRESBYTERY ONLY; ✓ = SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS