

Inner Cities Workers Conference  
National Black Fellowship  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Milwaukee, WI

Meeting Chaired by Rev. Michael Nelson, NBF President  
Minutes prepared by Rev. Darnell Williams,  
Acting ICWC Secretary/NBF Executive Treasurer

This Meeting was held on July 23, 2014  
Parklawn Assembly of God Chapel at 1:30 PM CST

**Devotional** - Bishop Hank Mariner, South Regional Director Topic - "Known by God, Loved by God"

Roster Report - President Nelson called for all Ministers and Voting Delegates to be identified by standing, giving their name and status as either minister or voting delegate. A total was prepared and presented to the floor -

Registered Delegates - 4

Registered Ministers - 23

Total - 27 Voting Constituency

*A motion was presented, seconded and a vote prevailed to accept the roster report.*

**Reading of Previous Minutes** - Rev. Darnell Williams stated that the NBF Executive Board approved Sis. Beverly Wright to read the minutes and resolutions during this meeting. Sis. Wright read the NBF minutes from the 2012 ICWC meeting held in Kansas City, MO.

President Nelson addressed the body and assured that future minutes would be presented to the constituency prior to the Business Session for review.

*The minutes were read. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read; it was seconded; discussion was held concerning the following -*

item 2 Qualifications for President, section (IV) "...the NBF president must be a lead pastor of a local church or an individual with a unique position..."

President Nelson explained that as long as an individual held a position of leadership (i.e. a National Position/Office of leadership) with support staff; meeting the other qualifications, they could be considered as a candidate for office.

*The motion to accept the minutes was passed.*

## **Executive Reports -**

**a. President's Report** - President Michael Nelson read his report. A copy of his report is attached with these minutes.

\*Discussion was held concerning the transition of the Pentecostal Evangel from print to e-version. VP Harvey invited Dr. Zollie Smith to address the body concerning this transition.

*VP Harvey called for a motion to accept the President's Report; it was moved and seconded and the vote carried to accept the report as read.*

President Nelson expressed his gratitude to serve the body in his leadership capacity as NBF President.

**b. Vice President's Report** - VP Walter Harvey read his report. A copy of his report is attached with these minutes.

*President Nelson called for a motion to accept the VP's Report; it was moved and seconded and the vote carried to accept the report as read.*

VP Harvey shared how blessed he was to work along side of the other team members of the NBF Board.

**c. Executive Treasurer's Report** - Prior to reading his report, Treasurer Williams expressed his appreciation for the previous NBF Treasurer, Rev. Loyd Johnson. He noted how Rev. Johnson helped to make the transition between them successful.

Treasurer Williams presented the body with the option of reading a summary version of his report rather than a detailed version.

*A motion was made, seconded and passed to read the summary report.*

Treasurer Darnell Williams read his report. A copy of his report is attached with these minutes.

*President Nelson called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; it was moved and seconded. Discussion was as follows -*

- a. Forecast of Budget - Clarity was brought concerning a decrease in forecast income. The forecast was for ICWC 2014 specifically not the NBF in general.

- b. Membership Dues - Treasurer Williams explained that in the past, income from dues was not entered as a separate income item. Going forward, adjustments would be to ensure that this would not be the case. Likewise, as revenues increase, it will allow the NBF as a Fellowship to enact some of the President's vision initiatives - Planting Churches, Providing Coaching and tools for urban pastors.
- c. Mission Support - A break down of mission expenses - Church Planting (Theo Lyons), NJ District (hurricane/flooding).
- d. Year by Year Comparisons - Going forward we will provide comparisons of past vs. current year giving.
- e. Seed Moines - Seed Money was specifically raised for the 2014 ICWC.
- f. Copier Expense - The NBF has transitioned from leasing a copier, to buying a new copier for \$4000. \$2500 was paid as a down payment and the NBF is continuing to make payments until the balance is paid in full. It was noted that this idea was President Nelson's wisdom and research at work. Peace Tabernacle paid the difference between the downpayment and the sale price. NBF will pay Peace directly until the total loan is fulfilled.

*President Nelson called for a vote to accept the Treasurer's Report and the motion passed.*

President Nelson encouraged the body to support NBF financially. Rev. Scott Temple reminded the body that all giving to NBF is valid for General Council giving credit.

**Committee Reports** - No committee reports were made.

**Unfinished Business** - No unfinished business existed.

**Resolutions** -

*A motion was made and seconded that only the AMENDED portions be read; the motion prevailed. Sis. Wright was invited to read the following Resolution Amendment -*

#### **Resolution V.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Article X. that currently reads,

#### **ARTICLE X. OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Fellowship shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The elected Officers shall be Ordained Credential holders in good standing, of mature experience, sound judgment, recognized ability and Christian character who have ministered for at least five consecutive years in the Assemblies of God Fellowship immediately preceding their election. The Intercultural Ministries

Department Secretary or those acting on his behalf shall serve in an advisory capacity. All Officers must be ratified by the General Presbytery.

BE CHANGED TO READ,

### **ARTICLE X. OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Fellowship shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The elected Officers shall be Ordained Credential holders in good standing, of mature experience, sound judgment, recognized ability and Christian character who have ministered in the Assemblies of God Fellowship immediately preceding their election and have been actively involved in the National Black Fellowship for at least one year. All Officers must be ratified by the General Presbytery.

*President Nelson called for motion and second; Discussion as follows -*

Dialogue centered on the thought process concerning **Resolution V**. President Nelson explained that the goal of this Resolution, is to provide access to leadership roles, for qualified candidates without a five year requirement. The five year provision seemed too excessive. The requirement of the candidate holding ordination credentials as an Assemblies of God minister should help in ensuring the readiness of the candidate to serve.

Rev. Scott Temple observed that the current reading "...All Officers must be ratified by the General Presbytery..." is incorrect; they are ratified by the Executive Presbytery.

*President Nelson called for a motion and a second was offered, to change the bylaws from "General Presbytery" to "Executive Presbytery." The motion prevailed.*

*President Nelson directed the voters to now vote on Resolution V. The motion to amend prevailed.*

**Elections** - President Nelson directed the voters to elect the officers of Vice President and Executive Treasurer.

Acting Secretary Williams read from the bylaws concerning the Executive Officers.

### **Vice President -**

Reading then specifically concerning the office of Vice President, qualifications, duties and method of election.

A question was raised that since the bylaws stated that nominations could be made from the floor, a motion was made and seconded and prevailed to nominate the candidates for Vice President from the floor.

Rev. Walter Harvey was nominated from the floor.

*A motion was moved and seconded to close the nominations. The motion prevailed.  
Discussion as follows -*

A question was raised concerning voting; specifically, how would the voting constituency be identified. President Nelson directed that only those named on the roster report could vote and that voting would be completed by standing; therefore allowing verification that only those listed on the roster report would be casting a vote.

*The election of Rev. Walter Harvey passed with 24 votes from the floor.*

*Rev. Harvey gracefully accepted his reelection. He thanked the voters for their confidence.*

### **Executive Treasurer -**

Reading then specifically concerning the office of Executive Treasurer, qualifications, duties and method of election.

*President Nelson called for a motion to nominate from the floor, it was seconded; the motion prevailed.*

*Rev. Darnell Williams was nominated from the floor. A motion was moved and seconded to close the nominations.*

*The election of Rev. Darnell Williams passed with 25 votes from the floor.*

Rev. Williams stated his gratitude and the opportunity to serve. He noted what a joy it was to serve with the other NBF Board Members.

### **Regional Directors -**

President Nelson directed the NBF Regional Directors to stand for a ratifying vote from the constituency. Each Regional Director was ratified individually.

- Southern Region - Rev. Hank Mariner. Rev. Mariner was ratified by the voting constituency as Southern Region Director
- Central Region - Rev. Kathy Jones. Rev. Jones was ratified by the voting constituency as Central Region Director
- Eastern Region - Rev. Gerard Ruff. Rev. Ruff was ratified by the voting constituency as Eastern Region Director

## **Resolutions 1-4; 6-9**

*A motion was made and seconded that only the AMENDED portions be read; the motion prevailed. Sis. Wright was invited to read the following Resolution Amendments -*

A question was raised to whether the Resolutions 1-4 and 6-9 could be approved as package. No motion was made.

### **Resolution One -**

BE AMENDED TO READ,

1. To evangelize and assimilate Blacks and others in the States and foreign countries.
2. To provide spiritual renewal, especially to those who have fallen from the faith.
3. To provide fellowship among the members of the Fellowship.
4. To Train workers for the ministry of the gospel.
5. To plant new churches in cooperation with the various District Councils of the Assemblies of God.
6. To assist Black **and other** churches in transition from US Mission to General Council Status.

*A motion was made to strike the wording "US Mission" and change it to read "District Status," since US Mission is no longer a valid church status. Second was made and the motion prevailed.*

BE AMENDED TO READ,

1. To evangelize and assimilate Blacks and others in the States and foreign countries.
2. To provide spiritual renewal, especially to those who have fallen from the faith.
3. To provide fellowship among the members of the Fellowship.
4. To Train workers for the ministry of the gospel.
5. To plant new churches in cooperation with the various District Councils of the Assemblies of God.
6. To assist Black **and other** churches in transition from District Status to General Council Status

*A motion was offered to accept the amended changes stated in Resolution One and seconded; the amendment prevailed.*

### **Resolution Two**

BE AMENDED TO READ,

## **ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIPS**

### **Section 1. To the General Council and the Division of Home Missions**

The National Black Fellowship of the Assemblies of God, as an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, a non-profit religious corporation with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, is subordinate and amendable to said General Council as prescribed in its Constitution and Bylaws {See article 4a} and has a cooperative working relationship with the Division of US Missions in matters of mutual concern.

*A motion was presented to accept the changes reflected in Resolution Two; it was seconded and the amendment prevailed.*

### **Resolution Three**

BE AMENDED TO READ,

### **Section 1. To the General Council and the Assemblies of God Missions**

The National Black Fellowship of the Assemblies of God, as an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, a nonprofit, religious corporation with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, is subordinate and amenable to the said General Council as prescribed in its Constitution and Bylaws. The Director of the Office of Ethnic Relations serves as liaison between the General Council and the Fellowship.

The Fellowship has a cooperative working relationship with the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions (AGUSM) in matters of mutual concern.

*A motion was presented to accept the changes reflected in Resolution Three; it was seconded and the amendment prevailed.*

### **Resolution Four**

BE AMENDED TO READ,

### **Section 1. Individual Members**

All ordained Black and other ministers pastoring a predominantly Black congregation (over 50% black) holding accredited fellowship certificates, also including those holding an accredited License to Preach, and Certificates of Ministry credentials from District Councils and those with local credentials from an Assemblies of God Church may be members of the National Black Fellowship.

*A motion was presented to accept the changes reflected in Resolution Four; it was seconded and the amendment prevailed.*

### **Resolution Six**

BE AMENDED TO READ,

#### **Section 3.a**

In compliance with Article IX, Section 3, paragraph F page 112 of the General Council Constitution. Each duly authorized Ethnic Fellowship shall have the privilege of representation on the General Presbytery by up to three members based upon the number of churches that self identify as Black churches on the ACMR, The President, Vice President and Secretary shall serve as General Presbyters. They shall take office 60 days subsequent to election in compliance with Article II, Section 2 paragraph (D6) of the General Council Bylaws page 122.

*A motion was presented to accept the changes reflected in Resolution Six; it was seconded and the amendment prevailed.*

### **Resolution Seven**

BE AMENDED TO READ,

Section I. The following committees may serve the fellowship

- a. World Missions/Church Planting
- b. Christian Education
- c. Evangelism
- d. Youth
- e. Music/Fine Arts
- f. Finance
- g. Another other committee not previously mentioned

*A motion was presented to accept the changes reflected in Resolution Seven; it was seconded. Discussion followed -*

Discussion was held to change the reading from “Another other” to “Any other”. A motion was presented and seconded to adopt the change and the motion prevailed.

*Adoption of Amendments to Resolution Seven prevailed*

### **Resolution Eight**

## **Article XIII. AMENDMENTS**

These articles may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote, provided the members have been informed about the amendment at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Amendments must be sent to the Office of Ethnic Relations in order to facilitate Executive Leadership Team and/or Executive Presbytery approval.

*A motion was presented to accept the changes reflected in Resolution Eight; it was seconded and the amendment prevailed.*

### **Resolution Nine**

BE CHANGED TO READ,

- a. **Regional Elections** shall be held biennially during the National Conference. At that time the Regions shall hold their Biennial business meeting and the election of their officers and those Regional department representatives not ratified by the National Black Fellowship Board of Directors. A member of the Executive Officers shall officiate the regional caucuses.

*A motion was presented to accept the changes reflected in Resolution Nine; it was seconded and the amendment prevailed.*

### **Addresses to the Body**

#### **Dr. Zollie Smith -**

President Nelson gave space for Dr. Zollie Smith, former NBF President and current Executive Director of Assemblies of God, US Missions Department to address the body.

Dr. Zollie honored the US Missionaries who were attendees at this year's ICWC and members of NBF. He spoke of the challenges minorities face while trying to raise their budgets. The problem is compounded with the overall A/G focus being primarily upon World Missions. Dr. Zollie presented Jamil Stell and Deanna Ceasar, encouraging the constituency to support them financially.

President Nelson affirmed Dr. Zollie's call and stated that his church, Peace Tabernacle support both Missionaries.

#### **Rev. Scott Temple -**

Rev. Scott Temple was given space to share with the body. He pointed out the fact that NBF has included local church credentials as an acceptable status of credentialed ministers and membership within NBF. This would give a much wider opportunity for ministers to connect with NBF.

#### **Rev. Samuel Huddleston -**

Rev. Samuel Huddleston was given space to address the chair. He expressed his concern that their be Black leadership reflected on the Executive Presbytery. President Nelson observed that this was apart of the focus and emphasis of the dialogue of the Springfield trip.

The Chair also recognized Gorgon Libby, who encouraged General Presbytery to bring a motion from the floor.

Dr. Zollie observed that this approached would not be the best course of action. It would be better to present this as an item to the General Council floor.

President Nelson recommend that a resolution be submitted from the NBF to the EP for a black Executive Presbyter.

*A motion was made that the NBF Executive Board draft a resolution to be submitted to the General Council Resolution Committee requesting an African American Executive Presbyter. The motion was second and the vote prevailed.*

VP Harvey directed President Nelson to share with the floor the possibility of a name change of "The National Black Fellowship."

*A motion was presented that a committee be formed to explore possible name change of The National Black Fellowship. The motion was seconded and discussion was held -*

Discussion was around the term "Black." President Nelson noted that a name change would not change our stated purpose.

A vote prevailed to form a Name Change Committee, President Nelson directed Treasurer Williams to serve as chair of that committee and report back to the NBF Board.

Rev. Scott Temple addressed the floor and noted that Language and/or Ethnic Fellowship must be identified as such in their name. He cautioned that a name change could possibly invalidate that NBF as a sanctioned fellowship.

President Nelson thanked the floor for a successful business meeting. A motion was presented, seconded and prevailed to adjourn the business session.

Submitted,

Rev. Darnell Williams  
NBF Acting ICWC Secretary  
NBF Executive Treasurer