



Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc.

Elder Dr. Joe B. Maddox, President
Rev. Luther R. Williams, Vice President At-Large
Ms. Pamela Chesney, Recording Secretary
Ms. LaDalia Logan, Treasurer

The Adjourned Session

Parent Body Meeting Minutes

April 3-5, 2017

Berean Missionary Baptist Church
1666 Raines Road
Memphis, TN 38116
Rev. Dr. Edward Parker, Jr., Host Pastor

April 4, 2017

9:30 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by President Joe B. Maddox at 9:40 A.M. President Maddox read Matthew 28:19-20. Vice President Rev. Luther R. Williams offered the opening prayer.

Reading of 2016 Annual Session Minutes

Sister Pamela Chesney, TBM&E Convention, Inc. Recording Secretary, read the minutes from the Annual Session held October 17, 2016 at 12 Noon at New St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, 1670 North Royal Street, Jackson, TN 38301 where Rev. Dr. Dennis E. Blalock is pastor.

Sister Sandra Cohns-Jones made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Rev. Dr. William P. Butler, Sr. seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Convention Guest

Rev. Ernest Polk presented Dr. Henson, retired pastor, who presented a retirement program called Ministers Mission Benefit Board (MMBB) for pastors and members. He presented ways that churches could set aside \$100 per month in order to be prepared for the inevitable and unexpected. Middle Region Vice President Rev. Morris E. Tipton, Jr. spoke highly of the program and stated that the National Baptist Convention and Sunday School Publishing Board supports this program. He urges everyone to investigate the benefits of this program. President Joe B. Maddox encouraged the body to consider.

Clarification of the Mission (Handout)

“Developing partnerships with member churches to equip and empower church members (the pew) to be intentional about sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through witnessing as we go about our daily activities.”

President Joe B. Maddox asked “What does ‘Pew To The People’ mean? The main thing is that it is a partnership between pastors and churches to help stop the “sin of silence.” Evangelism is not just the pastor’s responsibility, but all. It means being prepared to share the gospel without being afraid.

Special Emphasis Club – SEC (Handout)

This is a fundraising initiative for Missions and Education. There is not enough money coming in to operate and do Ministry. We have to start doing Ministry. Money raised will be earmarked specifically for Missions and Education. The Director of Missions and President of Congress will carry out the objective. This initiative is not just for preachers but for anyone that commits to paying either \$10 per month or \$120 per year. Once \$120 is paid, there is a lapel pin for members of this Club to wear. President Joe B. Maddox wants all members of TBM&E to commit. The body was in agreement. President Joe B. Maddox asked that monies be given to Treasurer Sister LaDalia Logan and she will provide the lapel pin.

Congress of Christian Education

The following report was given by Congress secretary Sister Monica Flynn on behalf of the Congress President, Rev. Elmore Torbert, Jr.

Greetings to the TBM&E Convention, Inc. I would like to share with the State Convention, that the State Congress has performed our scheduled tasks. Since December, we coordinated our March Leadership Conference. As it assumed a new title, being named for our former illustrative State Director, Dr. Edna Fisher Grafton, we saw a few challenges and many successes. We aimed to host a minimum of 375 attendees across the state. We recorded the following numbers:

207- West
63- Middle
107- East

In spite of weather and marketing problems, all classes were successful and received favorable marks. One class that we must include in next year’s conference is for Sunday School Superintendents. That was specifically requested from all three regions. The Congress staff will take closing reports from the sites and incorporate all vital information to improve our offerings.

The Congress staff responsible for the Oratorical contest has mailed all of the criteria and entry forms to all of the participating churches. The venue is set and we are ready to host the Oratorical contest at The American Baptist College 1800 Baptist World Center Dr., Nashville, TN. The building will be opened at 9am and the oratorical contest will start promptly at 10am and will be finished by Noon.

July Congress classes will be published on April 14, 2017. July Congress will be held in Murfreesboro, TN. The host hotels will be published at that time and our information will be sent to the Convention Secretary on April 10, 2017. We are planning to invite a special guest recording artist on Wednesday, July 19, 2017. The name will be determined upon availability of the guests selected and procured.

In conclusion, the Congress looks forward to providing all of the rich Christian Education for the TBM&E Convention, Inc. that it has historically provided over the past 100 years.

Youth Encampment

Sister Monica Flynn reported that the Youth Encampment Planning Session was held on March 5, 2017 at Springdale Baptist Church, Memphis, TN where Rev. Kevin B. Taylor is Lead Pastor. The Camp dates are June 26, 2017 – June 30, 2017.

With the struggles with Camp 2016, President Torbert has communicated with LeMoyne-Owen College to improve the facility and services for Camp 2017. The commitment includes a 4 -5 year commitment with LeMoyne-Owen College for a consistent place (Mrs. Stubbs/Mr. Hall); collegiate pipeline (supporting our own); space for our exclusive use, however, cannot quarantine track because it is open to the public; co-habitation between campers and college students; their promise to provide 300 beds and can go up to 330; lifeguards have to be in place and part of security; new security company to ensure safety which includes rover and full-time security inside the dorm; food service including suggestions for daily menu. Mrs. Stubbs is committed to comfort, security and partnership.

Each church is asked to bring 5 cases of small bottled water and/or Gatorade. YETI is Youth Encampment Training Interns – for the future, i.e., shadowing, target audience – 19-24 year olds. New campers need peer mentors to help orient them to the process. Day campers will not be allowed as they will cause conflict due to the inability to monitor their coming and going.

Oratorical Contest

Sister Georgia Torrance indicated that Rev. Elmore Torbert, Jr. included the Oratorical Contest report in the Congress report.

Convention Membership (Handout)

President Maddox stated that as he has traveled across the State, he has encountered issues of churches maintaining membership in the Convention. President Maddox presented the three levels of participation he is proposing to meet this issue.

Level I - The church that registers with \$1,200.00 per year has all rights and privileges that the Convention offers. Its members may participate in any and all Conventional activities, including, but not limited to: voting in election of Convention President and Vice-President, and on any business of the Convention; sending unlimited members to State and Regional Congress classes without an additional registration fee for classes (except for the Annual Edna Fisher Grafton Leadership Conference); and holding any elected or appointed Conventional office. Further, the pastor is exempted from having to pay an additional registration fee for any State or Regional meeting.

Level II - The church that registers with \$600.00 per year has all rights and privileges of a Level One Membership except as listed below: Its members will have to pay a registration fee for all State and Regional Congress classes. Its pastor will have to pay an additional registration fee for any State or Regional meeting.

Level III - The church that registers with less than \$600.00 per year has the right to learn and fellowship with Convention members in the teaching and worship experiences. Its pastor and members are required to pay registration fees and fees for any Congress class in which they participate. Associate members have no voting rights in business meetings nor election of the President and Vice-President of the

Convention. Further, Associate members are precluded from holding any office in the Convention.

Rev. Harold A. Middlebrook, Pastor Emeritus Canaan Baptist Church of Christ, Knoxville asked, per the Constitution, will the \$600 Level be one that can vote? President Maddox said yes, Level I and Level II will be able to vote. Rev. Dr. Joseph B. Smith, Pastor, New Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Knoxville asked how will we know who is in each level and eligible to vote? President Maddox responded that we have church letters with the names of delegates. Rev. Morris E. Tipton, Jr., Pastor, First Baptist Church East Nashville, asked what the difference would be between paying \$1,200 and paying \$600. Also, what incentive is there to be a Level I as opposed to Level II since Level II has some of the same rights as Level I? President Maddox stated with Level I there would be no limit to the number of people that can attend classes without paying and Level II will have to pay the cost of the classes. The incentive is Level I does not have to pay anything extra. Rev. Harold A. Middlebrook asked if Level II members can hold an office and Pastor not pay annual fee? President Maddox stated that Level II members will be able to hold offices. Rev. Clarence Williams, Pastor, Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Jackson, stated that there should be one flat fee set for everyone. Rev. Edward S. Robinson, Pastor, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Cleveland, stated that we need something to recognize each level, maybe a badge that indicates the Level number. Rev. Harold A. Middlebrook stated that we have used badges in the past. Each level could use a different color. Since some churches are smaller than others, we used to pay per membership and that would estimate the Level. Rev. Margaret Mack, Associate Minister, Oak Valley Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, stated that the incentive for Level I is that Pastors not pay additional fee, what about other officers not paying? Rev. Patrick Tisdale, Pastor, Rehoboth Baptist Church, Jackson, stated that he liked the dollar level because it eliminates confusion and is fairer. Rev. Carlos D. Williams, Pastor, Orchard Knob MB Church, Chattanooga, stated that it is evident we are short with registration alone. The dollar per member will make less income. It needs to be flat rated or the Convention will be hurt overall. Rev. Joseph Smith asked if all officers had to be Level I members? President Maddox responded that Level I and Level II have all rights and privileges accorded by the Convention. Rev. Richard S. Brown, Jr., Pastor, Payne Ave. Baptist Church, Knoxville, stated we were giving ‘Amens’ after being implored by the sermon to ask for a double portion so we should appreciate the perspective of what has been presented and give it additional thought. Now we are presented with different Levels, but we used to complain about paying \$1200. Rev. Joe N. Wiley, Pastor, Mt. Olive #2 MB Church, Collierville, stated that we can’t run a 21st Century Convention with 1930s suggestions. Rev. James Douglas Clay, Pastor, New Visions Baptist Church, Nashville, stated that we have another Level for new churches, inactive churches, and those that see no value in Convention membership. Sister Sandra Cohns-Jones thanked President Maddox for the Levels to help churches move forward.

Rev. Harold Middlebrook made a motion that we adopt the proposed plan with any adjustments necessary. Sister Sandra Cohns-Jones seconded the motion and the motion passed. President Maddox stated that now we have a platform to work with.

Proposed Budget (Handout)

Rev. Luther R. Williams, Vice President At-Large, presented the Budget for fiscal year November 1, 2016 – October 31, 2017. He stated that it was carefully considered line-by-line and based on the prior year’s actuals. It is intentional in reducing expenses for the various events through the year so that more of the income collected can be saved. The Budget Committee encourages that pastors/churches and Associations send their registration fees to Headquarters on a regular monthly basis to keep the bills current.

Rev. William Terry Ladd, III, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Chattanooga asked about the stipend for the President that was not budgeted for this year. President Maddox explained that the stipend was for the President in the position of acting Executive Secretary. President Maddox will not be doing that, instead he has asked the Honorarium be increased to \$12,000 which results in a net savings of \$10,000. Rev. Dr. Joseph B. Smith, Pastor, New Friendship Baptist Church, Knoxville, asked if the blank spaces on page 3 meant that the former

Vice President did not get paid. President Maddox stated that he saw that when reviewing the budget and wants to correct that by giving him one half of what was budgeted. Rev. Smith then asked about the \$38,000 owed to the past President that Rev. Roderick Ware presented in a report last year, do we really owe him? He stated we need to take care of issues like selling our property and where the money went. President Maddox stated it was the position of the past Administration to be dealt with and he will not go back unless the Convention agreed to do so. Rev. Margaret Mack, Associate Minister, Oak Valley Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, stated that she asked that question last year and President Marvin Mercer said he was going to leave it up to the next Administration and no one questioned him about that. Rev. Dr. John W. Crittle, II, Pastor, Macedonia MB Church, Memphis, said we need a travel log to justify \$38,000. President Maddox stated that President Mercer turned in his mileage. Rev. Crittle said we need more documentation that meets the rules. Rev. Harold A. Middlebrook asked if there was a line item for printing the procedural book and accounting? President Maddox said no but we need to look at it. He does plan to have proceedings available on the website as he works with Communications and will make limited copies available. Rev. Richard S. Brown, Jr., Pastor, Payne Avenue MB Church, Knoxville, stated that it is good for us to have an audit, not to cast a dark light, but to solidify our move forward. Rev. Patrick Tisdale, Pastor, Rehoboth Baptist Church, Jackson stated an audit will allow us to know where our property went. President Maddox stated that he feels as though he is being attacked for things that happened in the past. Rev. Joseph Smith said we need checks and balances to know where funds are going. President Maddox reminded us that the previous Administration had checks and balances in place. If the Convention votes for and audit, we will have an audit. Rev. Edward S. Robinson, Pastor, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Cleveland, said we are obligated to know why and what we are to do about the \$38,000.

Rev. Harold A. Middlebrook made a motion to accept the budget with an audit line item and proceedings delivered to the Convention and delay in paying the \$38,000 until after the audit. Rev. Patrick Tisdale seconded the motion. There were 14 for and 35 against. The motion failed.

President Maddox said he is bothered by the actions that have just transpired. He called for action on the budget that was presented. Rev. Dr. John Crittle, II asked if our actions would be criminal with what we do today? Rev. James T. Farmer, Jr., Pastor, Historic Woodlawn Baptist Church, Brownsville, stated that we will talk about how we are going to pay but we need to vote on the budget.

Rev. Jesse Williams, Campbell Chapel MB Church, Bolivar, made a motion to accept the budget as written with the proposal to pay \$38,000 from the Mutual Fund. Rev. Joe N. Wiley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Maddox stated that he will take executive privilege to do an audit from November 1, 2016. Each year there will be an audit.

Financial Report – Sister LaDalia Logan, Treasurer

Sister LaDalia Logan gave the following Financial Report:

Checking Account Balance: General Fund – Citizen’s Bank	\$ 150.85
Checking Account Balance: General Fund – Regions Bank	<u>\$ 36,049.28</u>
Subtotal Checking Accounts	\$ 36,200.13
Savings Account Balance: Regions Bank	\$ 3,178.98
Interest – Regions Bank	<u>\$ 1.50</u>
Subtotal Savings Account	\$ 3,180.48
Savings Account I	
Relief Ministry – Citizens	\$ 6,083.61
Interest- Relief Ministry	<u>\$ 13.14</u>
Subtotal Savings Account I	\$ 6,096.75

Investments	
Mutual Funds Principal	\$ 65,075.75
Mutual Funds Dividends	<u>\$ 7,594.54</u>
Subtotal Investments	\$ 72,670.29
Convention Property	
Buildings	\$120,000.00
Land	\$ 30,000.00
Furniture	\$ 10,000.00
Equipment	<u>\$ 22,403.00</u>
Subtotal Convention Property	\$182,403.00
Accumulated Depreciation	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$-145,062.00</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$155,488.65</u>
Liabilities	
Notes Payable	
TBMEC Payable-LOC	\$ 10,630.96
TBMEC Payable-Travel, etc.	<u>\$ 15,870.26</u>
Subtotal Notes Payable	\$ 26,501.22
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 26,501.22</u>
Fund Balance	
Fund Balance	<u>\$128,987.43</u>
Total Fund Balance	\$128,987.43
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$155,488.65</u>

Sister LaDalia Logan stated that in this Administration there will be a paper trail. Rev. Joe N. Wiley stated that in defense of the past Administration, these same reports were given, voted on, and moved on. Rev. Jesse Williams, Campbell Chapel MB Church made a motion to accept the Finance Report. Rev. William P. Butler, Sr., Pastor, Rock of Ages Baptist Church Morristown, seconded the motion. There was one opposed, and the motion passed.

Website Updates (Handout)

President Maddox encouraged leaders to make changes to their sections on the website. Information needs to be given to the Secretary at least one month in advance. We must strive for excellence and do things in a timely manner. Officers list is available and President Maddox is aware of the vacancies for which he is in prayer for guidance.

Communications

Rev. Dr. William P. Butler, Sr., who is over our Digital Communications, presented an information sheet for each Convention member that will be used to help supply information to a larger group of people. The use of 'blasts' is being formulated to provide information across the State.

Brother Robert Pope offered the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 12:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela E. Chesney

Pamela E. Chesney, Recording Secretary

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