

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INC.
Reverend Dr. William J. Shaw, President
Reverend Dr. Harry Blake, General Secretary
Reverend Dr. H. DeVore Chapman, Board Secretary

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Memphis, Tennessee
June 23, 2004

THEME: “Jesus Christ Only, Always”

The Board of Directors of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. met in Memphis, Tennessee under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. William J. Shaw, President, Reverend Dr. Harry Blake, General Secretary, and Reverend Dr. H. DeVore Chapman, Secretary of the Board.

OPENING SESSION:

Vice President-at-Large, Reverend Dr. Julius Scruggs introduced President Shaw by highlighting some of the many accomplishments made under his leadership. Some of the accomplishments cited by Dr. Scruggs included:

- The development of a strategic plan of action to guide the direction of the Convention toward the goals and objectives set by its leadership and body.
- The retirement of the Baptist World Center debt which totaled more than 1.2 million dollars.
- Retirement of all debts that resulted from lawsuits inherited by Dr. Shaw’s administration.
- The update and adoption of the Convention’s Constitution and By-laws that will serve to improve the efficiency and effectiveness the Convention operations.
- The implementation of the retirement plan for pastors and church workers.

- The development of the inauguration and expansion the website and Internet services.

President William J. Shaw greeted the members of the Board of Directors and thanked everyone for their continued support of the goals of the administration as well as its vision-VISA (Vision, Integrity, Structure, and Accountability). Dr. Shaw opened the session for official business.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Adoption for the Agenda
Moved: Reverend Dr. Joe Bush
Second: Reverend Dr J. Harris
Motion Carried.
- Reading of the Minutes- Reverend Dr. H. DeVore Chapman
Correction” The Women’s Department gave \$100,000 to the Convention at the Mid-winter Session of the Board of Directors
Motion Carried.
- Adoption of the Election Report
Moved: Reverend Dr. Guy Campbell
Second: Reverend Dr. J.J. Perry
Motion Carried.
- Budget for the Election Expenses (Budget to range from\$75,000-\$150,000)
Motion: Reverend Dr. Paul Weaver
Second: Reverend Dr. James Adams
Motion Carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS:

- **Housing Commission Report by Dr. Charles Noble**-Dr. Noble reported that J.P. Morgan Chase had agreed in principle to provide 1.6 billion dollars in lending capacity to the NBCUSA’s newly established mortgage company. A draft agreement was developed to utilize African Americans who are already practicing in the mortgage industry in an attempt to have a more faith-based approach that will minimize predatory lending practices. Under this initiative NBCUSA will host economic training programs as well as personal wealth building seminars through home ownership and servicing requirements in the mortgage industry.

The Housing Commission met with then Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer of HUD. Mr. Alphonso Jackson provided a wealth of information. Mr. Jackson is now the Secretary of HUD. In addition, the Commission developed a framework for working with Fannie Mae in order to improve access to funding and support.

- **Topic Ministry Report by Dr. Alvin Love**-Dr. Love gave an update on the 2004 objectives, which had been approved at the January Mid-winter Board Meeting. Several areas of progress were highlighted including,

1. The website has been redesigned and expanded. In addition to having a new hosting company, the site has been reformatted.
2. A plan has been developed to promote the sales of NBCUSA.Net. It has been determined that it will be in the best interest of the Convention to sever relations with the former ISP and discount computer provider. Research has been conducted to identify other ISP providers with experience providing virtual-ISP. In addition, manufacturers of name-brand computer products and providers of additional service offerings have been identified.
3. Several new ministry services have been developed and launched within the past ninety days including:
 - ✓ Ministry and Employment
 - ✓ Networking and Support Message Boards for the Ministries
 - ✓ Instant Web-based Surveys
 - ✓ Feature Stories with Links from the Homepage
 - ✓ State Convention and District Association Directories
 - ✓ Online Registration and Payment
 - ✓ Live Webmaster Support to Respond to On-line Requests.

Within the next sixty- days the following additional services will be launched,

- ✓ Convention Store (E-commerce Photo Galleries)
- ✓ Audio Library of Sermons, Addresses, and Speeches

4. An online survey has shown the Convention that members want computer-based/online courses offered by the Congress of Christian Education.
5. The new Website has grown significantly. In only seventy-five days of being online, the newly designed web
6. site recorded a 13% increase in visits and a 180% an increase in hits. Since 2003, the site has increased to 35,934 visits and 886,089 per month.

• **THE ELECTION SUPERVISORY COMMISSION**

PURPOSE: The Election Supervisory Commission (ESC) is charged with the responsibility of establishing acceptable rules and procedures for the 2004 election of the office of President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. It is further charged to present its recommendations to the Board of Directors at the National Congress of Christian Education in Memphis, Tennessee in June 2004. Once the Board of Directors accepts the recommendations, the ESC is authorized to administer the election process.

REPORT ON PROGRESS: ESC met three times: at National Baptist World Center in Nashville, TN; at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA; and at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City. Each meeting focused on the NBC election process. The ESC makes the following recommendations to the Board of Directors of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. for its consideration:

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS:

1. The ESC will send a certified letter notifying Churches of their eligibility to vote in the 2004 Annual Session by June 30, 2004.
2. The Church member on a voting card will be assigned to every eligible Church upon registration and will be included in the registration packet mailed to Churches prior to the Annual Session. The card and registration material can also be picked up at the Convention

registration site. This voting card will serve to identify those Churches eligible to vote at the 2004 Annual Session.

3. Pre-registration forms will also be included with the letter. The ESC will encourage all Churches to pre-register early.
4. All completed pre-registration forms are to be postmarked no later than August 1, 2004, and mailed directly to the National Baptist World Center in Nashville, TN, and marked:
ATTENTION: ELECTION SUPERVISORY COMMISSION
5. ESC considers a completed pre-registration form to include information about the Church as well as the names and addresses of the delegates from the Church who will attend the 2004 Annual Session.
6. On-site registration for Churches eligible to vote that did not pre-register will be held on the following specific days and times: Sunday, September 5 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Monday September 6 and Tuesday, September 7th, from 7:00 am to 8:00 p.m.; and Wednesday, September 8, from 7:00 am to 5:00 p.m.

REDRESS FOR GRIEVANCES:

The ESC recognizes that during the validation process some documentation might be overlooked; therefore, ESC has established the following procedures for handling grievances:

1. If a Church feels that the ESC made a mistake in not validating its eligibility to vote, then that Church can submit their grievances to the ESC in writing with all supporting documentation. All grievance letters must be postmarked no later than August 30, 2004 and mailed to the National Baptist World Center in Nashville, TN, and marked: **ATTENTION: ELECTION SUPERVISORY COMMISSION**
2. The ESC will respond to all grievances by September 8, 2004. Furthermore, ESC will do all in its power to ensure that every church and all eligible delegates are provided the opportunity to vote.
3. The following are the only supporting documentation ESC will accept:
 - A canceled check made payable to the National Baptist Convention showing the registration date within the allowed window of time established by the Board of Directors at its meeting on the 121st Annual Session.

- An official receipt of registration from the Convention with the date and amount of registration.
4. ESC will not accept any receipt or check that has been manipulated or made unreadable.
 5. ESC will review all grievance letters received after the August 30, 2004 deadline if requesting certification.
 6. If the Church produces proper supporting documentation which shows they are indeed eligible to vote in the election, ESC will validate their eligibility and assign the necessary voting papers.
 7. If ESC rejects the documentation because it does not meet the criteria stated in #3 above, then that Church is ineligible to vote.
 8. The decisions of ESC are final.

COMPUTER GENERATED DATABASE:

Computerization of the pre-registration forms and the on-site registration forms is the only means by which ESC can track the Churches eligible to vote. ESC recommends that the Convention provide the computers and operators to assure access.

INDEPENDENT ELECTION COMPANY TO SUPERVISE THE ELECTION PROCESS:

ESC will recommend to the Board of Directors a qualified company to supervise the electronic voting process. The criteria ESC will employ in selecting the company include 1. Cost 2. Experience 3. References and 4. Availability. ESC will make this recommendation to the NBC Board of Directors at the National Congress of Christian Education in June 2004. All expenses of the election process are the responsibility of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

VOTING BOOTH EDUCATION:

Once ESC identifies, and the Board of Directors accepts the election supervisory company to conduct the election, that company will be responsible for the training and education of our constituents in the use of the voting machines. Sample ballots, as well as two sample voting machines, will be made available on the first day of the Convention and throughout the week for training purposes only.

CHURCHES ELIGIBILITY AND VOTING ENTITLEMENTS:

Each eligible Church registering with \$200 in the 2004 annual Session is entitled to two (2)-voting delegates. If a Church wants additional voting delegates, the cost is \$25 per delegate. However, no Church can exceed 10 voting delegates for members of that church.

VOTING PROCEDURES:

1. Voting for the President shall be by electronic voting machines on Thursday, September 9, 2004.
2. The polls will open at 7:00 am and close promptly at 7:00 p.m.
3. No candidate or any of his representatives shall conduct any campaigning activity within 500 feet of the polling places.
4. No one will be allowed to vote before 7:00 am. Although the polls will close at 7:00 p.m., and one who is in the polling area waiting to vote will be allowed to cast their vote. No one else will be allowed into the polling area after 7:00 p.m.
5. Absentee voting is not allowed.
6. Monitors representing each candidate will be allowed in the voting booth area. The purpose of the monitors is to observe the voting procedure to assure that no one who presents documentation of eligibility from ESC is denied the right to vote. Monitors are also responsible to report any voting irregularities immediately to ESC and to make written notification of it.
7. Pastors from eligible Churches will be allowed to pick up their delegates' voting cards on Wednesday afternoon, September 8, 2004, after registration has closed.
8. Once the polls open, only delegates with voting card who show proper identification will be allowed in the voting areas (employment photo ID, student photo ID, Church photo ID, or valid government issued identification, i.e., photo drivers license or photo passport). Each voting card will be retrieved by ESC before the delegate enters the voting booth.
9. Once the polls have closed and the votes have been tallied, ESC will announce the winner to the Convention on Thursday evening, September 9, 2004. The winner shall be the candidate who received a majority of the votes.
10. After the ESC inspection and validation of the vote, all election records will be maintained in the record files of the National Baptist Convention, USA, and Inc. World Baptist headquarters office in Nashville, TN.

COMMITTEE ON CANDIDATES

RECOMMENDED TIME-LINE:

National Congress of Christian Education

The ESC requests a date during the National Congress of Christian Education when each candidate will be given 15 minutes to address the delegates about his candidacy for the Office of President of the National Baptist Convention.

The Annual Session

The ESC requests a date during the National Baptist Convention Annual Session when each candidate will be given 20 minutes to address the Convention after the candidate is introduced by the ESC Chairman.

Purchase of Booth Space

ESC recommends that a general area be established in the Exhibit Hall where all candidates can purchase booth space to display their literature and other campaign paraphernalia. Each candidate must purchase the allotted space no later than 30 days before the Convention

- **FOREIGN MISSION BOARD REPORT by Reverend Dr. William B. Moore**-Reverend Moore reported that on the February 2004 HIV/Aids fact-finding missions to four countries. The fact-finding team consisted of the following persons:

Reverend Frank Tucker, Team Leader, Washington, DC
Reverend James Allen, Moderator' representative, Philadelphia, PA
Sister Vernit Howze, Women's Auxiliary representative, East Point MI
Sister Pamela Edmondson, Women's Auxiliary representative, Columbia, MD
Brother Glen Chelf, Laymen's representative, Albuquerque, NM
Reverend Roxanne Jones Booth, former missionary, Nashua, NH
Dr. Bruce Alick, Editor, The Mission Herald, Willow Grove, PA
Reverend Bowyer Freeman, Technical Team Member, Columbia, MD
Sister Esther Bailey, Technical Team Membewr, Wheaton, MD
Sister Eartha Isaac, Technical Team Member, Washington, DC

The summary of findings includes:

1. Swaziland

Immediate Concerns:

- Dedicate a clinic in July
- Support preschool OVC sponsored slots/transportation
- Train ministers to establish ministers' association
- Create income generating activities

Comprehensive Needs:

- Develop a complete Leadership Empowerment Program
- Develop a complete program of health services with a network of mobile clinics
- Establish a clinic
- Expand the school program to accommodate more OVCs
- Develop and implement a church-planting plan
- Organize a Ministerial Association to assume leadership for the work in the area

2. South Africa

Immediate Concerns:

- Provide a leadership workshop at the AUNBC Annual Assembly in July
- Request the NBC President to speak at AUNBC
- Build a multipurpose Drop-in Center in Pietermaritzburg
- Complete the AIDS Treatment Center in Zululand

Comprehensive Needs:

- Develop a Leadership Empowerment Program
- Build a multipurpose Drop-in Center for AIDS patients support services
- Renovate homes for OVCs in Harding
- Develop AIDS services at Bethany Baptist Church in Sebonkeng, Gauteng
- Support and expand the W.W.Brown HIV/AIDS initiatives
- Develop a strategy to respond to the request of WHIPHOLD and the National Black churches in South Africa
- Develop a comprehensive HIV/aids initiative in the Province of Kwazulu Natal

3. Malawi

Immediate Concerns:

- Renovate PIM buildings
- Expand the clinics to a hospital and develop a management plan
- Provide support for the PLWA support group
- Rehab a dormitory to house nurses in training

Comprehensive Concerns

- Upgrade the Mission Station to reflect its historical significance
- Develop the Mission program to reflect its industrial nature
- Use PIM to address health care in its hospital and mobile clinics
- Renovate facilities to house a nurse's training program
- Develop a complete educational program for OVCs
- Develop a countrywide OVC and PLWA programs in partnership with CHAM
- Develop a Bible Seminary and complete Leadership Empowerment Program

4. Lesotho

Immediate Needs:

- Initiate a campaign for support of orphans
- Establish a desk to develop programs at the William J. Harvey High School
- Further develop programs at the William J. Harvey High School
- Develop ministries to address growing needs
- Buy a farming tractor for the W.J. Harvey School

Comprehensive Needs:

- Establish a desk to develop a comprehensive HIV/AIDS plan in partnership with The Lesotho government
- Expand the programs at William J. Harvey High School towards self-sufficiency
- Develop a church-planting strategy
- Develop a Leadership Empowerment Program
- Support an expanded program for OVCs

- **INTRODUCTION OF THE ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS-** Dr. Shaw introduced Dr. Andre Dennis who is an attorney and a retired judge. Judge Dennis will serve as the legal advisor and attorney for the Board.

- **REPORT ON THE JANUARY JOINT MEETING**

The Mid-winter Board Meeting will be held from January 24-27, 2005 in Gaylord Opryland, Nashville, Tennessee. The theme of the meeting will be, "Christ's People-Empowered to Witness as One." The organizations attending are:

The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.
The National Baptist Convention of American, Inc.
The Progressive National Baptist Convention
The National Missionary Baptist Convention

MEETING-AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

9:00am-12:00noon-Joint Session, President Shaw speaking
2:00pm-5:00pm-Individual Board Meetings
Laymen and Laywomen's Auxiliary Sessions
7:00pm-10:00pm-Joint Session, President Stephen Thurston speaking
10:00pm-12:00midnight-Joint Late-night Services

Wednesday, January, 26, 2005

9:00am-12:00noon-Joint Session, President Melvin Wade speaking
2:00pm-5:00pm-Individual Board Meetings
Laymen and Laywomen Auxiliary Sessions
7:00pm-10:00pm-Joint Session, President Major Jemison speaking
10:00pm-12:00midnight-Joint Late-night Services

Thursday, January 27, 2005

9:00am-12:00noon-Joint Session
2:00pm-5:00pm-Individual Board Meetings
Laymen and Laymen Auxiliary Sessions
7:00pm-10:00pm-Joint Communion Service, Reverend Dr. Gardner Taylor preaching

All reports were adopted.

The Board Meeting was closed with the Benediction