

Minutes of the
District Council
Assemblies of God
Northern California & Nevada District Council, Inc.
April 25 – 26, 2022

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

Morning / Church Ministries Brunch (Harvest Church, Elk Grove, CA)

The Church Ministries Department, under the leadership of Charla Blair, sponsored a brunch at Harvest Church in Elk Grove at 10:00 a.m. There were over 110 pastors, workers, and spouses in attendance. The top churches in BGMC, Speed the Light, and Light for the Lost giving in 2021, were recognized.

Morning / Women's Ministries Brunch (Capital Christian Center, Sacramento, CA)

The Women's Ministries banquet began at 11:00 a.m. with prayer and lunch. Women's Ministries Director Debbie Heden welcomed the over 300 in attendance. The time was opened in a time of worship.

Debbie announced that a total of \$127,152.93 had been raised for the 2021-22 projects. She introduced the project's recipients, and each expressed sincere appreciation for the funds raised:

- School of Urban Missions (SUM) Scholarships - \$20,000
- Chi Alpha Stanislaus - \$40,000
- A Taste of Home Abroad (Worldwide) - \$30,000
- Light the Way, forgotten special needs kids in Asia - \$37,152.93

The following received the top giving awards:

- Fallon, NV – Christian Life Center, Pastor Jimmy Myers (General Council) - \$10,200
- Lovelock, NV – New Life Fellowship, Pastor Verna Vetter (District Affiliated) - \$3,000

A video presentation of the 2022-23 projects was presented. Funds will be given to the following:

- World: A Taste of Home Abroad
- World: Light the Way, Casa Di Refugio
- US: School of Urban Missions (SUM) Scholarships
- US: Chi Alpha Davis Christian Fellowship

OFFERING – Former Women's Ministries Director Mary Fairrington prayed over the offering. All funds received will go towards the 2022-23 Project Sisterhood.

SPEAKER – Women's Ministries Team Member Abby Stirling introduced a video of an interview conducted with Harley Allen, followed by Chi Alpha Davis Director Will Klier, who brought a short message.

District Superintendent Bret Allen concluded by expressing his appreciation to Women's Ministries Director Debbie Heden and the women of the NCN District for their giving. He then closed with prayer.

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

CAPITAL CHRISTIAN CENTER

SACRAMENTO, CA

The One-Hundredth and Fourth Annual District Council was convened at Capital Christian Center, Sacramento, California. The theme for the Council was *Possible*.

WORSHIP – The NCN Worship Team, representing several churches under the direction of District Music Director Jon Lugo, opened the session.

Spiritual Life Report

Spiritual Life Committee Chair Abe Daniel presented an introduction to the committee's video and written report that was made available on the District's website. The title of this year's report was "The Return," and attached to these minutes.

Superintendent's State of the District Address

District Superintendent Bret Allen stated that our District has great diversity. Each year he begins his address by pointing out the diversity of geography, community sizes, approaches to ministry, culture, and styles of worship. This year, we add to the list of diversity – our opinions.

This past year we have been challenged to commit and recommit ourselves to unity despite – the diversity of opinion, practice, and compliance. This past year our strength was demonstrated as pastors were called upon to make decisions in a landscape of shifting demand and expectation that can only be described as uniquely challenging. In the face of challenges, our pastors continued to provide leadership that varied from county to county, city to city, and church to church. We have never seen such a real demonstration of diversity in our current events in our ministries.

Opinions and actions ran the gamut, but the diversity of response and approach has not and cannot erode our commitment to unity. As diversity develops and pronounces itself, our intentionality must bolster itself in the area of unity. From the word unity, we gain the concept of a uniform. The New York Yankees all wear the same uniform. It shows their commitment to the team. Despite the uniform, each player is unique. Unique in skill, unique in position played, unique in personhood. What a powerful picture, wearing the uniform, being who you are. We don't need a room full of third basemen.

We desperately need ministers to fill the unique roles of challenge and opportunity that your community or mission field demands.

As diversity grows, our commitment to unity must keep pace with growth. Our strength has always been unique approaches and ministry expression. Unity does not and cannot erase uniqueness.

It is the Lord who calls. Today the remembrance of calling is essential. Without a firm grasp of calling, California and Nevada become challenging, even inconvenient places to live. With a calling, California and Nevada are ripe with God-given Spirit-directed opportunities.

When the Lord calls, He gives you responsibility. Responsibility to preach, evangelize, disciple, love, strengthen and equip. Where responsibility is given, the Lord also gives authority. The Lord also anoints us for the areas where we hold authority and responsibility. New mantles of authority and anointing rest on us to accomplish that for which we were called.

Each of us is called.

Each of us carries authority.

Each of us is anointed for service.

It is a powerful concept as long as everyone stays in their lane.

When we voice perspective and offer input in areas outside our responsibility, authority, and anointing, we offer nothing more than opinion. There is nothing powerful or anointed about opinion, but it can prove to have a detrimental effect on unity. Stay in your lane. Let us voice our opinion in our areas of responsibility, authority, and anointing.

Yet knowing all of that, Jesus said this:

"I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me." John 17:21 (LB)

UNITY AWARDS – Unity holds high Kingdom value. Unity is what Jesus prayed for us so that the world would know Him. Unity and our connection to God is a precursor to evangelism – that the world will know. The following pastors were presented with Unity Awards:

- Brandon Philpott (Windsor, CA – New Song Church)
In 2019, the Kincaid fires destroyed much of Windsor, including Pastor Brandon's generational family home. Yet despite such difficult loss and personal set back, Pastor Brandon and the leadership team at New Song accepted the responsibility of revitalizing another church. The church in Ukiah was in desperate need of leadership and re-engagement but also the expenses of remodeling and restoring the church. Today the church is healthy, and we owe a debt of gratitude to New Song and Pastor Brandon. This is in recognition of Pastor Brandon's commitment to unity, even in times of personal challenge and loss.
- Pete Vossler (Sparks, NV – Crosswinds Church)
Pastor Pete is well known for his understanding and willingness to mentor other ministers on various topics. He has served Crosswinds Church for 30 years. That is admirable. But Pastor Pete, this past year, made an incredible decision. Instead of simply being content with the strength and health of his church, he decided to risk and invest in the life of a hurting church in a growing community. Pastor Pete is providing leadership, finances, and staff in an aggressive revitalization effort in Truckee, CA. Pastor Pete, thank you for caring about Truckee. It is outside your section, your region, and your state, but inside our District. Today, we honor you for your care and concern as you have reached out to assist Truckee. Your act of unity and sacrifice is noted and appreciated by this District Council.

HONOR - We have also adopted a stance of Honor in the life of our district. Honor is the bedrock of relationships. Ministry moves at the pace of relationships. Therefore, our ministries are all impacted by how we handle opportunities to honor another. We strive in this area of Honor.

Honor is simply *"showing respect and esteem to another."*

1. Honor God
2. Honor those in authority over us
3. Honor those who lead the church
4. Honor your spouse
5. Honor your parents
6. Honor all men. All men defined as race, all ethnicities, women, the unsaved world around us, those seeking restoration in our fellowship, and all ages.

District Superintendent Allen presented the following pastors with Honor Awards:

- Michael Ciociola, (Yuba City, CA – Calvary Christian Center)
Pastor Michael Ciociola has pastored Calvary since 1991, 31 years, and has served as Executive Presbyter for nine years. During that time, he has provided exceptional leadership in the life of this District. In addition, Pastor Ciociola serves as a Chaplain for the Beal Air Force base. In May 1992, he began hosting an annual Memorial Day event called "A Grateful Nation Remembers." This event is attended by thousands annually. The list of dignitaries that have participated is nothing short of impressive. All branches of the military have attended and participated in this event. This event in Yuba City, California, has drawn the attention of military people worldwide. All of this is to honor the military. All of this is to honor soldiers who served, gave, and paid the ultimate price for freedom. Today, we recognize this consistent and long-running expression of honor to the military. Thank you, Pastor Ciociola, for your sacrifice and deliberate efforts to practice honor in the life of this District.
- Jon Lugo (San Jose, CA – Bethel Church)
Pastor Jon has served on staff at Bethel Church San Jose for over 30 years. His service has spanned seven senior pastors. He is obviously a man who honors those in authority over him, or these statistics would not be possible. However, Pastor Jon's commitment to honor has extended beyond the walls of Bethel Church. In 2011, Pastor Jon began an annual tradition of honoring fallen soldiers' families, known as Gold Star Families. This is a group of families who ask only that the memory of their soldier and their sacrifice not be forgotten. In response, Jon began an annual event, "Bethel Remembers." This is, for all intent and purposes, a closed group. They are guarded and specific with whom they allow their soldier's memory and information to be used. Each year, Jon meets with a Gold Star family. He develops relationships and trust so that he and Bethel Church can honor their soldiers' memory by commissioning a traveling banner and dedicating it to the Gold Star

family at the annual event. In addition, Pastor Jon leads an annual motorcycle procession to the Golden Gate National Cemetery, where the grave and these soldiers honored at Bethel Remembers are visited, and the Gold Star Families are then prayed for. Pastor Jon, today we recognize your ongoing efforts to honor the fallen and their families, which bear the title Gold Star.

COMMUNITY CHURCH – Not a large or small church. Not rural or urban. Not even General Council or District Affiliated. We have begun qualifying churches as a community church that:

1. Recognizes that the church has somebody to reach.
2. Looks like the community - Death comes when the community changes, and the church still looks and acts the same. What impact are you making in that community?
3. Can move and respond quickly in response to needs in the community.
4. Can offer a personal and loving touch to their community.
5. Willingness to partner with other Community Churches.

AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY CHURCHES

- Paul Gottlieb (Roseville, CA – Harvest Community Church)
Pastor Paul has been the pastor of Harvest Community for four years. Paul also serves as a member of our District Presbyter. In that time, he has done a wonderful job growing the church and reaching into the community. Harvest Community Church has a history of community outreach since it was planted by Pastor Scott Flanagan, currently the leader of Compassion Planet. Pastor Paul is strongly committed to the Roseville community, and the church provides regular services in practical areas of need. They run a food closet and a homeless outreach. Harvest Church also is committed to monthly support of both US Missions and AG World Missions. In fact, this last year, missions contributions rose 41%. Pastor Paul, thank you for not only caring about your community but also leading your church in such a way that their commitment to outreach and missions remains strong and vital.
- Robert T Schlipp (Lodi, CA – Radiant Life)
Pastor Schlipp is actively engaged in the life of his community. His encouragement in the local schools of Lodi has caught much attention in the local media. Through various outreach programs and active engagement in the school district's life, Radiant Life has been dubbed by the Lodi News-Sentinel as a partner in transforming the community. What an incredible thing to have said of a church and a pastor, they partner for transformation. Pastor Robert T, we recognize your leadership and efforts as a community church.

LEGACY AWARD – MARY FAIRINGTON

Pastor Douglas and Mary Fairington served as Senior Pastors at:

- Half Moon Bay Assembly of God, 1954-1955
- Bethel Church in Grass Valley, 1955-1959
- Full Gospel Church in Morgan Hill, CA, 1959-1965
- Three Cities Assembly of God in Burlingame, CA, 1965-1988
- Staff Pastor at Destiny Christian Church, 1988-1995, when he "retired."

Mary served as Women's Ministries Director from 1984-1996. She raised \$6,737,174.37 for missions under her leadership. Pastor Douglas and Mary served as managers of the Mission Villa housing for NCN World Missionaries since 1997, and she continues to this day. One of the Mission Villa homes has been named in honor of their great legacy.

CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT CHURCHES

The bench of pastors wanting to lead a local church is light due to the exodus from California. We are being affected by a social phenomenon. Some of you need to consider pastoring your first church or small group mentoring. Of the only 217 churches that submitted the 2021 ACMR report, the following information was gathered:

- 65 reported no salvations
- 97 reported no baptisms
- 112 reported no baptisms in the Holy Spirit
- In addition, over 70% of our churches are currently plateaued or in decline.

These statistics can only do one of two things: they can serve to condemn and discourage or spark awareness and commitment to increased effectiveness. There is great concern about all of the above stats, but one of them is the root cause of the others. A shortage of teaching, preaching, and practicing the infilling of the Holy Spirit will result in tragic results in the local church.

Have we simply gone quiet? Have we allowed weird things to define Pentecost, so we shy away from the topic? Have we relegated the power of Pentecost as optional behind programs and things that we can only accomplish in our strength?

In extreme and disappointing circumstances, we have even divided over a difference of opinion demonstrated in the style of expression surrounding Pentecost. We must remember:

- Pentecost is not optional; it is the catalyst for greatness.
- Infilling is not an optional teaching point when you have committed to teaching the whole of God's Word.
- Nor is infilling designed to be a point of contention between denominations – or a stylistic debate between AG ministers.
- Just because your service schedules are full does not relieve your responsibility to give an opportunity to allow people to linger—Holy Spirit Saturdays, etc.
- Jesus left this as the answer for the church's success.
- Solid, consistent teaching in this area creates culture.
- We are authorities on presenting salvation. We do it with illustration, cleverness, and creativity. But when it comes to Holy Spirit, we are tentative and apologetic.
- Words like empower, enable, and witness are all attached to the infilling.
- Not enough to help people be filled; they are to be engaged in the mission. True missional ministry, apart from infilling, is an impossibility.
- Infilling in Acts 2 was pivotal in the early church. It was pivotal in our District's history. It will be pivotal in the life of your church and community.
- The biblical basis for being Pentecostal is not just speaking in tongues; it is winning souls. It tends to get weird if you are only Pentecostal 90 minutes a week. People who are Pentecostal live Pentecost. They live with a fresh and genuine touch of the Holy Spirit in the everyday aspect of their lives, resulting in people coming to know Jesus.
- Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts = impossible in our strength. With God's power, thru the Holy Spirit = Possible!

THERE IS GOD'S PART AND YOUR PART

The victory will ultimately be the Lord's. The supernatural is demanded. We have left the age of apologetics. No longer are we going to win people through an argument. No longer will "my life is better than your life" be an effective means to win people. As people are more affirmed in sinful lifestyles, more divided and argumentative, and become more spiritually interested, we must answer with the supernatural – signs and wonders. God is doing what only God can do as we step into situations. Nothing will win the battle like the presence and power of God. We are not just needing God; we are desperate for the power of God to move in us, on us, and through us. *"Theaters are full, and churches are empty because the world tells a lie better than churches tell the truth."* ~ Finney

Parable of the Banquet (Luke 14:12-23)

Empty seats are not a disaster; they are to serve as motivation. It is time for this parable to be re-enacted; some have deliberately said, *"no, I don't want to engage or to be involved. I am not going to be in attendance."* It is time to fill the seats with those who don't even know they are invited. Compel them to come. To bring about by force. Beyond opening the door. Into the highways and byways to let them know they are welcome.

In the late 1960s, a group of people in this country were pushing all of the established boundaries of society. Their expressions of life, sexuality, and drug usage were pushed as far as they could manage. When they finally arrived at the extreme, they were met with the reality of it not providing satisfaction. These people then turned miraculously to Jesus; the hippies became members of the Jesus movement. While the church struggled with appearance, dress

code, and hair styles, Jesus did a redeeming work. People who did not know they were invited flooded into the Kingdom.

What if the next Jesus people movement is near? What if the people who have been ignored, or worse, disregarded and maybe even denied, become the birth of the next Jesus movement? Our culture has groups pushing the boundaries of all we know and hold valuable. It won't be much longer until they arrive at a point of no satisfaction, no answer, nothing they were hoping for. When there is depravity, God will move through desperate people. When people are lost and seeking the ground becomes fertile for Jesus-style evangelism, the crowd listens because they see the power of God. This will result in changed lives. People's lives changed, seeking God, that a couple of years ago were not welcomed but now become the next wave of Jesus people. The homeless. The LGBTQ community. The backslidden. What if God was waiting for us to ensure we would treat his kids with respect before sending them?

The church is at the moment. Will we have an empty banquet hall? Or, will we go after those who don't know they are wanted and welcomed? Will we compel them? Will we extend effort and compassion? Will we accept functional humility instead of debate and insistence on being right? Functional humility being beautifully modeled by Jesus as Jesus who is humble as he puts others ahead of himself. Jesus is completing the word of ministry. We are also seeing Jesus rebound from disappointment with others.

Humility. Strength and ability under the control of the Holy Spirit. Great Humility while continuing to lead effectively in challenging days. The more first century the world becomes in their beliefs, the more first century the church must become in our reliance for His Spirit! Exposure to and acceptance of alternate religions. Societal embrace of sinful lifestyles. Celebration of entertainment. We are learning to live Godly in a godless society, living Godly under a godless government and leaders. Suspicion and mischaracterization of Christians.

Pharisees, who lord moral and spiritual superiority over others, motivated others by guilt. Zealots, those who protest the government and work at bringing its demise, motivated others by fear. Sadducees, religious professionals, making decisions on their career promotion; motivated others by power.

The first century had real problems; they were addressed by the reality of the gospel. How do we successfully address the real-life issues that exist today? How do we address real-life issues without becoming one of the groups listed? We focus on being Spirit-led. We depend on the power of God. We open ourselves to revival, and all those God is moving upon. We deliberately and desperately seek revival in our lives, homes, churches, and cities.

This session was closed with a call to lead Spirit Empowered ministries. Many flooded the altar in a time of prayer, recommitment, and refreshing of the Spirit to be empowered in the ministry they have been called to fulfill.

U40 Dinner

A dinner was held for ministers and those who feel called to ministry under the age of 40. Over 125 were in attendance. Dinner was served, followed by a Q&A with the three Executive Officers, hosted by District Credentialing Director Darryn Fisher.

Evening Service – Salvation, Healing, and Provision

Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston introduced the Teen Challenge Choir with over 150 members who opened the service in song and testimonies. The NCN Worship Team, under the direction of District Music Director Jon Lugo, opened the service in worship.

OFFERING – Return Fare for Foreign Missions

Executive Presbyter Abe Daniel shared that world missionaries itinerate in local churches and must raise a budget to sustain them while they are overseas. The District raises funds to assist them with the costs involved in getting these missionaries back to the foreign mission field. He prayed over the offering, followed by a time of worship.

SPEAKERS – Javier Torres, Sergio Torres, and Reverend Caleb Klinge

The night was broken up into three segments. Each segment had a designated purpose, with an interview followed by invitation to come forward for prayer by one of the members of the presbytery.

Salvation – Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon & Javier Torres

Dr. Herndon introduced Javier Torres. Javier was born in Las Angeles, California, to parents with gang affiliation. From an early age, he recalled wanting his father’s attention and yet being denied; drugs and violence had his full attention. When he was twelve, his mother packed him and his five siblings into a car and moved to Sacramento to help find a better life for her children. As a single mom, she worked two full-time jobs, which left Javier to care for his brothers and sisters. It wasn’t long before he found himself running with the local gang. After twelve years of gang association, the Lord caught his attention. Javier’s testimony of how the Lord used an old school rumble to put him on his knees, asking the Lord for a new life. There is so much to Javier’s story of salvation, and he now travels the nation with Evangelist Dean Johnson sharing his story and reminding people of all ages that their life matters. The altars were opened for a time of prayer for those who have unsaved family or friends. Evangelist Dean Johnson closed this session with prayer for the unsaved and that God would ignite a new passion and desire to reach the lost.

Healing – Assistant Superintendent Samuel Huddleston & Sergio Torres

Dr. Huddleston introduced Sergio Torres. Sergio was born deaf in his left ear. The doctors told his mother nothing could be done to help. Sergio is the younger brother of Javier and followed him into the gang lifestyle. After Javier surrendered his life to Christ, Sergio stepped up in the gang in an attempt to protect his brother. Two years after watching Javier turn his life around, on October 1, 2018, Sergio was heading out to revenge the shooting of a fellow gang member. As he was leaving his home, Javier invited him to Uncommon, an encounter night led by Evangelist Dean Johnson. Reluctantly, Sergio went with Javier, and the Lord caught his attention. At the end of the night, he surrendered his life to Christ. With over twenty men laying hands on him in the altar, Sergio hears the name Jesus in his left ear. Four weeks later, Sergio started attending Bible School with his brother. Six months later, he was filled with the Holy Spirit and his left ear completely opened, and since then, he has heard in surround sound. Sergio is finishing his final course needed to become a credentialed minister. The altars were opened for a time of prayer for those who needed physical healing in their body and those who have broken relationships they desire to be restored. Reverend Ron Eivaz closed this session with prayer for those who had come forward and needed a healing touch from the Lord.

Provision – Superintendent Bret Allen & Reverend Caleb Klinge

Pastor Bret Allen introduced Pastor Caleb Klinge of New Life (Novato, CA). Pastor Caleb serves as the North Bay District Presbyter, and he and his wife have pastored in Novato for twenty years. In 2021, he and his wife had a stirring to launch a new campus out of their church in San Francisco. A week later, Pastor Kenny Rogers of Sunset Assembly in San Francisco mentioned that he had been in conversation with the District about revitalizing a church in San Francisco that Pastor Celeb and his wife would pastor. They had not told anyone about the decision to plant in San Francisco, and Pastor Kenny volunteered them to the District, which was confirmation from the Lord. Pastor Caleb and his church began working with Pastor Kenny to bring the building up to date. They have started pre-launch services getting ready to launch the church in the Fall. They had approached their church congregation in Novato with a pre-launch budget to raise funds, inviting the members of the church to make pledges and commitments towards this church. In the process of raising those funds, he mentioned there was an existing loan on the building as a sidenote. In his church are the original founding pastors of the church in San Francisco they are revitalizing. They heard about the mortgage, and the Lord grabbed ahold of their hearts, and they paid the mortgage off completely. It enables the ministry to happen more freely. Pastor Kenny learned about the loan payoff before Pastor Celeb did, and he went to his church that Sunday to share the testimony; when he shared that, someone in his church put it on their heart to pay off the mortgage of Sunset Assembly. That day, they walked up and wrote a check. One person’s obedience created a financial miracle that keeps snowballing.

Pastor Bret Allen called Pastor Paul Gottlieb of Harvest Community Church (Roseville, CA) to the stage. Pastor Paul shared that he came to the Lord in 1995 as a high school student. As a young Bible college student, he would go out into a field and preach the best sermons you've never heard to a field of cows. It just so happens that at the same time, his wife would go to the same field to pray as a college student; somehow, their paths never crossed in the field. During the Covid shutdowns, a group came to him and told him that they had been sitting on a piece of land for twenty-five years because the Lord had told them that one day they would give the land to a church to build upon. He asked them where these five acres were, and they began driving to the field where he used to preach to the cows. The altars were opened for a time of prayer for those who needed a supernatural provision for them or their area of ministry. Reverend Perry Kallevig closed this session with prayer for those who had come forward and needed supernatural provision from the Lord.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022

CAPITAL CHRISTIAN CENTER

SACRAMENTO, CA

Morning / Business Session

WORSHIP – The NCN Worship Team, representing several churches under the direction of District Music Director Jon Lugo, opened the session.

Superintendent Bret Allen called the business session to order at 8:53 a.m. District Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus Rich Hopping opened the session in prayer.

Introductions – Superintendent Bret Allen made the following introductions: Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston, District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon, Recording Secretary Leanna Sheley, Assistant Recording Secretary Bridget Gallup, Parliamentary Committee Mark Guerrero (Chair), Brandon Philpott, and Robert T Schlipp, Roster Committee Chair Tim Gavigan, Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss, Resolutions Committee Chair Lindsey Severyn, American Sign Language Interpreter – Ramona Crossley, District Council Coordinators Bridget Gallup and Emily Bansuelo.

Voting Constituency – District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon provided a PowerPoint presentation of the voting constituency as defined in the Constitution, Article Ten and Bylaws, Article Two.

Roster Report #1 – Roster Committee Chair Tim Gavigan presented the following report for the Roster Committee as of 8:30 am, April 25, 2022:

Ordained Ministers	402
Licensed Ministers	116
Certified Ministers.....	34
Non-Credentialed Senior Pastors.....	4
Delegates	82
TOTAL VOTING CONSTITUENCY	638
Visitors	193
TOTAL REGISTERED.....	831

Agenda and Working Committees – A MOTION PREVAILED to adopt the agenda and Working Committees as published on the website at www.ncndc.org.

Explanation of Balloting: District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon provided brief training on using the platform to conduct the voting for the 2022 business session. All registered voters were sent an email and/or text thirty minutes before the meeting with a link to slido.com and the participant access code. Voters were encouraged to log into Slido if they had not already done so. He instructed voters to keep the screen open throughout the business session. As items or ballots come up to be voted upon, the ballot will show on the screen. Each ballot will be open for 30 seconds, at which time the Chair will declare the ballot closed, and the Teller's Chair will provide a report.

Standing Rules of Order – A MOTION was made to adopt the following Standing Rules of Order for the business deliberations at this District Council. 1. *The chair may call for resolutions and agenda items out of order, at the chair’s discretion.* 2. *That we limit the amount of time a speaker may speak to a pending question to three minutes.* 3. *That we limit the number of times a speaker may speak to a pending question to two times.* 4. *That we ask those who move to amend a motion to provide written copy of their amendment to the chairman by hand or via the chat feature.* 5. *Voice votes or “common consent” will be allowed for procedural and courtesy motions such as motions to Recess, Adjourn, Receive Reports, Express Appreciation, Second a Motion, etc.*

Remote Meeting Special Instructions – The District Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the following:
If you want to obtain the floor:

1. Using the Q&A box, send a question to the Chair and state your purpose and your name.
2. The Chair will enable your microphone and camera. Please use care to avoid echo and feedback. Please wait to be introduced before speaking.
3. When speaking, state your name and city for the record.

Typical purposes include: point of order, speak for, speak against, ask a question, make a main motion, second motion, incidental motion, and motion to amend. Please keep your chat message short.

The Chair called for the ballot to adopt the Standing Rules of Order as presented, needing a simple majority to adopt. The balloting was opened for thirty seconds.

Tellers Report – Standing Rules of Order

Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the results for Standing Rules of Order

Total Votes Cast	402
Needed to Adopt	202
Yes Votes	402
No Votes	0

The Chair declared the Standing Rules of Order adopted.

Prayer – The Assistant District Superintendent prayed over the ballots and the business session.

District Secretary-Treasurer

The Chair called for Electoral Ballot #1 for District Secretary-Treasurer. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the results of Electoral Ballot #1 for District Secretary-Treasurer:

Total Votes Cast	418
Needed to Elect	279
Jay Herndon received	405

The Chair, upon being apprised that Jay Herndon received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Jay Herndon re-elected to serve a four-year term as District Secretary-Treasurer.

General Presbyter, Pastor

The Chair called for Electoral Ballot for General Council Presbyter – Pastor. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the following results:

<u>Electoral Ballot #1</u>	
Total Votes Cast	435
Needed to Elect	284
Abe Daniel received	293
Doug Heisel received	132

The Chair, upon being apprised that Abe Daniel received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Abe Daniel elected to serve the two-year term as General Presbyter, Pastor.

Executive Presbyter, Region 6

The Chair called for Electoral Ballot #1 for Executive Presbyter, Region 6. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the following results:

Electoral Ballot #1

Total Votes Cast	398
Needed to Elect	265
Willy Bowles received	240
Will Nelken received.....	158

Electoral Ballot #2

Total Votes Cast	413
Needed to Elect	276
Willy Bowles received	304
Will Nelken received.....	109

The Chair, upon being apprised that Willy Bowles received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Willy Bowles elected to serve the two-year term as Executive Presbyter – Region 6.

Female Executive Presbyter At-Large

The Chair called for Electoral Ballot for Executive Female Presbyter. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the following results:

Electoral Ballot #1

Total Votes Cast	424
Needed to Elect	283
Connie Pack received	409

The Chair, upon being apprised that Connie Pack received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Connie Pack as re-elected to the two-year term as Female Executive Presbyter.

Female District Presbyter At-Large

The Chair called for Electoral Ballot for Female Executive Presbyter At-Large. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the following results:

Total Votes Cast	424
Needed to Elect	283
Dawn Annas received	401

The Chair, upon being apprised that Dawn Annas received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Dawn Annas as re-elected to serve a two-year term as Female District Presbyter At-Large.

Female District Presbyter At-Large

The Chair called for Electoral Ballot for Female District Presbyter At-Large. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the following results:

Total Votes Cast	425
Needed to Elect	284
Marcia Bethke received	400

The Chair, upon being apprised that Marcia Bethke received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Marcia Bethke as elected to serve a two-year term as Female District Presbyter At-Large.

Reports – The Annual Report was published on the District Council website at ncndc.org on March 15, 2022.

Superintendent’s Report – The Chair was turned over to Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston, who expressed his appreciation to Superintendent Bret Allen for his State of the District Address given on Monday afternoon. A MOTION PREVAILED to express appreciation to the District Superintendent for his report.

Assistant Superintendent's Report – The Chair invited Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston to present his report. A MOTION PREVAILED to express appreciation to the Assistant District Superintendent for his report.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report – The Chair invited District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon to give his report.

Secretary's Report

Church Roster – In 2022, the District added 8 new churches and removed 10 for a net loss of 2. The current number is 454.

Ministerial Roster – In 2022, the District added 58 ministers and removed 80 for a net loss of 22. The most significant decrease resulted from ministers: lapsing (net loss of 36).

Treasurer's Report

The District finished the year in the black financially.

Ministerial tithes =	\$2,231,684
One Fund Income =	<u>\$655,795</u>
Total Operational Income =	\$3,632,697

Net-Results	
Net General Admin =	\$74,902
Net Ministries =	<u>\$21,214</u>
Total Operations =	\$96,116

COVID/Disaster Relief – The District has given \$403,080 over the last two years. These funds went to assist churches and ministers in benevolence, counseling, relief, repairs, loans, etc.

CPA Financial Review

The District's 2021 books were subject to a financial review by the CPA firm Chaney & Associates. The District received a clean report. Copies of the entire financial review were made available on the District Council website.

Insurance Update

The Secretary-Treasurer is responsible to “supervise the development of comprehensive insurance programs for churches and ministers.” Meg McComb Insurance is the District's endorsed agent. She has negotiated a wide variety of insurance options that ministers may choose (all voluntary). The program includes dental, vision, life, home, and auto. Open enrollment for MetLife (dental and vision) is now through June 1st. The District is not allowed to offer group Medical insurance options.

Scholarship Initiatives

1. Bethany Legacy Scholarship – The Presbytery has approved scholarship policies and a scholarship committee for Assemblies of God students studying at Assembly of God colleges with regional or ABHE accreditation. Approved majors: Ministry, Music, Missions, and Education. In 2021, we awarded four students a total of \$11,210
2. Under 30 Education Assistance Program – Our District reimburses students under the age of 25 \$100 for every course that satisfies credential requirements (regardless of the school). In 2021, we assisted 17 future ministers, a total of \$10,500.

First Time Senior Pastor Cohort

We have approximately a dozen open churches (District Affiliated and General Council). It is time for some of our staff pastors to step up and become senior pastors. But you don't have to do it alone. We now have a “First Time Senior Pastor Cohort” to coach new Senior Pastors through the first six months of their appointment.

He closed his report by expressing his appreciation to the District Council for allowing him to serve as District Secretary-Treasurer for the past seventeen years. He also expressed appreciation for God, his wife Teri, and his fellow officers.

A MOTION PREVAILED to receive the reports.

Departmental Ministries Annual Reports – The Departmental Directors were invited to the front and introduced. A MOTION PREVAILED to express appreciation to the Departmental Directors for their published Annual Reports.

Resolution #1 – Resolutions Committee Chair Lindsey Severyn and Kim Chiolero read Resolution #1 as follows and MOVED ITS ADOPTION.

DISTRICT AFFILIATED CHURCH RESTRUCTURE
Resolution to Amend by Strike Out / Insertion
CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE THIRTEEN, SECTION THIRTEEN
Secret Ballot Needing Two-Thirds Majority Vote
BYLAWS, ARTICLE FOUR, SECTIONS ONE & THREE
BYLAWS, ARTICLE FIVE, SECTION ONE
BYLAWS, ARTICLE EIGHT, SECTION TEN
Needing Majority Vote

WHEREAS, it is beneficial to do a periodic review of our District Affiliated Church structure; *and*

WHEREAS, conflicts have developed between our Bylaws and District Affiliated Church Bylaws; *and*

WHEREAS, current developments in State courts have caused the District Council to evaluate and update our long standing policy of supporting and empowering churches for ministry while also providing stability and accountability; *and*

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to highlight the corporate distinction between the District Affiliated Church and the District Council, and to define the role of the District Council as a supporter rather than a controller of District Affiliated Churches; *and*

WHEREAS, it seems helpful to reframe these provisions similar to the General Council Bylaws regarding the qualifications for affiliation; *and*

WHEREAS, these proposed amendments will clarify the relationship of the District Council to the District Affiliated church without requiring any substantial changes to the ministry and routines of the pastor and congregation; *therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, that the Constitution, Article Thirteen, Section Three; Bylaws, Article Four, Sections One and Three; Bylaws, Article Five, Section One; and Bylaws, Article Eight, Section Ten be amended as follows:

CONSTITUTION OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL
ARTICLE THIRTEEN – LOCAL CHURCHES

Section Three: District Council Churches

Local assemblies that do not qualify for General Council affiliation may be recognized by the District Presbytery as District Council affiliated, according to qualifications published in Article Eight, Section Ten of these Bylaws. ~~District Council Churches~~ District Council affiliated churches shall be under the direct supervision of the District Presbytery. District Council affiliated ~~programs~~ churches may include U.S. Missions projects, established church organizations entering into our fellowship from other affiliation or independent status, former sovereign Assemblies of God church programs that have surrendered their sovereignty temporarily or otherwise that seek District Council protection, and otherwise, as approved by the District Presbytery via special resolution.

BYLAWS
ARTICLE FOUR – DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

Section One: Duties of the Executive Officers**B. Duties of the Assistant District Superintendent**

.....

6. The Assistant District Superintendent shall be the Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions, in such capacity acting with the oversight of the District Presbytery (see Constitution Article Thirteen, Section Three) to oversee coordinate and support District affiliated churches, District approved ministries, and domestic evangelists; and to make recommendations regarding Assemblies of God US Missionaries and military chaplains, district affiliated ministries, and endorsed ministries.

Section Three: Duties of the District Presbytery**A. General Duties (Applies to all Presbyteries.)**

1. The District Presbytery shall serve the District Council to facilitate and support the ministry needs within their respective sections or constituencies.
2. The District Presbytery shall receive reports of action from the Executive Presbytery.
3. The District Presbytery shall also serve as the District Churches District Missions Board, as described in these Bylaws. ~~The District Presbytery is to formally approve the opening and closing of churches; may make recommendations regarding the sale or purchase of property, and review and suggest action to address the needs of churches and ministers.~~
4. The District Presbytery is to formally approve the opening and closing of churches, as well as the addition, and removal of General Council affiliated and District Council affiliated churches from the District roster.

B. Providing Sectional Pastoral Leadership

....

4. ~~Each The individual~~ Sectional Presbyters shall work with the Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions ~~Director~~ to provide oversight of support and counsel to District affiliated churches in their respective sections; ~~and receive annual reports from the pastor of the District affiliated churches.~~ Each Sectional Presbyter or respective designee shall meet with each pastor of the District affiliated churches at least once each calendar year on the premises of that local church to conduct a tour and inspection of the church premises and any District owned parsonage and property, and to review the files regarding employee and volunteer workers, and to discuss the ministerial goals of the pastor and the local church. ~~Written reports of these meetings shall be forwarded to the Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions. Such support and counsel responsibilities of the Sectional Presbyter shall include, on at least an annual basis:~~
 - a. Receiving and reviewing annual reports from senior pastors.
 - b. Meeting at the church offices with the senior pastor directly, or through an authorized representative, to discuss past and current church programs and activities, and forward-looking ministerial plans and goals of the church.
 - c. Touring and inspecting the church's facilities, directly or through an authorized representative, including (without limitation to) church offices, sanctuaries, meeting rooms, educational spaces, kitchens, common areas, on-site and off-site parsonage, and other church-related properties/facilities.
 - d. Reviewing basic business records of the church, including (without limitation to) employee and volunteer worker files, insurance documents, accounting records, and church bylaws.
 - e. Preparing and submitting a written report to the Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions detailing the information gleaned from items (a)-(d) above.

ARTICLE FIVE – ESTABLISHMENT OF DIVISIONS**Section One: Division of District Churches and District Missions****A. Purpose**

The Division of District Churches and District Missions ~~This division~~ exists to oversee coordinate and support District affiliated churches; at the direction and with the oversight of the District Presbytery (See Constitution, Article Thirteen, Section Three), District approved

and recognized ministries, and domestic evangelists, and to make recommendations regarding Assemblies of God US Missionaries, District affiliated and endorsed ministries, and military chaplains who are members of this District.

B. Leadership and Composition

The District Council's Assistant District Superintendent shall be responsible to lead the day-to-day operations of this division, and in such capacity shall bear the title of Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions. The Director shall operate under the authority and at the direction of the District Churches and District Missions Board. Unless otherwise constituted by vote of the District Presbytery, the District Churches and District Missions Board shall be comprised of all members of the District Presbytery.

~~This division shall be led by the Assistant District Superintendent who shall also be known as the Director of this division.~~

~~The District Churches and District Missions Board shall be comprised of the District Presbytery. The chairpersons of the intercultural fellowships, and any other special representatives appointed by the Executive Presbytery may be invited to attend meetings of the District Church and District Missions Board and shall have voice but no vote in its proceedings.~~

C. Funding

1. The operation of the Division of District Churches and District Missions shall be funded through designated contributions of churches, individuals and endowments. The Executive Presbytery may allocate additional funds from the General Fund.
2. This division shall administer all designated funds set apart for District churches and District missions personnel, programs, and projects, including proceeds from loans approved by the Executive Presbytery, gifts, and specially designated endowments. All receipts, deposits, and disbursements shall be according to policies established in these Bylaws and by the Executive Presbytery and under the custodianship of the District Treasurer.

D. Operations

1. ~~The District Churches and District Missions board serves as the governing board of a policy board for all District affiliated churches, and District approved ministries, and District approved Domestic Evangelists. shall provide oversight to District-appointed missionaries. As such, it shall appoint The District Churches and District Missions Board shall endorse the application of churches requesting recognition as a District Affiliated Church. The District Churches and District Missions Board may offer recommendations regarding pastors, approve directors of ministries, recommend mortgages, leases, property acquisitions, budgets, contracts, and other such items identified in the Policy and Procedures Manual Rules of Order for District Affiliated Churches.~~
2. The Sectional Presbyter together with the Sectional Leadership Committee, shall have the right to make recommendations to the Division of District Churches and District Missions regarding District Affiliated Churches and District Approved ministries operating within their sections.
3. Neither this division nor its director shall underwrite or otherwise guarantee or endorse any debt, nor are they authorized to give consent to any person or agency for guaranteeing debt. All matters involving debt shall be referred to the Executive Presbytery.
4. ~~Disbursements of funds of this Division for sums of \$10,000 or less may be authorized by the Director. Disbursements of funds in excess of \$10,000 must be approved by the Executive Committee. All such action shall be reported to the District Presbytery and to the Executive Presbytery and recorded in their respective minutes.~~
- 5.4. This division shall encourage all local Assemblies of God churches to include in their budgets' giving programs, with special consideration for those missionary personnel and support Assemblies of God US Missionaries, Assemblies of God World Missionaries, and other projects identified with this District Council.
- 6.5. The director of this division shall make recommendations to the District Presbytery regarding District Recognized ministries.
- 7.6. This division shall oversee District-appointed missionaries and domestic evangelists and shall maintain an account for each at the District Office where designated contributions, offerings and honorariums may be received and credited to the minister's account and issue the donor World Ministries giving credit. The Division shall review the status of each District-appointed missionary and domestic evangelist annually.

- 8.7. The District Presbytery shall oversee U.S. missions endowment funds for the purpose of support and promotion of U.S. missions and missionaries.

ARTICLE EIGHT – THE LOCAL CHURCH

Section Ten: District Council-Affiliated Churches

A. Affiliation with the District Council

1. District sponsored local churches shall be recognized as District Council affiliated churches; shall operate according to policies established by the District Presbytery, with day-to-day coordination and support provided by the Director under supervision of the Division of District Churches and District Missions in accordance with these District Council Bylaws. The statutory bylaws of all District affiliated churches shall be the most recent version of the "Constitution and Bylaws for District Affiliated Churches" as approved recommend by the District Presbytery.
2. District Council affiliated churches may include U.S. Missions projects, District church plants, established church organizations entering into our fellowship from other affiliations or independent status, former sovereign Assemblies of God churches that have surrendered their sovereignty, no longer satisfy the qualifications for sovereign status, temporarily or otherwise have sought that seek District Council assistance. (See Bylaws, Article Eight, Section Five.)
- ~~3. District Council affiliated churches must comply with and fulfill all policies, standards, and practices as adopted by the Executive Presbytery. It is the specific directive of this District Council that all District Council affiliated churches comply with policies and procedures adopted by the Executive Presbytery regarding safe practices for the care and protection of minors.~~

B. Qualifications for District Affiliated Churches

Churches requesting recognition as a District Affiliated Church must meet the following qualifications and standards:

1. District Affiliated Churches must accept and endorse the Tenets of Faith of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, as such are set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and this District Council, which Tenets of Faith are commonly known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths.
2. District Affiliated Churches must be incorporated according to the laws of the state in which they operate, formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes, exempt under provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, referencing affiliation with this District Council, and compliant with other policies adopted by this District Council's District Church and District Missions Board.
3. District Affiliated Churches must adopt a Constitution and Bylaws in form compatible with those recommended by this District Council's District Church and District Missions Board.
4. District Affiliated Churches must have a Senior Pastor who holds a current credential with the General Council of the Assemblies of God and whose credentials are registered with this District Council, or in exigent circumstances, who holds credentials with another recognized Pentecostal fellowship, with approval of the Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions.
5. The church must conform with the Policy and Procedures Manual for District Affiliated Churches, as approved by the District Church and District Missions Board.
6. District Affiliated Churches must fulfill and comply with all policies, standards, and rules as promulgated by the Executive Presbytery, including (without limitation to) those policies and procedures adopted by the Executive Presbytery regarding safe practices for the care and protection of minors.
7. District Affiliated Churches must complete an application form with relevant information and indicating intention to comply with all standards and requirements expressed or implied in this section.
8. District Affiliated Churches must complete an annual report, affirming compliance with these standards and reporting other ministerial, membership, and business information as may be requested by the Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions, their respective Sectional Presbyters, and/or an officer of the District.

Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the results for Resolution #1

Total Votes Cast	391
Needed to Adopt	261
Yes Votes	372
No Votes	19

The Chair declared Resolution #1 as adopted.

Resolution #2 – Resolutions Committee Chair Lindsey Sevryn read Resolution #2 as follows and MOVED ITS ADOPTION.

MINISTERIAL TITHE
 Resolution to Amend by Strike Out / Insertion
BYLAWS, ARTICLE ELEVEN, SECTION ONE
 Needing Majority Vote

WHEREAS, the Bylaws, Article Twelve, Section One: F, prescribes that all dollar amounts in the Minister’s Tithe Schedule shall be increased or decreased annually by applying the increase or decrease in the California cost of living index to the fixed amounts rounding off to the nearest dollar, as determined by the Executive Presbytery and approved by the District Presbytery, and the same shall be presented for ratification by the voting constituency of the District Council Convention; *and*

WHEREAS, the California cost of living index since the last increase in 2021 is 5.0%; *therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, that the Minister’s Tithe Schedule, Bylaws, Article Eleven, Section One: E be adjusted as follows:

Credential Type	Minimum Amt per Month
** Active Ordained Ministers	a minimum of \$248 <u>258</u> per month
** Active Licensed Ministers	a minimum of \$248 <u>258</u> per month
* Active Certified Ministers.....	a minimum of \$138 <u>148</u> per month
*** Senior, Retired Credential Holders	a minimum of \$60 per month (as able)
* All Inactive Credential Holders.....	a minimum of \$60 per month
Nationally Appointed US Missionaries, World Missionaries residing in the U.S. or on the field per family, and District approved Chi Alpha Directors.....	a minimum of \$95 <u>100</u> per month
Chaplains Nationally Endorsed	a minimum of 10% of their tithe
Student, full-time.....	a minimum of \$90 <u>100</u> per month
# Spouse as second credential holder	a minimum of \$35 per month

Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the results for Resolution #2

Total Votes Cast	407
Needed to Adopt	204
Yes Votes	349
No Votes	58

The Chair declared Resolution #2 as adopted.

Courtesy Resolution - Resolutions Committee Chair Lindsey Sevryn read the Courtesy Resolution as follows and MOVED ITS ADOPTION.

2022 COURTESY RESOLUTION
 Needing Majority Vote

WHEREAS, the Northern California and Nevada District of the Assemblies of God has convened for its 2022 District Council: *and*

WHEREAS, the numerous committees and individuals whose prayerful preparation, efforts and

attention to detail have made it possible for those in attendance at this council to accomplish the purposes for which they have convened; *therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, that great appreciation be expressed to District Superintendent Bret Allen, Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston, District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon, the Executive Presbytery, the District Presbytery, the District Ministry Directors, the District Resource Center staff, Pastor Rick Cole and the staff of Capital Christian Center, for their excellence in the planning and executing of numerous details – both seen and unseen – that are necessary for a successful District Council; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, that this District Council express appreciation to special guests, David Grant, Hurmon Hamilton, and Rich Guerra for their messages of inspiration and encouragement. To Javier Torres, Sergio Torres, and Rev. Caleb Klinge, who shared their personal testimonies of salvation, healing, and provision and reminded us of the unmatched power of Jesus. To those who ushered us into worship and used their God-given gifts to allow for a time of refreshing and empowering, we offer sincere gratitude; *and, be it further*

RESOLVED, that we continue to recognize the pastors, missionaries, churches, and district organizations that have served tirelessly in the face of ongoing global crises, unprecedented seasons of ministry and often at great personal cost. We recognize the sacrifice and celebrate the wins – both great and small – that come with this incredible journey of faith that God has called us to as individuals and as the Northern California & Nevada District of the Assemblies of God.

A MOTION PREVAILED to approve the Courtesy Resolution.

Adjourned / 2022 District Council Business Session at 11:06 a.m.

District Secretary's Legal Report – Jay Herndon

District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon provided the following Legal Updates and Reminders.

Three things to know – 1) New California law requiring screening and training; 2) Reminder about vetting staff pastors, and 3) Reminder about facility use agreements.

New California law for Screening and Training – California State Law BPC§1110.5 (AB-506).

Summary: The law requires volunteers and employees of “youth organizations” to be screened via Live Scan, to undergo mandatory reporter training, and to adopt the “two reporter rule” for activities. This new law requires Live Scan for all mandatory reporters, training for all mandatory reporters, and two mandatory reporters present whenever minors have activities and retention of records. This law applies to clergy, employees of “youth organizations,” and volunteers that have contact with minors 16hr/month and/or 32hr/year.

What churches should do:

- California Churches will need to transition to Live Scan
- Apply for an ORI (organization identifier)
- Identify a Custodian of Records
- Establish a records system
- Start the training

Facility Usage from Outside Groups – Many challenges arise when the church rents to other organizations: building usage issues, insurance issues, property tax issues, liability issues (onsite incidents), and liability issues (occur offsite). When an outside group is using the church facilities, you should: verify their legal status, require a written usage agreement, require a certificate of insurance naming the church as additionally insured, and do not advertise their activities.

Vetting Staff Pastors – Church bylaws require the staff pastors have: 1) a ministerial credential with the Assemblies of God; 2) are seeking ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God; 3) have a local church commission, or 4) have a credential from another Pentecostal organization.

Bylaws also require that the church board officially ratify such positions. The District has noticed that many churches are not adhering to their own bylaws, which exposes the church in numerous possible ways: doctrine, values, commitment to our fellowship, and indefensible legal liability. Why legal liability? The Bible requires the church to vet people before recognizing them as leaders (1 Timothy 5:22). Society expects the church to vet leaders and stand behind them. So, when a church calls someone “Pastor...”

What should churches do?

- Follow the bylaws
- Vet all pastors – Require that they have credentials. Otherwise, do your own vetting - Background Check, References, Doctrine agreement, and Code of Conduct Covenant
- Official appointment - Appointment recorded in the minutes. Job description.

Dr. Jay Herndon’s full legal report is available on the District Council website at www.ncndc.org.

World Missions Luncheon

The luncheon was held in the Activity Center, with over 400 in attendance. Awards were presented to the top ten churches in missions giving for 2021, and new candidate missionaries were introduced. District Superintendent Bret Allen invited Reverend Eddie Rentz of Convoys of Hope to share.

Legacy Service – Jay Herndon

Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston opened the service in prayer and introduced the Benevolence Offering to be collected upon exiting the service or through the District Council website. A time of worship was led under the direction of District Music Director Jon Lugo and the NCN Worship Band.

District Secretary-Treasurer shared that a legacy is built by one generation and left for the next generation to continue building. The church was “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.” They share the same substance. They shared the same purpose. They did not quit.

IN MEMORIAM

2022 District Council Recognition – Jim F Argue, David (Faouzi) Arzouni, Calvin E Beard, Jerry B Burks, Charlotte A Caudill, Florence J Corvell, Robert H Creel, Douglas M Farrington, Melvia F Lynn, Charlie W Gibson, James R Githens, Sammie A Glass, Garwin L Haggard, Ralph W Hiatt, Larry L Holser, Jonathan D Maremont, Homer L Perryman Jr, Vance E Reynolds, William J Robinson, Flynn S Rowley, Paul W Seaberg, Robert D Shedd, Robert R Smallwood, Gordon D Storey, Dorothy (Dolly) D Tarr, Fred J Vallo, and William W Wedgeworth. The following non-credentialed spouses of credentialed ministers were memorialized: John W Boyd, Delta L Bratcher, Lynda Burks, Bette Fields, Verna Grams, Mae M Hodges, Anita Howard, Ruby K Huffman, Jackie Klinsky, Patricia A Oehler, Mary Perryman, Billie Lou Reynolds, Mary Spurgeon, Sandra Thomas, Janet Seau-Toilolo, and Janice J Vallo.

Communion Service

Former District Secretary-Treasurer Richard Hopping and his wife Reverend Judy Hopping led those in attendance through the partaking of communion.

Plenary Session – Hurmon Hamilton

Assistant District Superintendent introduced Reverend Hurman Hamilton, Senior Pastor of New Beginnings Community Church in Redwood City, California. Pastor Hamilton’s message was, “Agents of the Supernatural in a Conflicted Community.” The divisiveness in today’s world is greater than it has ever been. It was Jesus’ character that led to His crucifixion, and it was the crucifixion that ultimately set up the great move of the supernatural in His resurrection. If we dare to replicate the character of Jesus in our lives, there will be some Calvary moments ahead of us, but on the other side, resurrection is coming. But there is a cost!

Luke 10:25-37 (NLT)

Jesus said, “you are to love your neighbor.” We are to love with no adjectives attached. Jesus drops this question, “Who is my neighbor?” And, “What category are you in?” As Jesus tells this

story, he lays out four categories: 1) the bandits attacked, 2) the priests who did nothing, 3) the victim who is half dead, and 4) the despised Samaritan. It is possible that we have occupied each of these categories at one point in our lives. The question is, which category are you in today?

Assessment: The Bandit – Have you found yourself using the general stereotype to strike out at a group of people? The stereotype of “all.” The Religious Leaders – Perhaps it was a ceremonial thing for the priest; if the man were dead and touched the man, he would be deemed uncleaned and unable to perform his ceremonial duties. Or, perhaps the man might be faking it and trying to manipulate the priest. Or maybe they were afraid people were hiding in the bushes, ready to attack them. Inevitably they were asking the wrong question. They were asking the question, “If I stop to help, what will happen to me?” They should have asked, “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?” The Victim – In the culture of the time, the Samaritans were the victims, and the Jews were the upper class. However, Jesus uses a Jew in this story as the victim to show that both the Jews and the Samaritans were victims. The Despised Samaritan – The man he finds is a man he would have to risk his life to help; that was offensive.

The point of the teaching is directed at the Jews. Jesus is dealing with the conflict between the two, but he begins with his own tribe, the Jews. He is criticizing his own tribe, race, and political views. If you are going to be like Jesus, you need to be able to tell the truth to your tribe. If we are going to have a Jesus character, our highest loyalty is defined by the words, “We are watchmen on the wall, and we have to call out truth where we see it called.” That’s integrity. That’s character. But that is what gets you on a cross on a hill.

How do I become that agent of change in a divisive culture:

Pray – Lord, open my eyes as I pray for them and not just about them.

Dialogue – Talk to the people who do not look like you, vote like you, etc.. i) Listen to learn. Tell me your story. How did that make you feel? You don’t have to agree with them, but you do need to love them. ii) Share your story.

Keep reaching out and speaking up. If your opponent does something right, call it right. If your tribe does something wrong, call it wrong.

Evening Service / Ordination, 50-Year Recognition

The service opened with a processional of the District Presbytery and the 2022 Ordination candidates. The NCN Worship Team, under the direction of District Music Director Jon Lugo, led the congregation in worship.

FIFTY-YEAR RECOGNITION

District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon introduced those being recognized for 50 years of Ordained ministry. District Superintendent Bret Allen and Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston presented Certificates of Recognition to those able to attend the service. Those recognized for 50 years of Ordained ministry included: Dr. Doug Clark, Terry Inman, Dr. Sobhi Malek, Frederick Muster, Robert Stone, and Harry (Chip) Worthington.

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon asked those who received credentials as Certified Ministers and Licensed Ministers within the last year to be recognized. District Presbyter Kathy Cannon prayed over the forty newly credentialed ministers.

Certified Minister Candidates were: Daniel B Acquaaah, Kailani A Aleman, Calyb J Danna, Lisette S Del Rio, Rebecca M Gregory, Jordan E McDermid, Shelby B Scott, Joseph I Tenorio, and Shelly K Traub.

Licensed Minister Candidates were: Marc S Afshar, Johnathan A Aleman, Abimbola M Ali, Valerie A Allen, David S Boling, Angelica T Bourbon, Roneel R Chaudhary, Lindsey U A Fisher, Joshua S Flanagan, Adriana M Gillinta, Michael A Gonzalez, Bradley J Gray, Liane L Henze, Lauri M Inman, Valerie K Jackson, Loren D Kelly, Tyler J Lowe, Raymond S Mudaliar, Jennifer M Miller, Mikhaila Nunes, Barbara Pahulu-Eatmon, Alex E Ramos, Careea L Richter, Juan C Sanchez, Veronica M Sanchez, Suzanne M Saunders, Brooke A Schlegel, James L Snell, Marvin M Tehandon, Nelson F Vega Jr., and Kristen L Yake.

OFFERING – Project Rescue

Reverend Marcia Bethke introduced the offering for Project Rescue. She was first introduced to Project Rescue firsthand in 2017 when she went to see their work in Madrid, Spain. A beautiful city by day and a nightmare by night. She witnessed thousands of women waiting while twice as many cars went by, picking out the woman of their choice. Project Rescue ministers to these women, partnering with law enforcement, risking their safety. These women were trafficked by their mothers and fathers. Many were trafficked by their “pastors” from their native country. Many were promised this incredible new life and moved across the sea only to be beaten and forced into trafficking, and nobody is looking for them. She determined that day, looking at these women face-to-face, that she would fight for them. It will cost you to partner with them. It will break your heart. It is a life-changing, impacting work. Will you join the team? Will you sacrifice? The task is huge and feels impossible, but as we’ve said all week long, “nothing is impossible.” Marcia prayed over the offering, followed by a time of worship.

SPEAKER – Reverend Rich Guerra

District Superintendent Bret Allen introduced the guest speaker, Rich Guerra, District Superintendent of the Southern California District. The title of his message was, “They Said It Couldn’t Happen!” In Luke 18:27 (NIV), “Jesus replied, ‘What is impossible with man is possible with God.’” Everyone has big dreams, but much of life is beyond our control. Sometimes your best efforts are not good enough. Sometimes the only thing that will work, making your big dream come about, is a miracle. The Bible is filled with accounts of people who needed miracles. People were told what they needed was impossible and would never come about. When you read these accounts, you find that these very ordinary people had miracles in their lives. When you read these accounts, you may say, “Why doesn’t God work that way in my life?”

Some conditions, prerequisites, and principles need to be followed to see God work to His fullest in your life. Luke 18:35-38 (NIV), “As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.’ He called out, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’” Though this man was blind, he still had a big dream. Even though they said it was impossible, he never let go of his dream. Throughout his ministry, people will tell you “that’s impossible, it will never happen.” What makes a great leader is what you do to overcome a situation when facing the impossible.

When people say it will never happen:

- Pray with Passion – Jeremiah 29:13, “You will find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”
- Pray with Persistence – Colossians 4:2, “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”
- Pray with a Single Purpose – Luke 18:40-41, “Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to Him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’ ‘Lord, I want to see,’ he replied.”
- Pray with a Positive Attitude – Mark 11:24 – “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive, and it will be yours.”
- Pray with a Spirit of Praise – Philippians 4:6 – “by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Ask yourself, “Where do I need a miracle in my life?” “What big dream do I have?” You say, “I can’t think of anything.” That’s why you don’t pray that way. Vague praying is lazy praying. It takes some time. Don’t miss out on this blessing. Be specific when you pray. “God, here’s what I need...” “Here is the dream I believe You have given me.” If you do not pray this, you only cheat yourself. Be specific. Is there something that you have been told will never happen? God is waiting for you to ask Him.

ORDINATION

District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon and Credentialing Administrator Darryn Fisher presented the candidates for Ordination

Ordination Charge
Presented by District Superintendent Bret Allen

Ladies and Gentlemen; Fellow Ministers; Co-Laborers; Ordinands –
You are not advancing a career.
You are responding to a calling.

This is not for advancement on a resume.
This is for advancement in servanthood opportunity.

You are not qualifying yourself for religious or non-profit business.
You are preparing yourself for the proclamation of truth.
You are to live the truth.
You are to preach the truth.
You are to embrace the truth.

Ordination affirms the ideas of calling, servanthood, living the truth, and furthering God's Kingdom. However, ordination is not just about affirmation but also impartation. A prophetic impartation will occur in your life.

Tonight, I speak over you words that were delivered to Timothy from the Apostle Paul.

"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage-- with great patience and careful instruction. ³For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry." 2 Timothy 4:2-5 (NIV84)

Tonight, you stand in the presence of friends, family, and peers. Tonight, you stand as a part of a sacred ceremony that establishes in a public forum the solemn responsibilities of preaching the Word, leading the church despite difficulties, and evangelizing the world.

I charge you to know the Word. Paul charged Timothy to, *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15 (NAS)*

I charge you to live the Word. Let your personal character be blameless and above reproach. Let your words and your actions align with God's Word. *"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." Ephesians 4:1 (NIV84)*

I charge you to preach the Word. God has placed a blessing on His Word. *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Matthew 24:35 (NIV84)* God has placed a blessing on His Word that God has not extended to your opinions.

Preach the Word. Preach the Word with clarity so that those who hear can also understand. The world will gather for themselves teachers – **you preach the Word.** The day will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine – **you preach the Word.** The world will change, and morals will continue to shift – **you preach the Word.** Others will turn away to myths and fads – **you preach the Word.**

I charge you to endure hardship and difficulty. May the call of God extend far beyond your personal comfort zone. May the call of God help you to stand strong and steadfast in the face of hardship, difficulties, and disappointments. *"...keep your head in all situations, endure hardship..." 2 Timothy 4: 5a*

I charge you to work hard at all the opportunities that God would afford you to evangelize our world. Do not forget the lost. Do not forget the Great Commission. May your life be marked by passion for people who need Jesus in your neighborhood and around the world. May you be

known as one who loves missions and always has time for lost people.

I charge you to remain dependent upon the Holy Spirit to enable you in all things. *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,” Ephesians 3:20 (NIV84)*

District Presbyter Fautua Fautua prayed over those being ordained. The candidates were then ordained by the laying on of hands by the members of the District Presbytery as an ensemble sang a revised rendition of “Let Thy Mantle Fall on Me.”

The 2022 Ordination Candidates: Soakai Apele, Steve Barrera, Benjamin J Brown, Leamanaia L B-Uili, Nienhwa Cheng, Vanessa Collins, Jim Cordero Jr, Cynthia F Dick, Kevin R Doyle, Katrina Farwig, Holly N Gilbertson, Ryan Gregg, Christian Grigson, Reuben Francis Hipol, Dennis Honrubia, Christina D Jimenez, Samantha Johnson, Destiny E Kennedy, Nathan I Kennedy, Sarita Ledet, Sol Levy, John D Lewallen, Rey P Magalei, Serena-Alaya Mallette Robinson, Wendel Mathis III, Amy J Miranda, Ofa Musika, Shirley Natnat, Ronald E Owen Jr, David N Richter, Grace Sakuda, Cindy D Sampson, Brenda J Sandquist, Dillon T Scott, Richard M Shinn, Kris J Strickland, Toutai Talakai, Joe L Taybron, Lali C Wagner, Mark Walther, Sanford G Weldon, Jackie E Welence, Nick R Whitestone, Perry Wong, and Joseph E Zanella.



Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jay A Herndon
Secretary

/s