

National Black Presbyterian Caucus
46th Biennial Virtual Convention
Business Meeting

Charleston, South Carolina

*Courtyard By Marriott,
Charleston Historic District,
125 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 805-7900*

Minutes

Thursday, June 24, 2021

- Call to Order/Welcome- President Priest called the meeting to order at 10:31 am with welcome and prayer
- Secretary Williams provided the definition of a quorum from the By-laws. There being the proper number of members and regions present a quorum was confirmed.
- Adopt Agenda - It was properly moved and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried
- Conference Logistics - Co-Chairs Margaret C. Priest/Lydia Willingham reviewed voter eligibility and procedures. Non-eligible attendees will be placed in a breakout room during the voting process. Eligible voters were confirmed by the Membership Committee.
- Acknowledgement of Guests - President Priest welcomed and acknowledged the following: Rev. Eric Manning, pastor of Mother Emmanuel A.M.E. Church, Charleston, SC on the 6th anniversary of the Emmanuel 9 shootings.
- Appointment Parliamentarian - President Priest announced the appointment of Elder Abiodun Adelana be Parliamentarian for this Biennial meeting.
- Greetings - The following brought greetings and statements from their areas of the PC(USA):
 - Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II - Stated Clerk of the PC(USA)
 - Rev. Dr. Diane Given-Moffett - President and Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency
- Nominating Committee Report - Elder James Hooper Chair - recognized the other members of the Committee and read their report which was shared on the screen. Moves into Nomination:
 - President - Rev. Dr. Charles Heyward

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- Treasurer - Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson
- Nominating Committee - Rev. Patricia Jones (Southeast)
- President Priest dismissed the Nomination Committee and announced the floor is open for nominations to be voted on Saturday. Still seeking additional nominations for the Nominating Committee.

- Greetings from South Carolina - video presentation from representatives among whom are Congressman James Clyburn, Rep. from South Carolina; Rev. Dr. McKinley Washington, Jr (Honorably Retired, pastor of Edisto Presbyterian Church); Rev. Joseph Rigsby Southeast Region Representative; Synod of South Atlantic Exec., Rev. Joyce Liberman Executive, Synod of South, Rev. Donnie Woods, (General Presbyter/Pastor to Pastors, Charleston Atlantic Presbytery; Mrs. Evelynne Freeman Singleton, NBPC Charleston Chapter.
- President Priest highlighted some resolutions that will be addressed in Saturday's meeting.
- President's Report - President Priest read his report and entertained questions. There being no questions, the report was accepted.

Morning meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM with prayer from Rev. Mary Williams.
Business will resume after lunch break

Meeting resumed at 12:00pm with President Priest calling the meeting to order

- Review 45th Biennial Convention Minutes- President Priest stated, per the By-Laws, minutes were sent with 60 days of the previous convention, August 2019. Entertained questions. There being none, the minutes are approved and accepted.
- 2021 Annual Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - President Priest asked for questions and corrections. There being none, the minutes are approved and accepted.

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- Nominating Committee - James Hooper, Chair (addressed prior to the lunch break)
- President's Report - (addressed prior to the lunch break)
- Vice - President Report - Vice President Evans entertained questions on her report.
- Treasurer - Treasurer Heyward entertained questions on his report. Question on the source of the increase in the Revenue. Treasurer Heyward stated a decrease in the expenses is the cause of bottom line increase and donations received. There being no other questions, the report was accepted.
- Financial Administrator's - Elder Latimore entertained questions on her report. There being none, the report was accepted.
- Membership Committee Chair- Elder Lewis entertained questions on her report. Question on the make-up of membership and recognizing it is a small percentage of Black Presbyterians. Question - what can be done to bring about the awareness of the mission and work of the Caucus? President Priest emphasized the need to and how to "Caucus", to participate in the governance of the Presbyterian Church polity and governance thereby generating awareness. There being no other questions, the report was accepted.
- Director Region and Chapter Development - Revive, Renew, Restore Team - Vice President Evans entertained questions on her report. Added the importance of the 5 "Why?"s. There being no questions, the report was accepted.
- Website Team - Vice President Evans reviewed her report. There being no questions, the report was accepted.
- Operations & Procedures Manual - Chair James Thomas reviewed. Acknowledge the manual will always be a "work in progress" as things are adjusted with the times. Chair Thomas reviewed the changes and the new Appendix (supplementary piece). Recognized the Board approved the updates last night. Once on the web site, both documents will be linked. There being no questions, the report was accepted.

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• **Region Reports**

- Mid-Atlantic Region -No Report submitted
- Mid-South Region - Representative Natalie Toombs reviewed her report. Question on some chapter dues being refunded. That falls under the Finance Committee and will be resolved. There being no further questions, the report was accepted.
- Midwest Region - Larry Jenkins reported on behalf of Representative Adrienne Adams. There being no questions, report was accepted.
- Northeast Region - Representative Rasheeda Hastings reviewed her report. There being no questions, the report was accepted.
- Southeast Region - Representative Mary Porter stated there was no report.
- West Region- Representative Rev. Mark Jones reviewed his report and entertained questions. There being no questions, the report was accepted. It was acknowledged the region and Chapter are the same.
- African Connection Report - Elder Dr. Dianna Wright reviewed her report. Larry Jenkins mentioned their work in Midwest and SDOP has also worked together with their African population and will reach out to Elder Wright. Recognition and word from Rev. Paula Cooper, East Central Africa Rep in Africa, Elder John Ethridge was also recognized and spoke on his experience in Africa.
- National Black Presbyterian Women Report - Rev. Dr. Lydia Willingham reviewed her report. For the Maria Fearing book/publication, please email Lydia at (lydiawillingham@gmail.com). President Priest encouraged participation for someone to serve as Black Clergy Women Representative and Seminarian Representative to have a seat on the Board. Please reach out.
- Circle of Elders Report- Rev. James A. Thomas, Sr., Chair reviewed his report. Question, are there any recorded histories from the member of the Circle of Elders? They will be posted on the website and included in Periscope as well as the Presbytery Historical Society. There be no questions the report was received with praise and recognition of Dr. Thomas' work.

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- Youth Report - No report. President Priest recognized the appointment of Ruling Elder Lynne Foreman. She will be the new Youth Advisor on the Board.

Business Meeting adjourned for the afternoon at 1:29pm

Saturday, June 26, 2021

- Meeting was called to order at 10:34AM by President Priest with welcome and prayer from Vice President Doris Evans
- Announcements - President Priest announced Deacon Tee Gee Wilson will be the parliamentarian for the meeting. Recognized representatives from Hispanic, Native American, Mid-Eastern and Asian Caucuses and recognized Rev. Dr. Rashall Hunter (outgoing director of Racial Equity and Women Ministries)
- 223rd GA 05 - 09 Resolution *"On the Challenge of Being Black in the PC(USA)"* - Status- Vice President Evans updated from her report. There is a correction needed in the rationale that will be in PC-BIZ <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000486>. 3. Many pastors currently providing pastoral leadership are not Presbyterian and, therefore, lack a sufficient knowledge of the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition. Therefore, the status of the diminishment of the "black" church appears obvious. Without intervention, they will certainly continue to be closed or merged, one by one. The appearance is that presbyteries do not pay much attention to the decline or the issues causing the decline, until it is too late. A goal would be that the number of vacant congregations become a priority and that we address this issue so that we **increase decrease*** the number of vacant pulpits by 40 percent before the 224th General Assembly (2020). Further, presbyteries are encouraged to consider ways to address issues in black congregations before a church reaches the point of no return and an administrative commission is formed as an afterthought. Attention to mentoring and training for elders, similar to the pilot program in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, may be one feasible alternative to providing pastoral leadership to small churches under fifty members. It should be completed and given for approval at GA 225.
- 225th GA Resolution 02-84 *"The Lack of Installed Pastoral Leadership in People of Color Congregations In the PC(USA)"* - Rev. Dr. Flora Wilson-Bridges

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updated her report. on the causes of the lack of installed pastors.

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000584>

- Racial Equity Advocacy Committee Report – Rev. Wilson-Bridges highlighted items in her report and additional resolutions being submitted.
- President Priest reviewed the procedure being used for Nominations from the floor and voting. People who are not eligible to vote will be moved to a break-out room during the elections. All individuals must rename their screen names to be the registered name entered for the conference. The body went through sample voting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29AM for lunch

During the break, time was given to recognize and appreciate Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter for her accomplishments and continued service and award presentation

Meeting reconvened at 12:55pm

- Election and Installation of New Officers- President Priest reviewed the guidelines for voting and nominating. Reminder-The By-Laws Committee will be appointed by the new President.
 - Office of President - Nomination committee nominated Rev. Dr. Charles Heyward, Sr. (Southeast). President Priest asked for nominations from the floor. Rev. Dr. Flora Wilson-Bridges (Northeast) was placed in nomination and accepted the nomination. It was moved and seconded to close the nominations for President. Motion approved. Members voted. Rev. Dr. Charles Heyward was elected to President 59% to 41%. Actual numbers 45 - 31.
 - Office of Treasurer - Nomination committee nominated Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson (Southeast). President Priest asked for nominations from the floor. There being no other nominations, the floor was closed. It was properly moved and seconded to vote by consensus. There being no

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objection to the motion, Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson was elected as Treasurer.

- Nomination Committee - Nomination committee nominated Rev. Patricia Jones (Southeast). President Priest asked for nominations from the floor. Ruling Elder Ava Kimble (Mid-South) was nominated and accepted the nomination. (CRE) Naomi Hodge-Muse (Mid-Atlantic), (Ruling Elder) Michael Barconey (Midwest). Nominations were closed with the 4 nominees. It was properly moved and seconded to vote by consensus. There being no objection, the slate was elected.
- There were issues in who went to the Break-out rooms that were paid members and should have voted. Apparently there were technical difficulties. It was noted by the parliamentarian there is no precedent nor is it addressed regarding being placed in "Break-out" rooms. The moderator can recall for a vote and it has been moved and seconded to redo the vote. Membership Chair Lewis reminded all that you cannot vote unless you are a member AND paid your registration fee. President Priest asked people who were improperly placed into the Break Out room to signify by raising of hand; the eligibility of those 8 people were examined during a recess.

Meeting recessed at 2:30 to resume at 3pm.

Meeting resumed at 3:08pm

It was decided 5 of the people will be allowed to vote in a Break-Out room so

they can fulfill their right to vote. The meeting was paused while the votes we

done. Revised numbers are 47 votes for Rev. Heyward, 33 votes for Rev. Wilson-Bridges.

- Rev. Danny C. Murphy installed the new officers. New President, Rev. Dr. Charles Heyward, Sr., addressed the body.

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- 2023 Biennial Convention Report - Outgoing President Priest announced the Board decision to hold the 47th Biennial, 2023, again, in Charleston, SC.

Business meeting was closed with prayer and adjourned by outgoing President Priest at 3:50pm as the Conference moved to worship.