

MINUTES

THE NEW JERSEY MINISTRY NETWORK OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD PRESBYTERY Tuesday, October 3, 2023 – Regular October Meeting (Summary)

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

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

Auditors Present: None

Absent: Brooke Altschul (auditor), Jermel Mayo (auditor), Nancy Tonnessen (auditor), Pablo Pizarro (Ethnic/Language-Hispanic)

The superintendent convened the meeting at 8:13 am.

DEVOTIONAL/STRATEGY SESSION

The superintendent shared on Matthew 13:44. Leverage all you have for the kingdom of heaven – the treasure – the grace of God, the promises of God, the Holy Spirit.... Sell everything to get it. Requests and prayer followed.

The superintendent reviewed the ✓ “Critical Governance Values for Presbytery Boards” that General Superintendent Doug Clay shared at the northeast regional presbytery meeting on June 8 in Bensalem, PA. Discussion included: A healthy presbytery board is a team, they take ownership, are interactive, and accountable. We are spiritual elders. Collaboration is needed along with a spirit of honesty where we can respectfully debate. We are a spiritual entity that should spiritually support. We must remember that we have an opponent that comes to steal. We pray for one another. We advance the mission (ex: SET – Stable ministries, Excelling pastors, Thriving churches) not drift from it. We, as presbyters must keep the mission before our pastors and congregations. Orchestrate and celebrate wins. Craft policy. Strategically plan. Maintain good records (document curation).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion prevailed to receive and archive the ✓ Network Presbytery Zoom Meeting Minutes: *September 19th, 2023.*

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Dave Dallenbach and CPA Juli D’Ascendis entered the presbytery meeting at 10:22 am and reviewed the financial documents, including:

✓ Consolidated Financial Reports: *August 31st, 2023*

✓ Thrive Report: *Jan – August, 2023*

Discussion consisted of addressing the purpose of Network Connect and a survey regarding it. (Network Connect attendance was down.) A motion prevailed to archive the financial report.

The following documents were given to the presbytery.

✓ Minister Tithe Report by Section: *Jan – September, 2023*

✓ Ministers Who Did Not Tithe: *Jan – September, 2023*

✓ Tithing Policy, ✓ Tithe bylaws, ✓ Tithe letter Samples and the ✓ Senior Retired List.

The superintendent asked the presbytery to review their sectional credential holders' giving. The presbyters will make a note of those who have a low amount of sacred tithes but should not receive a letter from the Network regarding nonrenewal of their credential.

CELL FUNDS AND CRC REPORT

There has been no activity to report on.

NEXTGEN REPORT

Andy handed out a ✓ report for June-November NextGen events. He informed the presbytery that the Holy Spirit was poured out in a powerful way at youth camp.

CREDENTIAL DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

The superintendent reported on one matter.

CHURCH MATTERS

- Nestor informed the presbytery that Bayonne (River of Praise Tabernacle, Pastor Chyril Nicose) and Jersey City (God is Love Ministry, Pastor Rolando Alcoriza) have merged, combining themselves together as a test for twelve months. There have been no official elections. No church has yet been closed. A motion prevailed to affirm this process. No Church Status reports (CSRs) are presently needed.
- Updates were given on the following open churches:
 - Somerset's (Eternal Life Christian Center) interim pastor is Nandh Achalram.
 - 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 general policy was made regarding credential interviews: spouses should be present in all levels of credential interviews.
- The superintendent and executive secretary reviewed some updates for the ✓ credentialing process.
- ✓ Parliamentary procedure documents and a website were reviewed. The superintendent encouraged the presbyters to be familiar with these resources and offer them to their respective sectional constituents.

- The superintendent presented a ✓ Resolution involving New Jersey District Affiliated Assemblies – that they shall make provision for pastors who are credentialed ministers in good standing with the General Council and the New Jersey Ministry Network. This would align our bylaws with General Council’s Constitution. The superintendent moved its adoption. The motion was seconded. A motion was made to amend the resolution by striking the words “District Affiliated” on line 32, and inserting the words “or a PAC” after the words “General Council Affiliated Assembly” on lines 32 and 33. The motion was seconded and carried. A motion prevailed to approve the resolution as amended as follows:

DISTRICT AFFILIATED CHURCH PASTORS

Whereas, Our General Council of the Assemblies of God has found it to be crucial for the pastor of a General Council church to be a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God, and has required such according to the General Council Constitution.

Article XI – Local Assemblies, Section 1 a (6), that reads: “churches desiring to be affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall (6) make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister who is in good standing with The General Council and District Council,” and

Whereas, The General Council bylaws, Article VII-Ministry calls for an reads in paragraph 3 – “an ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church” and

Whereas, The New Jersey Ministry Networks bylaws outlines in Article VIII; section 4. - General Council Affiliated Assemblies, paragraph 7, guidelines for minimal membership for General Council churches, notes that affiliation can take place only when the criteria for affiliation as set forth in The General Council Constitution, Article XI, section 1, is met. The General Council Constitution and bylaws and The New Jersey Ministry Network’s bylaws, and

Whereas, the before mentioned documentation has been orchestrated to safeguard local assemblies from spiritual abuse, heresy, and non-accountability and

Whereas, District affiliated churches have the same need for ministerial accountability, safeguards, and continuity, and

Whereas, the New Jersey Ministry Network’s present Constitution and bylaws make no provision or requirement for the local Assembly to have an Assemblies of God credentialed minister in good standing to be the pastor, and

Whereas, (it only seems proper) if a General Council affiliated church recognizes the need for a credentialed minister in good standing to be the pastor, then it stands to reason, District Affiliated churches have the same need and sometimes greater need,

Be it therefore RESOLVED, that New Jersey Ministry Networks Bylaws, Article VIII; Section 5 – District Affiliated Assemblies, which currently reads: Any District Affiliated

assembly that is not a General Council Affiliated Assembly shall be a District Affiliated Assembly.

Be amended to read: Any Assembly that is not a General Council Affiliated Assembly or a PAC shall be a District Affiliated Assembly and shall make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and the New Jersey Ministry Network.

The resolution will be sponsored by the New Jersey Ministry Network Presbytery.

- The superintendent recognized the New Jersey Ministry Network ✓ statistical report on our churches.

PROSPECTIVE CREDENTIALS

The executive secretary noted that according to General Council, in 2024, the national office will no longer mail out paper renewals.

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:

✓ Orlando Baez

Licensed:

✓ Joel Viera

Ordination:

✓ Emily Cantrell

✓ Shaina Ciaccio

✓ Anna Nistorenko

✓ Bonnie Polisano

WAGF Transfer:

✓ Esdras Carvalho

Two Applications for ✓ *Recognition of a Divorce Due to Spousal Infidelity* and one Application for ✓ *Recognition of a Preconversion Divorce* were approved, since the criteria for the applications, in the judgment of the presbytery, have been met.

CREDENTIAL RESIGNATION

A motion prevailed to approve Rory Wells' ✓ credential resignation.

CREDENTIAL TRANSFERS

The following credential transfers were reviewed:

Transfer in:

- ✓ Mike Gsell transferred in from the PennDel Network, August 28th, 2023.
- ✓ Megan Natalie transferred in from the PennDel Network, September 14th, 2023.

Transfer out:

- ✓ Stephen Manning transferred to the West Florida Network, July 19, 2023.

INFORMATION ONLY

The following were given to the presbytery and briefly reviewed.

- ✓ 2023 GP-GC Overview
- ✓ ACMR Church Statistics by Section
- ✓ Assemblies of God Affiliation Benefits
- ✓ Credential Holder List – *Alphabetical*; ✓ Credential Holder List – *by Section*; ✓ Credential Holder List – *Widows/Widowers*
- ✓ Church List – *Alphabetized by Name*; ✓ Church List – *by Section*
- ✓ Doctrinal Resolutions from General Council

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm.

Frank E. Reitzel, Jr.

Executive Secretary

Yellow = CONFIDENTIAL, PRESBYTERY ONLY; ✓ = SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS INCLUDED

*Note – An executive session took place at the end of the day without the superintendent, executive secretary, DYD/NextGen director, and the church planting/missions director. From the assistant superintendent: We are getting the word out to our sections about sending gifts for the executive pastors (Network executives) for pastor appreciation day. Whatever is not received in offerings the Network will make up for.