



*Southern California*

## **Black Fellowship of Southern California**

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

***June 3, 2023***

Present: Derrick Rosenior, Woody Robinson, Dion Smotherman, Melissia Coley, Jamal Alexander, Martiz Ware, and voting members of the Black Fellowship Churches

Members Absent: Pastor Isaac Thomas

Next meeting: ***June 3, 2023***

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

### **II. Devotion/Opening Prayer and Song**

- ❖ Pastor Derrick Rosenior opened the meeting with a prayer and devotion from Hebrews 10:22-25. “Let Us Draw Near to God with A Sincere Heart”
- ❖ “Blessed Assurance”

### **III. A Word from our SoCal Network District Superintendent Pastor Rich Guerra**

- ❖ Pastor Rich greeted the Black Fellowship and recognized Dr. Renee Braithwaite from Vanguard University and asked him to say a few words.
- ❖ Dr. Braithwaite spoke about a program at Vanguard University that would allow ministers that are studying through Global University and the other AG schools of ministries to have their classes converted to real college credits. He also spoke of Church partnerships with Vanguard to provide a pathway for people who are interested in studying Theology to get accepted into Vanguard at a very discounted price.
- ❖ Pastor Rich was encouraging by the report. He explained that out of 526 graduates at Vanguard only 26 were theology majors. He is looking to the Black Fellowship to help fill the gap and encourage our young people to pursue studies in religious studies. He gave us statistics of the ethnic groups in SOCAL and spoke to us about reaching these people in our very own communities.
- ❖ There are churches outside of the Network area who want to be part of the SoCal Network. Our number of ministers have been declining. He would like to reach 1300 credentialed ministers from 1100 in the next 5 years as well as 600 new churches.

- ❖ Pastor Spoke about Vision and the importance of a vision that is transferrable and that everyone can be a part of. A great vision includes everyone who wants to be part of it.
- ❖ Pastor Rich concluded with questions and answers.

#### **IV. Approval of the Minutes**

- ❖ Approval of the Minutes from the SoCal Black Fellowship General Meeting dated March 13, 2021.

(M) Pastor Jamal Alexander                      (S) Pastor Earl Coley                      Motion Passes

#### **V. President's Report – Derrick Rosenior**

- ❖ Introduction of the Black Fellowship Leadership Team
  - Pastor Derrick is the President of the Black Fellowship, Pastor Isaac Thomas is the Vice President, and Pastor Martiz Ware is the Secretary Treasurer. This makes up the officers. The other members of the of the ELT are Melissia Coley who serves as the NBF SW Regional Director, Network Executive Presbyter, Black Reverend Jamal Alexander, and our two Intercultural Committee Members Pastor Dion Smotherman and Pastor Woody Robinson.
- ❖ Ratification of leadership positions of the ELT
  - Pastor Derrick explained the procedure in filling vacant positions within the Executive Leadership Team. He read the section of the SoCal Black Fellowship By laws governing vacancies in Article 10 section 5. He read the section to the membership.
  - Pastor Isaac Thomas was appointed by President Derrick Rosenior to Vice-President after the untimely death of the Pastor Joe Smotherman who was in the position of Vice-President at the time of his death.
  - Pastor Melissia Coley was the Secretary Treasurer and resigned the position to take on a new role with the National Black Fellowship as the SW Regional Director. Pastor Derrick appointed Pastor Martiz Ware to be the Secretary Treasurer until the position could be ratified at the next General Meeting.

#### **VI. Vote for Vice-President Position**

- Nominee Pastor Isaac Thomas for the position of Vice President.

(M)Pastor Derrick Rosenior    (S) Pastor Ed Robinson                      Motion Passes

#### **VII. Vote for Secretary Treasurer Position**

- Nominee Pastor Martiz Ware for the position of Secretary Treasurer.

(M)Pastor Derrick Rosenior    (S) Pastor Jeffrey                      Motion Passes

- Pastor Melissia sent over a template to update the bios on the website. Pastor Marty sent it out to all of the ELT members. He was waiting to get them all back

so that he can send it to the Web Designer to update. Pastor Jamal asked about the cost to update the website. Pastor Marty explained that after talking with the web designer she said that it was \$250 each update. Pastor Melissia explained that the

- she was now coordinating for the Black Student Union in the absence of

#### **VIII. Vice Presidents Report**

##### **❖ Vice President, Isaac Thomas**

- Pastor Isaac greeted the members and guest. He spoke about his role in reaching out to Black ministers and Churches to support them in their roles. He will be making calls to many of the members on a monthly basis, and looks forward to interacting and providing support in any way he can.

#### **IX. Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

##### **❖ Secretary Treasurer, Martiz Ware**

- Pastor Marty reported that we are an official 510c3. We received the approved Articles of Incorporation letter from online with our file number. He also possesses the Statement of Information from the State of California where the officers are registered, the EIN number from the IRS. This allows us to do many things as a non-profit organization including fund raising.

##### **❖ Banking and Accounting**

- We have everything that we need to set up our bank account. Pastor Derrick and I will be setting up a bank account so that we can move our funds from the Orange County Assembly of God and FaithWorks Church.
- We received \$500 dollars from Pastor Woody's Church to pay for the tabling at the SoCal Network Conference. It turned out that we only needed \$250. We also collected \$684 through Pastor Jamal to pay for Webhosting cost. With God's divine delay there was a sale, and we only spent \$367 leaving us a total balance of \$617 at FaithWorks and \$704 which is being held at Orange County Assembly of God under the stewardship of Pastor Derrick. We spent 75 for flyers for the Worship night on June 29, 2023, leaving us a balance of \$1198.
- Dues were introduced. Pastor Marty spoke about the need of a steady stream of income. Pastor Marty read from the By Laws, Article XI under finances that each minister should contribute at least \$50 dollars a year and each Church \$100. He explained that this would help us hire a communications coordinator, which we need. He gave them the address of FaithWorks Church to send in dues. Pastor Marty explained that once we get the bank account set up we can offer online banking through QR codes, Zelle, and also on our website.

##### **❖ Black Fellowship Website**

- The website is complete but needs to be updated. The URL is [www.blackfellowshipsocal.org](http://www.blackfellowshipsocal.org). Pastor Marty spoke about the cost to update the website and that this will be a great resource to get information about events happening in the Network both locally and nationally.
- Pastor Interjected by promoting the need for a communications coordinator who can assist us in keeping the website updated as well as helping in having a presence on social media.

##### **❖ Ministers Credential Renewal**

- Pastor Marty spoke to the membership about black ministers not registering as black. He encouraged the fellowship to please check the proper box so that black ministers can be identified which will enable the Black Fellowship to have a voice.

## **VII. NBF SW Regional Director's Report 106:27 of the Recording**

- ❖ Reverend Melissia Coley, Southwest Regional Director, for the Black National Fellowship
  - The SoCal Network Conference in San Diego went very well. Pastor Melissia was thankful for the help of Pastor Dion, Pastor Marty and his wife who helped with the table.
  - Pastor spoke about her effort to bring awareness to the Black Fellowship to the Presbyters in the SOCAL network as well as in Arizona. She shared with them about the "Enough" Book and was able to communicate the wrongs of the past and how the National Black Fellowship is an official ethnic language group recognized by the Assemblies of God. She also spoke about some push back when speaking about it. Pastor Derrick asked what kind of pushback she was experiencing. Pastor Melissia responded that it was both verbal and in their body language. She explained that the questions she received often was "why do we exist."
  - Pastor Melissia informed us that she will be a speaker at the Ethnic Language reception at the General Council in Ohio. Each Ethnic group will have an opportunity to speak about what they accomplishing and what challenges that they are continuing to have within the AG.

## **VIII. SoCal Network Executive Presbyter (Black) Report**

- ❖ Executive Presbyter, Jamal Alexander
  - Congratulations to Melissia for rising up to the challenge in her present position as the NBF SW Regional Director. Also to Pastor Earl for his support.
  - Pastor Jamal said that he is looking for someone to fill in the role that Pastor Joe had in changing the viewpoint of the intelligence of Blacks in the Assembly. He would like to send either Pastor Marty or Pastor Isaac on the next mission trip next Spring to Africa.
  - Challenge from the Superintendent to increase our black churches by 7. The Black Churches only make up 7% of the churches in the SoCal District.

## **IX. Intercultural Committee member's Report**

- ❖ Pastor Woody Robinson
  - Pastor Wood Spoke with Superintendent Rich Guerra to give him an update about the progress of Seek and Save. Let him know that we connected to Dan Campbell and putting together a powerful team. He also encouraged the ELT to reach out to other ministers and get them and their members to sign up on the website. SeekandSaveAG.org.
  - Pastor Dion and He were given a task to call 20 people to check with them to see if they were still involved, serving, and/or still credentialed. The response was very positive and he encouraged us to reach out to our constituents to see how they are doing.

## **X. Additional Comments**

- ❖ Pastor Derrick Rosenior
  - Pastor Derrick will send out the email reminding our members about the General meeting next Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am. He will send Rich Guerra's PowerPoint to Pastor Woody.
  - We spoke more about the importance of Pastor Woody a Black Church is leading the Seek and Save. Pastor Jamal closed by reminding us that this is our time to shine and show the District the value of Black ministers in the SoCal District.

## **XI. Adjournment**

- ❖ Pastor Woody closed us in prayer.
- ❖ President Rosenior motioned for adjournment of the ELT meeting at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Martiz Ware  
Secretary-Treasurer