

**MINUTES OF THE 68<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE NEW JERSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL/MINISTRY NETWORK SUMMIT OF  
THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD  
Convened in Burlington, New Jersey  
Monday, May 2-4, 2022**

**MONDAY AFTERNOON – MAY 2, 2022**

The 68<sup>th</sup> session of the New Jersey District Council/Ministry Network commenced at 1:00 pm. at the Fountain of Life Center in Burlington, New Jersey with hosts Andy Lynn and Brian Lane.

**Devotion**

Superintendent Don James shared a devotion on “Enough Already!” from the book of Nehemiah. The people of God were stuck. Babylon had gotten inside of Gods people. It was somewhat like it is today. But God stirred hearts. He called someone and raised them up to inspire the people to arise and build. He can do the same through us today.

The gracious hand of God was upon Nehemiah...and is on us. It’s time to arise and build. If we want to see revival (Steps to Arise and Build):

**Arise**

1. Nehemiah grieved (1:2-4). There needs to be a heightening of our spiritual sensitivity. We must not be dulled to what is happening in our world. Are we weeping?
2. He confessed the great God he serves (1:5). We must go to our God in heaven.
3. He prayed and repented (1:6-7). We must clear the air with God – confess sin, even from our forefathers. Someone has to stand in the gap for our nation. We are the leaders in the church.
4. He remembered the great promises God had made (1:8-10). Remember the promises God made of old. They are still for today.

**Build**

5. He asked God to give Him a plan and favor (1:11). God’s plans are higher than ours. He brings favor.
6. He moved in faith and put it all on the line (2:3-5). Faith has no comfort zone. Step out boldly.
7. He acted out God’s plan (2:17-19). It created unity and action in the people. We can change the atmosphere and environment we live in (Acts 4:23ff.). It’s time for us to Arise and Build.

A time of prayer followed.

**Communion**

The superintendent led in a time of communion and remembering our Lord.

**Memorials 2022**

Executive Secretary Frank E. Reitzel, Jr. expressed appreciation and honored five ministers who went to be with the Lord since our 2021 District Council/Network Summit.

**Presentation and Recess**

Fabian Kalapuch recognized missionaries present at the Summit and shared about a missions trip to India. The meeting recessed at 2:20 pm for a short break to reconvene for business at 2:30 pm.

**Welcome**

The afternoon session convened at 2:33 pm with Andy Lynn and Brian Lane.

**Presentation**

A video greeting from General Superintendent Doug Clay was shown.

**Presentation**

Assemblies of God Credit Union

**Business Session**

The superintendent shared about a Fire Bible gift for each credential holder. The superintendent (chairman) then opened the business session at 2:41 pm. He called for an agenda slide along with a motion to open business. A motion prevailed. He welcomed overseas missionaries who joined Network Summit online.

**Roster Committee Report**

The Chairman asked for a roster report. Nancy Tonnesson, Network Deaf Ministries Director, presented the following roster report as of 2:40 pm on Monday, May 2, 2022:

Credential holders (in person)	190
Delegates (in person)	23
Credentialed Missionaries (online)	7
Visitors	72
Total voting registration	220
Total registration	292

A motion prevailed to accept the report.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

The superintendent presented the agenda as a guide. A motion prevailed to adopt the agenda.

The chair announced that all the business documents, constitution and bylaws, reports, etc. could be found in the QR code on each person's name badge.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion prevailed to approve the Network Summit 2021 minutes.

Kurt Kinney, network assistant superintendent, assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

**Report of the Network Superintendent**

Network Superintendent Don James offered the report of the network superintendent. He shared about God's faithfulness to His church through COVID. He reviewed the SET Principle (Stable Ministries, Excelling Pastors, and Thriving Churches) along with six areas/systems of fulfilling SET (education, vision, training, health, resources and missional) and how we specifically carry those six areas out. He concluded by sharing about our new NextGen initiative and its leader (Andy Lynn), the Pipeline initiative, and other initiatives, along with thanking the many leaders who are so key in moving the New Jersey Ministry Network forward.

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the network superintendent and to express appreciation to Don James. Don James resumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

### **Report of the Network Assistant Superintendent**

Kurt Kinney presented the report of the network assistant superintendent. He shared the privilege of helping churches in transition. He also shared important information from the 2021 General Presbytery meetings.

A motion prevailed to accept and archive the report of the network assistant superintendent with thanks.

### **Report of the Network Treasurer**

The superintendent referenced that the report of the treasurer was sent ahead of time to the constituents. David Dallenbach presented the report of the network treasurer. He mentioned that though we are still feeling the effects of COVID, God has blessed us. There was a question and lengthy discussion on the “CRC [Community Resource Center] Loan Receivable.” It was explained that in 2010 there was an opportunity to invest in growth with the promise of a large return financially. The opportunity would help with the aggressive vision of the Network in planting churches, paying off the Network Office mortgage, assisting UVF, helping ministries financially, as well as paying off the original loan with interest. Updates and reports have been given to the presbytery.

There was also a question on the Camden money pledged a few years ago. The treasurer and superintendent explained that much of that money pledged was not sent in. Because it was an on-the-spot-moment to help Camden, there was no mechanism to formally document the pledges. Some pledge money has been sent in and given to support ministry to Camden. The rest of the money is sitting in an account to be used for a formal church work in Camden.

The superintendent also informed the Council that for the last month, by request, he has been examining the CRC Loan. He walked through the formal audits along with separate meetings, with the assistant superintendent, with those involved in the CRC. (The CRC was not started for the CRC loan, but during the George Bush Presidency when the government was helping with grants for nonprofits.) Nothing was found out of order. A motion prevailed that clarity be given on the activity of the CRC Loan (and where the CRC investment stands) by a report to be given at next year’s Network Summit; and to receive the information and explanations discussed as sufficient, along with the executive officers’ investigation, so that business can move forward.

A motion prevailed to receive and archive the treasurer’s report. A motion prevailed to approve the 2022 budget.

### **Report of the Network Executive Secretary**

A motion prevailed to receive the Network Executive Secretary’s report.

### **Ratification of Network Presbyters and Department Leaders**

The superintendent gave voting instructions for the ratification vote for Network presbyters and department leaders.

### **Roster Committee Report**

The Chairman requested an updated (second) roster report. Nancy Tonnessen, Network Deaf Ministries Director, presented the following roster report as of 4:05 pm on Monday, May 2, 2022:

Credential holders (in person)	190
Delegates (in person)	23
Credentialed missionaries (online)	7
Visitors	72
Total voting registration	220
Total registration	292

The chair called for the ratification vote for Network presbyters and department leaders to be cast.

A motion prevailed to close the roster.

### **Recognition**

It was announced that after fourteen years, Senior Royal Ranger Commander, Ellwood Cutler, has retired. The Network and churches are going to honor him.

### **Presentations**

UVF  
Teen Challenge  
Emory and Webb

### **Resolution**

Mario Gonzalez, chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented a resolution entitled “Other Sincerely Hold Beliefs” and moved its adoption. There was a second. The chairman asked for a motion to put the motion on the floor. A motion prevailed to put the motion on the floor.

### **Ratification of Network Presbyters and Department Leaders cont.**

The chairman reported that all of the presbyters were overwhelmingly ratified. All of them were recognized by the chairman.

District Presbyter	Yes	No
Nestor Arellano – Filipino Fellowship	144	0
John Bechtel – ECN Section	143	2
Russ Hodgins – WCS Section	139	4
Wes Kenyon – N Section	143	1
Mike Pignaloso – NW Section	142	4
Pablo Pizarro – Hispanic Fellowship	143	1
Department leaders		
David Amendola – Asst. DYD	137	6
Brian Donnachie – Men	138	6
Hector Rivera – Royal Rangers	142	2
Andrea Rovaggi – Women	141	3
Nancy Tonnessen – Deaf Ministry	145	1

**Resolution cont.**

After discussion, there was a motion to refer the resolution to a committee. The motion failed.

**Recess**

The chair notified the body that business will reconvene at 9 am tomorrow morning (Tuesday, May 3, 2022). A motion prevailed to recess. The business session recessed at 4:45 pm.

**Monday Evening – May 2**

The Monday evening service of the 68<sup>th</sup> District Council/Network Summit began at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary of Fountain of Life in Burlington, New Jersey. Leading churches in missions giving were recognized. Scott Wilson preached the word of God. A fellowship followed.

**Tuesday Morning – May 3**

**Business Session**

Tuesday morning's business session was opened in prayer by DMD/DYD Fabian Kalapuch at 9:08 am. The superintendent/chairman made a statement regarding the CRC Loan Fund discussed the previous day and the integrity of its process and timeline. After investigation, it was found that these funds have been in the financial report every year since 2010. Also, as previously mentioned, three meetings were held with the superintendent, assistant superintendent, and CRC members. Nothing inappropriate has been found. Additionally, the chair wants to give a report sooner than next year's Network Summit as well as discuss this in the June presbytery. A motion prevailed to resume business. A motion prevailed to open the roster temporarily.

Nancy Tonnessen, Network Deaf Ministries Director, presented the following roster report as of 8:58 am on Tuesday, May 3, 2022:

Credential holders (in person)	195
Delegates (in person)	24
Credentialed missionaries (online)	7
Visitors	72
Total voting registration	226
Total registration	298

A motion prevailed to close the roster.

Resolution discussion resumed. A motion was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by striking the following words on lines 57 and 58, "or that could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with"; along with the words on line 65, "or could be perceived by any person to be"; the words on line 69, "or by implication, what might be perceived", along with the words "a" and "impression". A motion prevailed to approve the amendment.

A motion was moved and seconded to amend the resolution on line 46, changing the word "Christian" to "Biblical." A motion prevailed to approve the amendment.

Following extended discussion, the chair recognized that the question was being called for. A motion prevailed to pass the resolution with the above amendments. The adopted resolution as amended follows:

**THE PROPOSAL IS TO ADD A SECTION TO THE NETWORK’S CONSTITUTION UNDER ARTICLE V., “TENETS OF FAITH”.**

Article V. shall be reworded to “Tenets of Faith and Other Sincerely Held Beliefs” divided into two (2) sections as follows:

1. **Section A.** shall be: STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS
2. **Section B.** [New] shall be: Other Sincerely Held Beliefs – Sanctity of Life, Gender Identity, Homosexuality, Biblical Definition of Marriage.

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**RESOLUTION**

Other Sincerely Held Beliefs – Sanctity of Life, Gender Identity, Homosexuality, Biblical Definition of Marriage.

WHEREAS it is our function as believers to live our lives as a light to the world so that even unbelievers around us can see our good works and give glory to God (Matt. 5:16), we also understand Jesus’s warning that the world would hate us as a direct result of our faithfulness to Jesus and Holy Scripture (John 15:18-25), and

WHEREAS there has been an effort being driven through secular courts to challenge the First Amendment rights of both our Churches and individual members of the same in the areas of (1) The Sanctity of Life, (2) Gender Identity, (3) Homosexuality, and (4) the Biblical definition of Marriage, and

WHEREAS it has become evident that the establishing of a published, clear doctrinal statement on these matters would help both our churches and individual members to defend their First Amendment rights to autonomy and religious liberty,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That Article V. of the Constitution of the New Jersey District of the Assemblies of God (New Jersey Ministry Network) be supplemented to include the following statement:

**Section B. Other Sincerely Held Beliefs – Sanctity of Life, Gender Identity, Homosexuality, Biblical Definition of Marriage.**

**1. Sanctity of Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image (Gen. 1:27). Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death (Psalm 139:13-16). We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

## **2. Gender Identity**

God created human beings in His image, male and female He created them (Gen. 1:27; 5:2). As God's creation, the body and its corresponding sexual identity is biologically determined. Consequently, the New Jersey Ministry Network ("the Network") recognizes the existence of only two genders and regards any form of alteration of one's body to redefine one's gender or sexual identity, or to otherwise present as a member of an opposite gender to the one assigned biologically by God at birth including through transvestitism, as sinful.

## **3. Homosexuality and Biblical Definition of Marriage**

God instituted and ordained marriage and defines marriage as the biblical union between one man and one woman in a covenantal commitment for a lifetime (Genesis 2:18,19-25; Matt. 19:4-6). This shall be known as the "Biblical Definition of Marriage". Sexual intimacy is properly exercised only within the boundaries of Biblical marriage (1 Cor. 6:18-20). As a natural consequence of this deeply held belief, mentally entertaining (Matt. 5:28) or otherwise submitting to a homosexual proclivity is sin.

## **4. Limitations Based on Network's Adherence to its Beliefs on the Sanctity of Life, Gender Identity, Homosexuality, and the Biblical Definition of Marriage.**

The Biblical Definition of Marriage is the only definition of marriage that will be recognized or accepted by the New Jersey Ministry Network ("the Network"). Furthermore, the Network's doctrinal position on the Sanctity of Life, Gender Identity, Homosexuality, and the Biblical Definition of Marriage are sacrosanct. No credential holder, officer, employee, servant, agent or any person, corporation, organization or entity under the direction or control of this Network shall commit any act or omission, or make any decision whatever, that would be inconsistent with, full support of this Network's adherence to the Biblical Definition of Marriage and its doctrinal position on the Sanctity of Life, Gender Identity and Homosexuality.

The Network's doctrinal position on the Sanctity of Life, Gender Identity, Homosexuality and the Biblical Definition of Marriage specifically prohibits acts or omission including but not limited to permitting any Network assets or property, whether real property, personal property, intangible property, or any property or asset of any kind that is subject to the direction or control of the Network, to be used in any manner that would be inconsistent with this Network's position on the Sanctity of Life, Gender Identity, Homosexuality or the Biblical Definition of Marriage, including but not limited to permitting any Network facilities or assets to be used by any person, organization, corporation, or group that would or might use such facilities or assets to convey, intentionally as favorable on any position contrary to our doctrinal position on the Sanctity of Life, or an alternate definition of gender identity, homosexuality, or of marriage that is contrary to that conveyed by Scripture and this Constitution.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, no sin is beyond the redemptive and restorative power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for those who acknowledge and repent of their sin. In all circumstances, the Network is eager to treat all individuals with respect, compassion, love, and dignity, regardless of an individual's lifestyle in the fervent hope and prayer that each individual will repent from their sin of any nature, including sins of sexual immorality, and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, thereby establishing and/or restoring their relationship with God.

### **General Council Inclusivity Resolution**

The superintendent informed the Council that we dealt with inclusivity on our presbytery years ago, not only by Fellowship Presbyters, but also with auditors. We are investigating full District Presbytery voice for auditors.

### **2022 Courtesy Resolution**

Arlena Corzine, a member of the Resolutions Committee, presented the Courtesy Resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried to adopt the Courtesy Resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, This New Jersey District has been blessed to observe its 68<sup>th</sup> Annual District Council, and  
WHEREAS, The success of this Council is the result of many faithful and dedicated contributors; therefore, be  
it  
RESOLVED, That we express great gratitude to our sponsors, our Network leaders and staff, the  
various committee members, our keynote speaker Scott Wilson, our special guests and special  
speakers, the Fountain of Life Center, and all who have served so faithfully on behalf of this  
Council.

The Chair thanked the behind-the-scenes workers for their excellent work.

It was suggested we have an inauguration ceremony for our superintendent.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn the business meeting of the 68<sup>th</sup> District Council at 10:17 am, Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

### **Session 2 With Scott Wilson**

Guest speaker Scott Wilson shared with and preached to the Council.

### **Tuesday Afternoon – May 3**

Ministry breakout sessions were provided for all constituents.

### **TUESDAY EVENING – May 3, 2022**

The Tuesday evening Ordination Service of the 68<sup>th</sup> District Council began at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 4, 2022, in the Fountain of Life Sanctuary. Sixteen ordination candidates were commissioned. Rev. Scott Wilson brought the message.

### **WEDNESDAY – May 4, 2022**

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual John Paproski Memorial Golf Tournament, which raises funds for missions, was held on Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 am at Rancocas Country Club in Willingboro.

Frank E. Reitzel, Jr.  
Network Executive Secretary