

**Florida East Coast Missionary Baptist Association, Inc.**

**Reverend Toby T. Philpart, Moderator**

**Reverend Dr. C. P. Preston, Jr., Moderator Emeritus**

**Sister Gloria Jackson-Davis, Women's Auxiliary President**

**Deacon Raymond Smith, Jr., Laymen's Auxiliary President**

**ANNUAL SESSION 2022**

***Florida East Coast Baptist Association Board of Directors Meeting***

Tuesday, 15 February 2022, 13:11 (1:11 pm)

Hosted by Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church

Deerfield Beach, FL

**Rev. Dr. Jimmie L. Bryant, Chairman of the Board, Presiding Officer**

*NOTE: The minutes reflect a synopsis of the meeting. The entire meeting is recorded, and a copy may be requested.*

Devotion and invocation were rendered by Laymen's President, Deacon Raymond Smith after gathering statements from Moderator Philpart.

Chairman Jimmie L. Bryant called the FECBA Board of Directors Meeting of the 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Session to order at 13:11 (1:11 pm). Chairman Bryant called for the Reading of the Agenda and its Adoption by the General Secretary. *Rev. Woodrow Hay moved for the adoption of the agenda. Rev. Larrie Lovett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

***MINUTES***

Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting, 27 October 2021 were submitted by the General Secretary. *Deacon Green of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Liberty City moved to adopt both sets of minutes. Rev. Larrie M. Lovett, II seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

***MODERATOR'S REFLECTIONS***

The moderator opened his comments by thanking Reverend Frank Kennedy for blessing the Association with the word, and by reflecting upon the agenda.

*Financial Update:* The CPA has prepared an exhaustive balance sheet and statement of activities, giving us a big picture as to where we are financially. The final slide presents a line item report in the effort of sharing our financial activities. The thematic tone centers around missions, evangelism, and education. We should note that even the financial reporting reflects our efforts to center on these objectives.

*Constitution Committee:* The Moderator, with the support, expertise, and guidance of the committee, will approach the Constitutional update with care and concern, understanding that Constitutional conversations have been contentious in the past in the Association. Because we want to go forward together, the Committee has been asked to closely examine it. The Committee will be a standing committee. Dr. Lovett will share what has been accomplished, and will hear observations, problems, and concerns.

*Election Committee:* Moderator charges Election Committee with ratification. Which decisions do we take to the membership or representatives of FECBA churches? The Moderator asserts that he should be allowed to choose his team. Because we come with more than vision, strategy, and ways of operating and accomplishing our objectives, there must be one vision. Everybody cannot have a vision if we hope to be successful in our objectives. If this must be ratified beyond the Board of Directors, the process should start now.

*Covenant Partners Committee:* We hope to do things differently. We did it one way before the pandemic. We must abandon the perception of begging. We've lost a harvest because of our perception of begging/taxing.

*Marketing/Publications Committee:* Pastor Ford will share that we hope to do offerings differently. We did offerings one way before the pandemic, but now it is necessary that we do things differently so that we can have a greater impact. One of the things that offends those we want to reach is our perception of begging. We have lost a harvest by our offering practices.

*Budget Committee:* If we adopt a budget, it becomes an executive boundary. The budget gives executive authority to officers so that we can go forth and execute and operate the work of the Association as authorized by the Board of Directors.

### ***GREETINGS: EXECUTIVE OFFICERS***

Greetings were given to the Board by: Women's Auxiliary President Gloria Jackson—Davis; Laymen's Department President, Deacon Raymond Smith; Congress of Christian Education President, Rev. Benjamin H. Parrott, Sr.; Northern Fellowship: Women's President Malinda Collins, and President, Rev. Dr. Howard Barr, Jr. (written

report submitted to General Secretary); and from the Southern Fellowship, Women's President Pauline Scott, and President, Dr. W. M. Ramsey.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

### **MODERATOR PHILPART**

Moderator Philpart and Sister Bailey presented a Comparison of 2020 and 2021 Statement of Activities, Financial Position, Special Donations, and the Proposed May Agenda. Sister Bailey began by presenting the Chart of Accounts.

*Chart of Accounts:* The Chart of Accounts includes Income Accounts (Registrations, Covenant Partners, Special Donations), and Expense Accounts (Administrative Expenses, Education, Evangelism, Missions, and Sessions, Trainings, and Workshops). The budget must resemble and reflect our mission: Education, Evangelism and Missions.

*Statement of Activities:* Moderator Philpart presented the Statement of Account Activities. The pandemic years of 2020-2021 were challenging. Contributions decreased in 2021 by nearly 11,000, but the Association did so well in 2020 that they were able to compensate for challenges in 2021. It is important and incumbent upon all member churches, unified and non-unified, to ensure that they register for all Association sessions, activities, and the Congress of Christian Education. Non-registration has a detrimental impact upon revenues.

*Statement of Financial Position:* as of 31 December 2021, the Association had more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) Cash On Hand. Investments with Sunrise City Mortgage and Moody Investments are on track. The Standing Committee, the Immediate Past Moderator, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, and the sitting Moderator will listen to all potential investment opportunities as a committee. They will bring all investment opportunities to the Board of Directors so that the Board will decide which to pursue. We will receive a full report of investments in our May session.

*Special Donations:* Special donations are restricted because they are earmarked for specific purposes. The Florida East Coast Foundation is bigger than any one fund. It is a true foundation that gives the Association leverage when applying for grants. The Association is thus eligible for grants to churches. As both a faith based organization and a not-for-profit organization, we have several grant opportunities. Disaster-relief is an area where we readily fit in. If we can show the state that we are serious about disaster relief, we can get put onto the state's funding lists. Dr. Timpson asked if we would have an educational component in place to help Pastors and Churches apply for grant funds. Moderator Philpart asserted that Nova Southeastern University and Fort Lauderdale University and other colleges and schools are interested in building

partnerships with us for grant writing opportunities. Pastor Larrie Lovett stated that the Social Justice Committee of the State Convention has on its agenda to provide grant writing workshops for every Association in the state, with the hope that universities will partner and provide the proper educational tools and structures. Upcoming Reports: “Annual Report Review,” and “Year to Date Budget Analysis” will be given in the One Day Session in May 2022.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. Pastor T. T. Shellman inquired about the condominiums in Boynton and Kissimmee. Where are we with those investment properties?
2. Moderator Philpart responded that the properties eventually became a mortgage (Sunrise City Community Housing) so that we did not have the liability of a property. We hold the mortgage and we get the money on a monthly basis. We are in the black with this move. We earn significantly more with the mortgage than we did with the \$150,000 in certificates of deposits (CDs).
3. President Ramsey noted an absence of an allotment for the Dean of Christian Education on the Budget.
4. Moderator Philpart noted that it has been corrected.
5. Chairman Bryant stated that the report would be received as information so that any questions could be answered by professionals in May.

**CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

Reverend Larrie Lovett reported that the Constitution Committee accomplishments are various. To wit:

1. Revised Constitution and Bylaws were approved at FECBA One Day Session, 2021. The organizational structure and governing information was included, and that document was separated into a Bylaws and Constitution Document.
2. Language was restructured and rephrased for clarity. There was some confusion as to whether we needed to have an actual installation ceremony before officers were operating. Certain spots were vague, and they were made plain in the new revised constitution.
3. The power to open and close accounts was articulated and added into the created document.
4. The Moderator’s recommendations were made known to us. The Moderator recommended that we add a Youth and Young Adult Auxiliary with presidents and officers, such that the Association will be in lock step with the National Baptist Convention. His second recommendation was that we change the names from Unions to Fellowships, so as to appeal to every member (amending the exclusionary language, “Ministers’ and Deacons’ Union”). He recommended standing committees to govern the association more effectively and efficiently. He recommended two positions: Secretary of Finance and Financial Secretary

were combined into one position, to eliminate any possibility of redundancy; and, he suggested the addition of the Administrative Assistant/Treasurer, an individual that could meet with every church, visiting with every pastor to see what their needs are, so that the wisdom and resources of the Association are made more readily available to Association Member Churches. All recommendations were approved in May 2021.

5. Pastor Lovett reported that the Committee was sure to maintain the integrity of the original document. The original and the revised copy were made available to everyone. The Committee has completed their assignment to revise and extricate the Bylaws from the Constitutional document. The revised document is a working document.

The Constitution Committee is now working on information regarding the Benefit Board; internal audit language that will address internal and external audits. Specifically: who has access to them, and when access is granted, so that all may know they have a right to review any document of the Association. Furthermore, the Committee is developing a process for amending the Bylaws and Constitution.

*The report was received as information.*

### ***ELECTIONS COMMITTEE***

Dr. Venita Timpson issued a verbal report, with the caveat that a more detailed report would be forthcoming during the One Day Session in May 2022. The Committee is still receiving instructions as to how it should proceed.

Moderator Philpart asked that the Board Chair get the Constitution and Elections Committees to begin the conversation on elections ratification. What items should be taken to the general body?

*The report was received as information.*

### ***COVENANT PARTNERS COMMITTEE***

Moderator Philpart asked Sis. Sonja Philpart and all Pastor's Wives to take the lead on our Covenant Partner Committee, utilizing the Committee to market and recruit all Covenant Partners. There will be a focus on data, statistics, logistics and the FECBA app, to foment participation in the Covenant Partners Program. The Committee will have no financial oversight. First Lady Philpart will give leadership to the marketing of the Covenant Partners program.

*The motion to accept the recommendation was made by Rev. Dr. Howard Barr, Jr., and was seconded by Rev. Woodrow Hay. The motion carried unanimously.*

### ***HISTORY COMMITTEE***

Sister Barbara Moore noted that technology has been of seminal import this past year. The Association is now in two locations: on-site and on-line. Covenant Partners has been most successful because we have been able to implement programs and fulfilling the mission of the Association. The Constitution Committee has done diligent, phenomenal work in aligning and clarifying our governing documents with the National Baptist Convention and our mission. Rev. Kenneth Johnson and President Gloria

Jackson Davis have led the Association in taking the mission and message of Jesus Christ with over 1400 Christmas cards to incarcerated men and women throughout the nation. The Association has supported disaster relief, with clothing, food, water and funds throughout the nation. In the area of Education, the Association has given scholarships to students, and it has helped Florida Memorial University. The Moderator's recommendations will be noted in the History Committee Report. Churches have returned and additional churches have been recruited. We will welcome new pastors and other information will be included for the past year as well.

### **MARKETING & PUBLICATION COMMITTEE**

Pastor Demetric Ford reported on the importance of the Covenant Partners Initiative. The context of COVID has interrupted our traditional ways and means of engaging, giving, and serving. Marketing and Publications helped to drive our brand, inform us of what we are doing, how we are serving, and where we are going, and our vision. You will continue to see various levels of marketing, media, and means of engagement and information. The FECBA App is up and running. It is a big part of the M&P strategy.

The Covenant Partners Initiative is the grassroots program, the primary means of giving to the Association. Through this initiative giving is able to take place at any time, anywhere. Giving is no longer only connected to coming into the sanctuary. Online giving is always available.

### **DISCUSSION:**

1. T. T. Shellman: Because many are not tech savvy, some will still come prepared to give in person. We must be careful to not turn away an offering from those who still want to give in traditional ways.
2. Moderator Philpart: Our ushers will have giving stations. We will promote giving stations to the traditional giver, so as not to lose any givers.

An instructional video on how to become a Covenant Partner was shown. *The report was received as information.*

### **BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Moderator Philpart began the report by examining the Covenant Partner Initiative. The initiative has generated \$45,000 in revenue over the last ten (ten) months. Auxiliary heads have been asked to help with registration, as it is a key part of our anticipated revenue. Every Board Member is asked to consider donating fifty (\$50) dollars to donate for the care of Dr. Frank E. Ray, and all Association pastors are asked to donate one-hundred (\$100) dollars for the same. The Moderator Emeritus has been allocated one-thousand (\$1000). Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) have been allocated for the areas of Mission, Evangelism and Education. Additional monies have been allocated for the Deans.

**DISCUSSION:**

1. President Parrott: The Congress of Christian Education will require more help from the Association to be successful. There are several line items that the President would like to discuss with the Moderator to ensure that the Congress is successful.
2. Moderator Philpart: The Congress of Christian Education's line items reflect consistent budgeting trends and projections. The Congress will be successful, without a doubt.
3. President Barr: We are pulling from one bucket, and that should give us more accurate data. If the budget is operable, we have the ability to adjust it.
4. Moderator Philpart: We will prioritize teachers, not travel, accommodations and the like.
5. Dr. Joyce Dunlap: Numbers on the budget will not be realistic because the last two years have been pandemic years. We have to incorporate those who will participate on-site and on-line.
6. Pastor Shellman: The budget is a continuum. We are still in the pandemic, so we have to keep adjusting it until we rebound from the pandemic financially.

*Pastor T. T. Shellman moved to accept the budget as a working document at this time, and whatever necessary adjustments that are required will be made as needed. Oliver Wells seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**RECOGNITION OF NEW PASTORS**

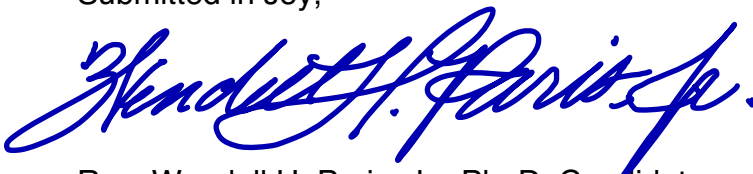
Immediate Past Moderator Johnny Barber brought to the Board's attention that St. Mark of Fort Pierce, Pleasant Heights of Riviera Beach, Greater Bethel of Fort Pierce, and First Baptist of Brownsville, Saint Luke of Miami, Saint John of Overtown, Trinity of Dania Beach, and First Baptist Church of Bunche Park remain open.

He also brought to the Board's attention that the Saint Matthew's Church in Wasabo, the Community Missionary Baptist Church in Gifford, and Mount Zion in Miami have all selected pastors.

**CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT**

Deacon James Green of Antioch of Liberty City rendered the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 16:49 (4:49 pm) by Chairman Bryant.

Submitted in Joy,



Rev. Wendell H. Paris, Jr., Ph. D. Candidate  
General Secretary  
Florida East Coast Missionary Baptist Association, Inc.