



## *Southern California*

### **Black Fellowship of Southern California**

#### **Meeting Minutes—General Session**

*September 28, 2019*

**Present:** Jamal Alexander, Walter Brown, Earl Coley, James Markham, Derrick Rosenior, Joseph Smotherman, Troy Vaughn, Julius Agbor

**Guests:** Ken Walters, Director of Intercultural Committee  
Earl Coley, Sr.

**Next meeting:** TBD – January 2020

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#### **I. Call to Order** by President Derrick Rosenior at 10:15 a.m.

- ❖ Dr. Rosenior briefly spoke on Philippians 3:21 and opened the meeting in prayer.

#### **II. Reading and approval of the minutes**

- ❖ In absence of the Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. Melissia Coley, President Rosenior asked Dr. Brown to read a synopsis of the last General Meeting which was held on 29 May 2019 at 2 p.m. during the SoCal Network Conference. Highlights were as follows:
  - SoCal Network Secretary-Treasurer Gordon Houston...
    - Black Fellowship needs to make sure that the Black culture doesn't get lost in the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> generations
    - Find common values to plan and celebrate as black ministers and churches: cultural, family, spiritual
  - President Rosenior introduced the Black Fellowship Leadership Team
  - Rev. Jamal Alexander – newly elected Black Intercultural Executive Presbyter...
    - Historical perspective of the National Black Fellowship
    - Historical perspective of the Black Fellowship in SoCal
  - Pastor Rich Guerra – Superintendent, SoCal Network...
  - Rev. Joe Smotherman, NBF Southwest Region Director: NBF 2020 REACH Conference to be held in Chicago during July.
  - President Rosenior...
    - Reminded everyone regarding BF dues: individual at \$50 per year; church at \$100 per year.
    - Opportunities: credentialed women; inter-racial couples
  - Rev. Dion Smotherman expressed her passion for recruiting black women.

- ❖ Motion made by Pastor Earl Coley to accept the substitute minutes; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pastor Troy Vaughn; accepted.

### III. Report of Officers

#### A. Report of President

- ❖ Dr. Rosenior recounted actions taken at General Council 2019 in Orland Florida in August
- ❖ Noted that there are now three blacks in high level General Council positions
- ❖ Met with Bishop Walter Harvey (President, National Black Fellowship) regarding REACH conference planned for 2020 in Chicago (40<sup>th</sup> anniversary)
  - Encourages everyone that can to attend; put a “save the date” on your calendars
  - Distributed REACH conference ad cards
  - Working on the history of the National Black Fellowship. Goal is to have it published in time for the conference.

#### B. Report of Vice President

- ❖ Pastor James Markham is currently looking for individuals to “step up” and fill many of the open positions
- ❖ Needs help to move his portfolio forward.

#### C. Report of Secretary-Treasurer

- ❖ In absence of Rev. Melissia Coley, President Rosenior reviewed the process for collecting dues from individual ministers and churches as outlined in the Bylaws (Article XI) and reiterated the importance.
- ❖ Per Pastor Joe, since the BF does not have its own named account, checks in the interim are to be made out to Faith Works A/G with an annotation on the memo line of “Black Fellowship Dues” – either individual or church.
- ❖ Discussion ensued regarding the establishment of a stand-alone bank account for the Black Fellowship. New banking laws/procedures require that the BF be incorporated and have its own Tax ID number. Pastor Jamal suggested that the BF should be able to fit under the organizational umbrella of the NBF since it is a part of the Division of World Missions.
- ❖ Pastor Joe has the action to reach out to the President of the NBF for guidance and clarification regarding the appropriate process to follow.

#### D. Report of Intercultural Executive Presbyter

- ❖ Pastor Jamal Alexander reports that Supt. Rich Guerra released him to perform Executive Presbyter duties in the Black community since he is already familiar with EP protocols from his previous tours on the Executive Presbytery.
  - Key actives include recruiting non-A/G black churches and ministers
- ❖ Pastor Jamal is in the process of building his team and is currently recruiting two team members.
- ❖ Operating budget has not been defined yet.
- ❖ Gave insight into how the Executive Presbytery operates.

#### E. Report of SoCal Network Intercultural Ministries Director and Intercultural Committee

- ❖ Rev. Ken Walters reported that the fifth Intercultural Executive Presbyter has been elected— Pastor Joshua Pinto
- ❖ Next task is to identify and select the three at-large Intercultural Committee members. This will be up to Intercultural EP #4 and #5 (both at-large) in conjunction with Supt. Guerra or his designee to identify and select. Goal is to complete within the next 30 days.

- ❖ Indicated that he would like to see the Black Fellowship become indispensably vital to the SoCal Network (big opportunity for the BF).
- ❖ Need to overcome hurdle of people (non-A/G black ministers and churches) why they would want to become a part of The Assemblies of God generally, and the Black Fellowship of Southern California specifically, given the history blacks endured in The Assemblies of God. Need a FAQ guide and value statement that would entice participation and association.

#### **IV. Old Business**

- A. Election for vacant Intercultural Committee spot. President Rosenior presided over an open election of Pastor Dion Smotherman to the open position. There were no other candidates for consideration. Pastor Dion was ratified and elected unanimously.
- B. Election for Bylaws amendment resolution—Board Membership. President Rosenior presided over its presentation and conducted an open vote. Resolution passed unanimously.

#### **V. New Business**

- A. Open discussion regarding the Black Fellowship's general meetings and on strengthening and growing the Black Fellowship.
  - ❖ Pastor Troy suggested that we have vision casting and strategic planning exercises in coming meetings to develop roadmap for the BF.
  - ❖ Dr. Brown queried: (1) what are the needs of ministers within the Black Fellowship; (2) what do they want from the Black Fellowship (what's the value-add needed for their active engagement and participation)?
  - ❖ Pastor Joe and Dr. Rosenior – how can we use technology for future meetings? Zoom was mentioned as a possible platform. Objective is to make it easier and less costly (time/travel) to be active in the meetings.
  - ❖ Pastor Troy
    - Suggested that a newsletter and/or website be developed to host/push out Black Fellowship news, etc. Upon request by President Rosenior, Pastor Troy is willing to take on this task.
    - Indicated a need for targeted goals regarding recruitment of churches and ministers along with other key metrics.
      - How will it be mapped out?
      - Timeline?
  - ❖ President Rosenior indicated that vision casting and strategic planning with benchmarks will be discussed January's General Meeting.
  - ❖ Pastor Joe suggested that we don't invite Supt. Guerra to the January General Meeting to be part of the structuring process, but rather have him attend a meeting where we can present defined outcomes and process.
  - ❖ President Rosenior and Pastor Troy: discussion regarding hiring a consultant to help facilitate process development for the Black Fellowship.
- B. Options for black ministers/churches desiring to join the A/G – see previous discussion point.
- C. Confidential assistance available for organizational and financial planning. Dr. Brown is available to assist any pastor and/or church with church health issues (finances in the red, declining membership, unengaged congregation, inability to hold on to visitors and convert them to regular attenders).
- D. Upcoming Combined Worship Service to be held on 6 October 2019 at Orange County First Assembly of God—6 p.m. Pastor Troy Vaughn has been called upon to preach this service.

## **VI. Adjournment**

- ❖ Meeting adjourned in prayer by Pastor Earl Coley at 12:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Dr. W. F. Brown

Acting Scribe for the Secretary-Treasurer