

## Minutes of the FECBA



Praise and Worship Medley – Dr. Oliver Wells

Comments – Toby T. Philpart, Moderator

Ask that we keep President Gloria Jackson Davis in prayer as she deals with the transition of her sister-in-law. Congratulations to all celebrating loved ones and children who are graduating. Past moderator Dr. Barber is in Orlando as his eldest is becoming an official lawyer.

Board Meeting – Call to Order – Rev. Dr. Jimmie Bryant, Board Chair

Opening Prayer –President Layman’s Dept.

Call to Worship – Dr. Oliver Wells

**Adoption of Agenda-** Motion made for the adoption of the agenda as presented by Rev. Kenneth Johnson, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church of Ft. Pierce, Fl. and seconded by ?? Sr., Christian Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. Accepted. It was noted that future voting will be done via the chat and reaction features on zoom.

**Recognition of Special Guest** - Toby T. Philpart, Moderator

Tamela Daniels Thurman “Freddie Mac”

Priscilla Howard “Florida Housing Coalition”

Dr. Bryant yielded the floor to Moderator Philpart for the introduction of our special guest. He stated the opportunity of building a feasible, spiritual, profitable relationship regarding land held by the FECBA. He then asked Mrs. Priscilla Howard to proceed since her services would need to be implemented first, but the goal is to partner with them collectively and individually.

**Mrs. Howard** after giving thanks for the opportunity, continued the discussion by sharing that after 36 years she remains passionate about affordable housing, community development and economic development. She runs her own consulting firm “Community Solutions Group”, clients are typically faith-based ministries nonprofits, some small developers, and some for-profit developers. Noting also that the church is the epic center of our community, and it is time for the church to take their rightful seat at the table talking about housing and community

development and economic development policies and making sure that the people that you pastor make sure that there's an equitable and fair distribution of that housing. She continued by stating I am here today as a representative of one of my clients the Florida Housing Coalition. I work with them to offer technical assistance to organizations such as yourself such as the association and individually to those who are interested in becoming developers in building affordable housing. Reverend Philpart and some of your members expressed an interest in realizing that a part of the economic development strategy that they have involves affordable housing and also because some of the churches have land you not only have an opportunity to help shape the policy of affordable housing in your community but you also have an opportunity to become a developer (a person that actually builds affordable housing), and create jobs. I'm here today to answer questions, discuss the nonprofit capacity institute that they run as an 8-week program to nonprofits and faith-based ministries. My background in this area is for ten years I worked for the Florida Housing Finance Corporation as the Chief Development Officer. I've set for nine years on the Advisory Council for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, and I also have been a Planning Commissioner for the Leon County Tallahassee Leon County Planning Commission. Reverend RB Holmes is a client of mine in Tallahassee we built the 23 single family units for Carolina Oaks and we're in the process now of doing 100 and maybe 50 units of single-family housing in Tallahassee and we've done a family life center we've done an elderly development and another client of mine is Bishop Arthur Fletcher where we built housing over in Pensacola, they have a senior facility of 147 units. But I will let Mrs. Thurman share and then I am available for whatever questions you may have.

Moderator Philpart noted that the Board was reminded of earlier discussions about putting a steering committee (economic development and housing) together. Also, as an association this is something that I'm hoping the board embrace and then embark upon as partners with their churches.

**Mrs. Thurman** is with Freddie Mac and expressed a passion for homeownership. I've been in the business a long time starting the mortgage business almost 30 years ago and have worked for various organizations to help black families achieve the American dream of homeownership in my current role as the Director of Equitable Housing at Freddie Mac. There are resources to help black families emerge financially and our whole goal in the equitable housing group is to close the wealth gap for black Americans and it's a very simple goal but it's complicated in its scope so some of the tactics that we've employed is to reach out to the community, reach out to faith-based organizations, reach out to the divine nine. We want to meet our black homeowners and potential black homeowners which we call mortgage ready. Some of you may have heard about different organizations who committed hundreds of millions of dollars to this effort Freddie Mac is working with Goldman Sachs and other banks who have committed \$100 million. Freddie Mac has a free 20 module financial literacy program that someone at your church can get certified to teach these classes. I want to be mentioned one last thing before I open it up for questions estate planning is essential for black people as pastors, I know you have all had someone in your church who passed away and the children don't know how to get the house into their name they're going through probate they can't afford to go through probate they lose the properties this is how black families lose wealth. I'll stop there because I

can go on and on about how we need to really concentrate on building wealth, but the cornerstone is home ownership, land ownership, land development and then continuing to do that throughout the generations.

**FECBA Educational Expo** – Sister A. Shellman & L. Parrott

Special thanks on April 9th 2022 we were given the opportunity to hold educational Expo hosted by Florida East Coast at the Mount Calvary Church where Reverend Brandon Jones is the Pastor. The Genesis Community Health Center, Utica University, Nova Southeastern University, Kaiser university, Bethune Cookman College, St. Thomas, Grand Canyon University Technical School, Florida International University, Miami-Dade College, Palm Beach Atlantic, President Gloria Jackson Davis, President Melinda Collins and President Pauline Scott, Congress President Parrott, Director Olson-Northern Fellowship, Dr. Venita Timpson Cassandra Philpart, First Lady FECBA, Moderator Philpart and Patsy Jones. Florida A and M university as well as Florida Memorial University were also part of the Inaugural Education Expo, and we thank all of these individuals' colleges universities and all organizations and entities for taking the time to make the Inaugural Expo come to fruition. The 2022 scholarship application is posted on our association's website it is ready for you to download print and share with any graduating high school seniors.

**Reading and Ratification of Minutes from Previous Meeting** – General Secretary Wendell Paris

It was noted that in reference to the minute's approval and ratification of previous minutes we do not ratify minutes you approve them and accept them however, but when we accept, that we accept them with the noted changes.

**Financial Reports (All Accounts)** – Pastor Ford & Rev. Hay

I would like to make this adjustment because Pastor Ford is key to the financial piece and so we will move to the financial reports. We'll come back to the roll call and Concerned Churches.

We are planning to have a face-to-face board meeting with the blessing of our Congress president during the Congress and we will come back to key issues such as the financing. The 2021 financial review or annual report if you recall really helped us to organize our financial outlook and overview from a records management perspective and again the chart of accounts which has the high-level list of definitions which we'll look at is the basis for all of our accounting perspective for our financial overview. Then we'll look at the year-to-date budget analysis and revisit the strategic plan. The registration, covenant partner, and special donations these are those three care categories. For the expense account we have administrative, administration expenses and actually the administration expenses are separate from the administrative salaries. Education, evangelist, evangelism, mission, sessions training and workshops and so these are all the sessions where we come together regardless of which auxiliary are coordinating. This is a picture of our financial position at a point in time at the end

of our fiscal year which is December 31<sup>st</sup> for 2021 and our last review would've been February we actually looked at these numbers, but we looked at a comparison of 2020 and 2021. December 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 the amount that we had on hand cash on hand was \$18,608 in our foundation account. Land project is sitting in an account but it's cash it's liquid \$298,529 so the total cash on hand at the end of the fiscal year 2021 was three \$319,446 that also is our total current assets we do have other assets. Long term assets as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2021, Moody investment \$25,500, Moody investments 138,004 and that total is 164,000 our total assets meaning our current and long-term or cash and our investments \$483,486 we don't have any real liabilities as far as assets are concerned. We have bills and we have expenses that we pay but as far as like mortgages or any kind of debt that would be listed here, we don't have any. If that's incorrect, the moderator would need to provide us that information. Our net assets are restricted assets and includes our land project. The restricted assets \$644 and \$162,569 undesignated or unrestricted assets is essentially our cash on hand in our draft accounts which is the operating and the foundation fines. I would like that the board note that we want to move to getting a more detailed report of this investment piece. I do have some information for Dr. Bryant that would be one of the purposes of our steering committee who would look at future investments but also be the watchdog for lack of a better term for our existing investments. Those persons would be initially, the investment firm, immediate past moderator Barber, Bryant, and Lovett. I just have a quick question and that question is Sunrise City, who owns this entity? I serve as a board member on that entity and Dr. Lovett, and I took those monies to do an investment under Pastor Barber's tenure and so you know we can't be the watchdog so that's one of the main things we want to make sure we get clear. That is an entity under the association, as a partner of the association and separate 501(c)3 separate governing body. The next presentation is a statement of activities for the fiscal year 2021. It breaks down essentially our operating expenses and income and so as you can see under the revenue we have those three accounts registration covenant partner and special donation again the special donations are technically restrictions because there are certain things that those monies were collected for and without donor restrictions it's the registration and covenant partners in particular so you see those numbers there just go to the total revenue is one for 2020; \$120,651 then under the expenses there are none as you recall under the chart of accounts. We went back to the beginning of 2020 and we aligned all of our income and all of our expenses to be categorized and fall into these accounts so that we can for the sake of comparison so even though it was probably the latter part if I'm calling the latter part of 2021 where we agreed on the budget and established these chart of account but we're able to look at the entire year because we simply align all of the income and the expenses into these categories and so for \*\*\*\*\* expenses you see each of those we didn't break out anything into any donor restrictions although technically under administrative expenses that's where the online processing fees or the donation that's made and those technically kind of flow through. Total expense is then \$131,804 for 2021 we brought in about \$11,000 less than we spent - \$11,153 MM by the way the negative number you know without donor restriction is because of the fact that the special donations are in separate columns. Year 2021 was \$30,960 the balance at the end of the year \$20,918 so about \$10,000 where our beginning balance and our ending balance those donor restriction column that is those other investments included and so you can see those final numbers are balanced at the beginning of the year as our total assets and at the end of the year

and so the reason we could have easily not even realized that we never had a negative balance obviously but because you know even with that deficit of \$11,000 when we came out of 2020 we had such a surplus that we didn't know. The bottom line here is that the income piece is critically important as we go forth to do ministry you also see the same information as represented in the pie charts on the expenses so you can see kind of the proportion of each of these areas there's a lot that goes into administrative expenses and administrative salaries and when it comes to income our registration both unified and nonunified is right now the main source of our income and as we continue to build our covenant partners you know hopefully that will also have more of a significant impact. For the last two years we haven't had an on-site so a lot of those things that would come up in the future with the on-site presence were non issues or did not require any kind of expenses but again this is the next level of accounts and you'll see as we move forward you'll see how that plays out as a matter of fact if you if you recall when you receive the budget the budget breaks out you know all of these individual accounts every level in terms of what is allotted and so if you refer to that document then you will be able to see where everything goes. There is a lot of room for improvement in church registrations. We've already made reporting consistent in terms of fiscal year end with year ending reporting as opposed to going from February to January our fiscal year we've established a financial reporting cycle we have established that the annual review is in May at this meeting quarterly reporting in February, May, July, and October which we've included.

The operating account has \$24,000. This amount is before Pastor Barr kicks off the Northern Fellowship and Pastor Ramsey kicks off the Southern Fellowship. President Collins says we're in good shape and Reverend Barr says \$15,000 is coming in the north and Rev. Ramsey says \$16,000 is coming from the South. The finance report was concluded and submitted for information.

### **Concerned Churches**

Rev. Barr reported that they would be hosting a historical event in the city of Labasa with NASA Florida at the Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church. They will kick off at 6:30 with a workshop and evangelism. Rev. Kenneth Johnson will be preaching on tomorrow and Dr. Wells will be closing out on Saturday.

Reverend Barr was asked to provide update on troubled and/or vacant churches. He stated that it speaks volumes to the new board and leadership that churches are reaching out for assistance. The Saint John family is meeting on tonight. Pleasant Heights our church is on their final selection process and may become an East Coast church again. Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Delray Beach FL is getting ready to open up their search. We are blessed to say that every church that reached out were able to fill them with an effective and efficient Pastor. St. John, Boynton - Reverend Hay stated we have members of our church that are in a storm, but God is still on the throne. Rev. Hay is visiting St. John but believe everything will be alright including Pastor Logan Davis. Vincent Brown invited Rev. Hay to come to Christ Baptist and informed of an opening in Delray Beach Florida. Those who may have sharp brothers who

are aspiring to become pastors should be informed of opportunities in the East Coast. We're also looking to assist St. John with an interim pastor as they prepare for the next phase. Other churches where assistance is being provided include St. Luke – Miami, First Baptist Bunch Park – (final stages - has 3 candidates), Historical Mount Zion, Saint John- Miami, Greater Trinity, Reverend Henry Whitehead - Second Canaan, Dr. Ramsey noted his concern as well with St. John - Overtown Miami, historical Mount Zion Baptist Church and Tau.

Jimmy Witherspoon is officially bringing the Shiloh Church of Fort Lauderdale over to the East Coast.

Moderator Philpart committed to bringing back licensure training for Pastors.

Reverend Witherspoon and Reverend Johnson were welcomed to FECBA. Reverend Cox is officially retired there will be a celebration at Memorial Temple - Florida Memorial on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 4:00 PM, contact Sister Mary Taggard for details.

The pastor at New Mount Zion Seminola feeling a little left out. We don't want to lose any churches while we gain churches. We need to be better stewards and communicating with our churches.

**Election Committee** - Pastor Alphonso Jackson Jr. is already on staff with us as Executive Pastor. Action items from the board meeting on February 15th 2022, by Moderator Philpart.

1. ratification of the constitution as it pertains to the following first wakes decisions are taken to representative churches and
2. the moderator becoming the only elected officer of the association in enabling him to choose leaders to support his vision.

To this end the elections committee offers our findings and understanding of the constitution and support of the same number.

1. what decisions are taken to member churches for ratification. We went specifically to the constitution and according to Article 10 amendment of bylaws All amended at any session of the Florida East Coast Baptist association by majority vote of persons in attendance item 10.2 notice any session of the Florida East Coast Baptist Association where an alteration or amendment will be voted on must be preceded by a notice in the previous session of the Florida East Coast Baptist Association to include notification to member churches and we note that the recommendations for altering or amending changes are to come from the board and disseminate it to the people which are the member churches.
2. the moderator will be the only elected officer of the law and will appoint auxiliary leaders to carry out his vision.

Sister Timpson reiterated one point for the Moderator. The board really does not have the final say so, the board simply recommends that goes out to the member churches

for vote. The report was accepted as information because again there's nothing, we can do there's no action that needs to be taken the committee did their due diligence and in November we'll need to hear from the constitutional committee.

### **Constitutional Committee** – Pastor Larrie Lovett

Announced planning for upcoming District Congress of Christian Education. (July 18th through the 22<sup>nd</sup>) Presidents Scott and Jackson proposed the use of the facility of our own Florida Memorial College. Finances are still under discussion and the school is reminded that FECBA is one of the largest donors. If we unable to resolve financing, then we go back to our original plan of housing it at the Christian Fellowship Church in Miami. This system would be an awesome opportunity for us to see where our money is going when we donate to the Florida Memorial University.

### **Constitution Committee** - Pastor Larrie Lovett (report deferred)

### **Announcements**

**Sister Sonja Philpart** – made an appeal to all the women and leaders of the association to help grow the individual partners by identifying 3-5 members in each of their churches and encourage businesses to become covenant partners. The success of the covenant partner initiative will do the following:

- a. this initiative will ensure we have resources needed to accomplish the ministry work of our association.
- b. eliminate the multiple offering and
- c. to effectively do ministry in the areas of mission evangelism and education

One of the things that we certainly need is for each of our churches to enroll. The covenant partners pay \$20 per month \$240 a year (individuals), corporate partners pay at least \$1,000 or more.

**Sister Pauline Scott** - May 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> we will be on virtual file Southern Union Fellowship, our host church is the Second Canaan Missionary Baptist Church. Dr. Gail Powell, Rev. Rod Johnson - Memorial Temple will be our preachers for the evening and you don't want to miss Friday night, we're honoring the gospel extraordinaire singer Reverend Rudolph Daniels. Saturday we will have our departmental studies, workshops, deaconesses, mission, ushers, hospitality, and Moderator we can hear from you. Saturday, we want to see our ladies dress we're coming back face-to-face and we're asking every woman to bring a younger person because we are building bridges as we move forward. Our youth will be at Christian Fellowship.

**Dr. Jimmy Bryant** - Executive staff on 5/22 as we move towards the summer Congress board meeting but before the board meeting there will be the Queen's review on Sunday night which is our scholarship effort at 7:00 PM. Then the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> we will be in our state Congress with Doctor Isaac Williams and so

those who would like to attend that Congress after you attend Florida East Coast Congress you may do so it'll be at the DoubleTree in Orlando. The summer board meeting will be on Wednesday July 27<sup>th</sup> and those who are interested and concerned should be at the board meeting even if you're not at the Congress all week. National Baptist Congress is starting June 20<sup>th</sup> Monday after the third Sunday and in June after Father's Day through that Thursday there will be a graduation on Friday. We leave out of our summer Congress heading to National Baptist Convention in September starting Labor Day this year Monday after the first Sunday so please meet us in Orlando DoubleTree hotel on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to accept the last minutes Rev. Oliver Wells - Christ the King Baptist Church.  
Second - Angela Williams - Hopewell Baptist Church. Unanimous passing.