

MINUTES
OF THE 85TH DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE LOUISIANA
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
Shreveport Community Church
Shreveport, LA
April 26-27, 2021

MONDAY AFTERNOON – APRIL 26

The 85th gathering of the Louisiana Assemblies of God got underway at noon with a “Welcome Reception”. A large crowd gathered with enthusiasm for fellowship and an appetite for “Jambalaya”, prepared by Pastor Gary Cavalier and his staff. The meal was delicious and enjoyed by all in attendance.

The first session started at one o’clock with the singing of “I Raise Hallelujah” led by the Shreveport Community Church worship team. Melvin and Ariel Stringfield welcomed the constituents to Lead Conference 2021, briefly explained the registration procedures, encouraged everyone to visit the various ministry tables, announced the agenda for the rest of the day, and opened the conference with prayer.

The worship team led a time of anointed worship. After the worship, Charlie Allo introduced the afternoon speaker Dr. Ruthie Oberg, representative of the General Council “Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center.” She delighted the audience with “give-a-ways”!

She spoke on the subject of *Pentecost in America from 1850 – 1900*. The message was powerful and moving. To conclude the session, the congregation sang “Draw Me Nearer”.

BUSINESS SESSION

Superintendent Scott Holmes called the first business session to order at 3:05 p.m. and opened with prayer.

Kelly Kimball, chairman of the Roster Committee, presented a partial report of the registration. He moved its adoption.

There were registered:

Ordained	157
Licensed	47
Certified	33
Delegates	41
VOTING CONSTITUENCY	278
Visitors	139
TOTAL REGISTRATION	417

There was a second and the report was accepted by voice vote.

Assistant Superintendent Eric Treuil explained the method of electronic voting by use of smart phones and email addresses to cast ballots. He also explained that paper ballots would be available for those who preferred them or needed them.

Scott Holmes read a prepared statement regarding the 2019 District Council. The report included an explanation of the confusion surrounding the election of the Secretary/Treasurer. He then gave a report on the findings of the study of the Secretary/Treasurer office.

The first item of business was a resolution to amend the Bylaws. Woody Gunnels, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee read the following resolution and made a motion to adopt.

Whereas, Bylaws ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER, Section 1. Rules of Order, states, "...The work of the District Council shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of "Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised";

Whereas, Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th Edition, Chapter XIV Nominations and Elections, p. 437, lines 15-17 states: A nominating ballot cannot take the place of an electing ballot in an organization whose bylaws require elections to be held by ballot;

Whereas, Bylaws ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS, Section 3. Nominations and Elections reads:

All elections shall be by secret ballot. A two-thirds (2/3) vote cast shall be necessary to constitute an election on the first three (3) electoral ballots. In the event a two-thirds (2/3) vote is cast for a qualified candidate on the nominating ballot, unless the nominee declines, an election shall be declared, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS, Section 3. Nominations and Elections be amended by striking out:

In the event a two-thirds (2/3) vote is cast for a qualified candidate on the nominating ballot, unless the nominee declines, an election shall be declared.

Submitted by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee

There was a second to the motion, and the resolution was adopted without discussion.

Eric Treuil further explained the procedure for electronic voting.

Woody Gunnels, Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee read the qualifications for Secretary/Treasurer from the Bylaws. A nominating ballot was cast electronically and by paper ballot for those not able to vote electronically. The nominees

presented included those nominated by the nominating committee. The nominees were Robin L Blakney (Rob), Joel W. Bracket, G. R. Collier, Den M. Hussey, Jr., Jefferey D. Manuel, Grover Warren (Bubba), Robert H. Zannini (Bob).

Den Hussey was elected on the first electoral ballot.

Charlie Allo and District Church Planting Director Deven Pedeaux presented \$1,000.00 checks from Speed-the-Light and BGMC to New Church Planters: Ben Comer, Dusty Small and Robert Burnside.

Louisiana World and U.S. Missionaries in attendance were recognized. Gary Sapp, World Missions Director, reported that Louisiana gave over three million dollars to World Missions in 2020. He expressed appreciation to all who gave. He then presented awards to the following churches for being the top givers to World Missions:

- 1st place – Northside Assembly of God, Crowley - \$147,379.00
- 2nd place - Central Assembly of God, Bossier City/Haughton - \$123,528.73
- 3rd place - Harvest Assembly of God, Oak Grove - \$121,265.87

Woody Gunnels read the qualifications for the office of General Presbyter. A nominating ballot was cast for the office of General Presbyter.

Greg Dill, Director of LA Teen Challenge, was recognized for 40 years of service as director. A gift of appreciation was given to him.

Scott Holmes introduced some of the ministry representatives who had displays set up in the foyer and hallways of the church.

Den Hussey, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the 2020 district financial report. During the report, the Tellers Committee reported the results of the nominating ballot for General Presbyter. The names of the nominees were displayed on the screen. The first electoral ballot was cast for General Presbyter.

The discussion of the financial report continued. The Tellers Committee reported that there was no election on the first electoral ballot for General Presbyter. The second electoral ballot for General Presbyter was cast.

A list of the names of churches currently without a pastor was presented. Scott Holmes invited everyone to pray for these churches.

Douglas Fulenwider made a motion to adjourn to allow ample time for the service scheduled Monday night. There was a second and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned until Tuesday morning.

MONDAY NIGHT

The first service of this 85th meeting of the Louisiana District Council was held at Shreveport Community Church. The service opened with a song of praise led by the host church's worship team. In 1936, the first "District Council" meeting was held in this same church, then known as First Assembly of God.

Superintendent Scott Homes and his wife Kara welcomed everyone, including *online* participants, new ministers, and first-time guests. Scott Holmes prayed for God's blessing and anointing upon the gathering. Assistant Superintendent, Eric Treuil and his wife, Anabelle, presented flowers to First Lady, Kara Holmes.

The congregation was encouraged to take part *in Worship Through the Decades*, a vocal and video presentation of the Pentecostal worship songs through the decades from 1936-2021. Arranged by Pastor Denny Duron, the beautiful voices of the multi-church choir, videos and graphics brought history alive and made the awareness of the Presence of the Lord real to all. The songs included "All Hail The Power of Jesus Name," "The Comforter Has Come," "Just Over In The Glory Land," "I'll Fly Away," "In The City Where the Lamb is the Light," "Only Believe," "Faith in Jesus," "Lord You Are Beautiful," "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow," "I Woke Up This Morning Feeling Fine," "Sometimes Alleluia," "Sweet, Sweet Spirit," "Jesus Is the Answer," "Take Me Back," "To God Be The Glory," "I Love You Lord," "Lord God Almighty," "Our God Reigns," "He Is Faithful to Me," and "Shout to the Lord." The congregation stood to honor the glorious musical presentation and to offer praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for His blessings on this Fellowship.

District Church Planting Director Deven Pedeaux and his wife Kathy, introduced the church planters of the district. Along with Charlie Allo, he presented checks for \$1,000.00 to each of the church planters.

The Antioch Award was presented to church planter, Ryan DeRouen, who started "Church On The Rock" in New Iberia. Roger Meyers, a pioneer church planter and foreign missionary prayed for the district church planters. Our Next Generation Leaders were recognized.

Miss Alayna Guillory, daughter of Justin and Tracey Miller and granddaughter of Bob and Amanda Zannini preached the "Five Minutes of Fire" message. She is a participant in the Fine Arts competition and will advance to the National Youth Fine Arts competition at the General Council in August, 2021.

Pastors Jeff and Donna Ables introduced Pastor Denny Duron, our speaker for the evening message. The title of the message was *There Is a Freak in Your Future*. The text for the message was Micah 4:1-2. During the altar call there was a lengthy time of prayer and seeking the Lord.

TUESDAY MORNING – MAY 27

The crowd gathered for fellowship, coffee and donuts before the 9:30 a.m. service. Pastors Jon and Elizabeth Smith welcomed constituents and prayed.

Libby Northup, daughter Wayne and Kristi Northup, and a finalist in the Louisiana Fine Arts competition preached an excellent “Five Minutes of Fire” sermon. She is advancing to the National Fine Arts Finals competition at General Council. Prayer was offered for our next generation of leaders.

The “Elephant in the Room” panel included: Doug McAllister, Doug Oss, Ruthie Oberg, Claire Jett and Ngozi Maduagwu. Their discussion centered on the question, “Where do you see the next few years taking our culture”?

A video was shown of the STL Icy Challenge.

Lead Plus Breakouts included the following:

- A. Recognizing Fatigue - Phillip Deas
- B. How Our History Can Impact, Inspire, and Equip a New Generation - Ruthie Oberg
- C. Social Media Discussion - Brandon Anders
- D. Generosity - Phil Drost
- E. Hard Sayings of Jesus - Doug Oss
- F. Marriage & Ministry - Jeff & Donna Ables

There was a break for lunch at 11:50. A lunch for men was sponsored by Fire Bibles and a luncheon for Women was sponsored by LA Sisterhood.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON – MAY 27

Breakout sessions continued from 1:30 pm – 2:45 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION

The business session reconvened at 2:45 p.m. The Tellers Committee presented the final report of the registration:

Ordained	157
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A motion was made to adopt the report along with a second. The report was accepted by voice vote.

The Tellers Committee reported there was not an election for General Presbyter on the second electoral ballot. Only the names of the three nominees with the most votes received were retained on the ballots.

The third electoral ballot for General Presbyter was cast. Jeff Ables was elected on the third electoral ballot for General Presbyter.

Scott Holmes Announced that the 2022 Lead Conference would be held at Crossroads Church, Lafayette, Jeff Ables, Pastor.

Woody Gunnels read the qualifications for Non-Resident Executive Presbyter under the age of 40 from the Bylaws. A nominating ballot was cast.

Bob Rogers, representing Guardian Promise, was introduced and shared the services of this organization.

The Tellers Committee reported the names of the nominees for Non-Resident Executive Presbyter under the age of 40. Votes were cast for the first electoral ballot for Non- Resident Executive Presbyter under the age of 40.

A book written by Eugene Brown on the early history of the Louisiana Assemblies of God and it's first superintendent, E. L. Tanner, was introduced by Scott Holmes. The cost of the book is \$10.00 and available in the foyer.

Eric Treuil was recognized for his outstanding leadership as District Chi Alpha Director the past 40 years.

The Tellers reported there was not an election on the first electoral ballot for Non-Resident Executive Presbyter under the age of 40. Votes were cast for the second electoral ballot for Non-Resident Executive Presbyter under the age of 40. There was not an election.

On the third electoral ballot, only the names of the three nominees with the highest number of votes were retained on the ballot. There was not an election.

On the fourth electoral ballot, only the names of the two nominees with the highest number of votes were retained on the ballot. On the fourth electoral ballot, a majority vote is required for an election. The ballot was cast and Justus Freeman was elected as Non-resident Executive Presbyter, under the age of 40.

The nominating ballot for Non-Resident Executive Presbyter-African American was cast.

Missionaries Bob & Lisa Holloway were introduced. Missionary Kirk Priest brought greetings.

The Tellers Committee reported the names of the nominees for Non-Resident Executive Presbyter -African American. The first electoral ballot was cast for Non-Resident Executive Presbyter-African American. There was not an election on the first electoral ballot

The second electoral ballot was cast for Non-Resident Executive Presbyter-African American.

Missionaries Chad and Jamie Elder were introduced and brought greetings.

Jon Smith was elected on the second electoral ballot for Non-Resident Executive Presbyter-African American.

This concluded the business of the 85th District Council. There was a motion to adjourn along with a second. The motion passed and the business session adjourned. In the prayer of dismissal children of ministers of the Louisiana District were remembered in the prayer.

TUESDAY NIGHT

The service opened with an impressive video and slide presentation “Don’t Tread on Me,” produced by the Josh Holmes. It showed the devastation of our Louisiana churches and people during the hurricanes of 2020. Hearts were touched to see the destruction of church properties and see the outpouring of assistance that came to help from across the country.

Secretary/Treasurer Den Hussey prayed for the service. The Shreveport Community Church singers led worship.

A video was shown to list names of those minister who received credentials during the year. The Ordination candidates were: Don Banks, Jr., Suzanne Boudreaux, Todd Boudreaux, Felicity Buckel, Jon Bush, Tanya Camper, Christian Davis, Ryan DeRouen, Josh Holmes, Joshua Lowrance, Melvin Stringfield. The ordination charge was given by Superintendent Scott Holmes accompanied by Kara Holmes. The District Presbytery and other invited ministers, laid hands on and prayed for the candidates. The musicians and singers sang “Pour It Out”. It was a special time in the presence of the Lord.

Weston Weaver introduced the speaker, Pastor Chris Frye of New Hope Fellowship in Eunice. Pastor Frye took his text from Leviticus 6:8-13. He brought a great message entitled *Never Go Out*. The essence was how to always keep the fire on the altar burning. There was a great move of the spirit during the altar call.

Scott Holmes closed the Lead Conference with a prayer of thanksgiving.

Southwestern Assemblies of God University hosted an after-service fellowship for alumni and guest.