
2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

LIBERIAN MINISTERS ASSOCIATION OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY



Unity: One
people,
One
purpose

DECEMBER 12, 2015

**REV. SOLOMON M. MUIN
SECRETARY GENERAL**



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The Board of Directors

“THAT THEY MAY BE ONE...” John 17:21

We have the distinguished honor to greet you in Jesus Precious Name and wish you a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. To God be all the glory who have steered the ship of our individual lives safely to the closed of 2014.

On this auspicious occasion of our Annual General Assembly, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the LMA and in our own name, we are pleased to congratulate the members, the Executive, and our President for works being well done to the glory of God. Your labor of love is not in vain!

During the year in review, it was the delightful privilege of the Board to accord the Executive every degree of necessary support to achieving accomplishments that are being reported today. We note with joy the special good working relationship between the Board and the Executive. We thank the President, Rev. Moses Suah Dennis and other Executive Officers for their good services. We also thank you, the members, for your support and prayers.

As we look forward to 2015, we must be mindful of the Challenges it may present. Challenges, however, to the children of God, are opportunities for witnessing to our God’s greatness. In order for our witnessing to be effective, love and unity are indispensable; therefore, our Lord prayed “that they (we) be one.....” Sadly, we observed some Ministers are still sitting on the fence.

We, therefore, call on all Ministers to join rank and those who have joined, to close rank in order to make an impact for the world to know we are His Servants.

Our community deserves it; the love of Christ demands it. **Unity is our goal!!!**

Congratulations and thank you:

Rev. John K. Jallah, Chairman
LMA Board of Directors



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Constitutionally, officers and members of the Liberian Ministers Association of the Delaware Valley are mandated to assemble at the end of every fiscal year as a body, to review and evaluate the work of the Association, discuss challenges and opportunities that can be maximized for effectiveness, and set new goals for the next year. This mandate was achieved on Saturday December 27, 2014, when the General Assembly 2014 was held under the theme, Unity: One People, One Purpose, reflecting on the Scripture text of Ephesians 4:1-4. The assembly hosted by the Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church in East Lansdowne, Pennsylvania bringing together churches and partners of the Association. As Christian ministers from Liberia, a country recovering from 14 years of brutal civil war with its people yearning for genuine healing and reconciliation, it cannot be over emphasized that the role of Liberian churches in the diaspora is relevant in promoting unity and healing, especially among Liberians who are in the diaspora as a result of the war and are now pursuing new lives. Indeed, to make an impact among Liberians, this relevance must first be demonstrated by evidence of how we as ministers constructively engage one another and visibly express unity in the one faith, fellowship and common action through witness and service to the Liberian community, our neighbors, and the world, and to advance toward that unity in order that the community that is being served may believe, regardless of the individual differences being held and the human limitation that set us apart.

The Liberian Ministers Association of the Delaware Valley founded in 2002, seeks to create a space and enabling structure for Liberian Ministers in Pennsylvania to promote unity amongst ministers, Liberians and all people as much as possible; aid in equipping one another for the work of the ministry; be a catalyst for forging unity and reconciliation amongst Liberians; serve as a bridge between Liberians and other ministers; engage in evangelism, social welfare, health, and educational ministries: and seek peace in and assistance for Liberia, both spiritual and material. The 2014 General Assembly offered a space for ministers to engage in conversations and dialogue on topics of unity and collaboration. The Assembly was held in two sessions, the first session with deliberation, reports and group, and the second session with a closing empowerment service. The General Assembly achieved among many things: the gender mainstreaming of women and youth into the Association's structure, the envisioning of plans for 2015, the receiving of report on the financial and operational status of the Association, and greater fellowship and empowerment of ministers to work collaboratively.

I. THE FIRST SESSION

A. Morning Inspiration with Rev. Nathaniel Edwin Miller, Associate Pastor at CHRIDA

Rev. Miller inspired the assembly participants on the theme of the Assembly: Unity, One People, One Purpose from the Text Ephesian 4:1-4. Using as subtheme, **“UNITY IS WANTED ENTITY!”** Reverend Miller meditated on the scriptures of: Ephesians 4:3, Genesis 11:1-9, Psalm 133, 1Corinthain 1:10, and 1Corinthain 4:11-14

Reverend Miller disclosed that the meaning of unity is not rotational meetings or pulpit exchange, neither is it doing things in “unison”, but Unity is a Bond: A 3-fold cord that cannot be broken. He said Unity is Spiritual: Not religious – laying contrast that people can be tongues speaking and yet disunited. He further mentioned that unity is a principle that work in spite of location, nationality, and gender.

B. Roll Call and Adoption of Assembly Agenda

A roll call of churches expected at the Assembly was done by Rev. Solomon Muin, Secretary General of the Association. The churches and ministries called were: Agape International Baptist Church, Breath of God Church, Candlelight Deliverance Ministries, Christ International Baptist Church, Church of the Living God, Divine Fellowship Church, Dominion Christian Fellowship Church, Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fellowship of Intercessors, Freedom Worship Center, Full-Gospel Living Word Ministries, God’s Anointed Ambassadors, God’s End Time Harvesters, Marron Cassell Ministries International, Mission Bethel, New Hope International Baptist Church, New Life Fellowship International, Philadelphia Church International, Refuge Baptist Church, Second Chance Global Ministries, Shepherd House Ministries, United Missionary Baptist Church, United People Church of God, Victory Harvest Fellowship International, Word of Life International Ministries, and World Wide Reaping Ministries. Participants in attendance were 35 during the roll call with five guests.

Motion for the adoption of the Agenda was made by Rev. Louise Koffa and seconded by Minister Abraham Mulbah. Rev. Zawolo Gatei was appointed parliamentarian of the Assembly by the Chairman.

C. GUEST GREETINGS

The first session of the assembly had five guests in attendance. These guests included Rev. Dr. Malcolm Byrd of the Mayor’s Commission on Faith-based Initiatives, Dr. Eric Edi, President of the Coalition of African and Caribbean Communities (AFRICOM), Rev. Joseph Koromah, President of the Sierra Leonean Christian Association of Philadelphia, Ms. Victoria Harris of the Jack Herzig Law Firm, and Mr. Allen Richardson of ADT. The Chairman of the Assembly gave each of these guests time to greet the Assembly and the following were their greetings.

Rev. Dr. Malcolm Byrd: Interim Coordinator, Mayor’s Commission on Faith-Based Initiatives

Rev. Byrd extended greetings on behalf of Mayor Michael Nutter, the Mayor of Philadelphia and his pastor, Rev. Dr. Jesse. Wendell Mapson, Jr of the Monumental Baptist Church. Rev. Byrd expressed his joy for being in the midst of the Liberian Ministers and especially the General Assembly and to enjoy the experience of the unity of the brother and sisters in the Lord. He said for 13 years the City of Philadelphia has maintained the Office of Faith-Based initiatives that is designed specifically to work with people of faith of every traditions, of every experience possible to ensure that City Government is always accessible and available for partnership to do the work of ministry that government can’t do alone.

Rev. Byrd further stated that our people regardless of what neighborhood or community they in, have a need for men and women of God who are faithful, who are unified, who are resolved to make a difference in the lives of our people and our community. This only happens because we are in one accord, that as a people we are one, we are united and have a focus purpose. The Only way our community can get better is that men and women of God put aside their differences and work to make them better, to inspire our people to cultivate hope, and to help our people form their sense of spiritual ruddiness and identity in Christ. He remind the assembly that we are called as Ministers of the Gospel to be about the mission and purposes and the will of God in community. In doing this Rev. Byrd said, we have to be living examples, and living sacrifices sometimes to do the work that God has called us to do. Oh what a joy is it he said to be in the will of God and to accomplish his purposes! He thanked the participants for gathering and said there are great expectations for what this assembly will accomplish in the hearts of the participants today a how they will walk away with a greater sense of mission. Our people will be better off because of your coming together today. He concluded by pronouncement of the blessing saying, “may the Lord bless and keep you, with a resounding response of Amen from the participants!



Rev. Joseph Koromah: President, Christian Association of Sierra Leone

Rev. Koromah extended greetings on behalf of the Christian Association of Sierra Leone in Pennsylvania. He thanked the Chairman, Rev. Moses Suah-Dennis, and the Assembly morning inspiration speaker, Rev. Nathaniel Miller for the insightful and inspirational message. He stated the message was very timely, unity. As the president of the CASL, he said, just as Liberia has different ethnic groups, there are different ways of doing things but it is good as we come together as we becomes more mature in our faith, we become less denominational. In so doing, the non-fundamental disappears and we focus on the fundamental. He express his pride in the meeting and thanks for the invitation, and to the participants for being part of the meeting.

Dr. Eric Edi: President, Coalition of African and Caribbean Communities

Good morning, In the name of Jesus...I usually say that when we come in the presence of the Lord, then the Pastors are in charged, and I surrender unto them, because that's what God asked us to do. I am happy to be here this morning, and thank you for the invitation. I greet you all on behalf of the Coalition of African and Caribbean Immigrant Communities in Philadelphia. This organization which was formed in 2001, and you know as any organization of people who're in the room that look like us, we go through hills, come down and reach the height of the mountains and then we fall down again, but we move on. We have been happy to work with the Liberian community which has a strong presence within AFRICOM and of course with the Ebola issues that Rev. Suah-Dennis mentioned a minute ago. We are continuing to support this effort and see what it will lead us in the future, and of course with many other projects. I wish you a very good session, unfortunately I wouldn't be here to the end because of other engagements. But I am proud to be here and to support this assembly on behalf of AFRICOM.

Ms. Victoria Harris: The Jack Herzig Law Firm

Ms. Harris represented the Jack Herzig Law Firm informing the assembly of gratitude to be recognized. She informed the assembly of the Law Firm initiatives to help Liberia who are desirous of applying for the Temporary Protector Status being announced by the US government because of the Ebola crises in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.



Mr. **Allen Richardson**: ADT Representative

Mr. Richardson greets the assembly and provided information of his initiative to help Liberian home to install free ADT fire alarm system which will help the community stay free from fire disaster, one that affected the lives of several Liberian on Gesner Street, Philadelphia. Mr. Richardson said, if about eighty Liberian are signed up, a check of \$15,000 will be made available to the community through the Liberian Ministers Association to help the fire victims.

D. ANNUAL REPORTS

Two annual reports were presented to the assembly as was required. The president presented a detail update of the year under review, highlighting achievements and challenges of the Association, with recommendations for consideration by the assembly. The president report was followed by the Treasurer report highlighting expenditure of the organization, and a proposed budget for 2015. The details are contained below.


1. The Presidents Report

Rev, Moses Suah Dennis: President, Liberian Ministers Association of the Delaware Valley

Introduction

On this occasion of our first general assembly in recent years, the Apostle Paul confession that our God completes those things that are began speaks to the past, present and future of the Liberian Ministers Association of the Delaware (LMADV). I submit this report as the fourth President of the LMADV standing on the shoulders of those who came before us as members, officers, board and supporters of the LMADV. The work of the LMADV must continue in obedience to our Lord's command, in honor of those who came before us and in commitment to our founding document: "Unity for Spiritual Progress and Commitment" (Pre-amble, LMADV Constitution)

At the Beginning I raised my right hand alongside Rev. Urias Dixon and Rev. Solomon M. Muin on November 14, 2013 as we were sworn in as President, Vice President and Secretary of LMADV, respectively. This took place in the presence of former President, Bishop Amos



Tarpeh with whom I served as Vice President for 4 years and other officers and members at the Refugee Baptist Church. The Rev. John Jallah was elected Board Chairman, Bishop Gabriel Lardner-Co-Chair, Bishop Joshua Cummings-Board Secretary, Rev. John Gblah and Rev. Henry Koffa as members on that same day.

We got into action beginning that day and I am very excited to report all our accomplished over the last twelve months to this assembly today. Our first order of business was to hold a day-long mini-retreat designed to review the association's past, do reconciliation among ministers, hold bi-elections and plan for the future. This retreat was held on December 11, 2013, 9am-4pm at the Victory Harvest Fellowship International Ministries. Our platform presented at that meeting called for the re-focusing of the LMADV as a dignified professional organization. To that end, we laid out three strategic approaches in pursuing this goals:

1. Structurally strengthen LMADV;
 2. Engage in Legacy Building and,
 3. Identify Dependable Community Partners.
- The retreated ended with the holding of bi-elections: Rev. Dr. Samuel Ndorleh-Treasurer, Rev. Amos Suah-Financial Secretary and Evangelist Letricia Roberts-Chaplain. A total of 37 persons participated in that that day-long retreat.

The planning and implementation of executives and board Inauguration with the honoring of former leaders and members of the association and community became our next task. A committee of 5 persons, chaired by the Rev. Solomon Muin was constituted and on February 16, 2013, a grand inaugural ball was held at the North American Motor Inn on 444 City Lane Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 6-10pm. During the ball, Bishop Gabriel Lardner, Rev. John Gblah, Rev. Anthony Sengbe, Rev. Kau-Dolopei, Rev. John Jallah, Rev. Ruth Deah, Rev. Napoleon Birch and Bishop Amos Tarpeh received plaques in honor of their leadership and services to the Christian Church and larger community.



2.

Celebrations and Success

The inaugural ball was graced by performances by the newly re-organized Mass Choir to the delight of LMADV officers, Board members, guests and friends. Distinguished guests included: Ms. Karen Stokes, who presented a citation on behalf of PA Governor Tom Corbel, Mr. William Greaves-Liberia's Council General at New York and his wife, Rev. Gordon Simmons-Dean Delaware County Conference-Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod/Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Dr. Vera Tolbert- Coalition of African and Caribbean Immigrant Organizations, Rev. Marcus Kings of the Wesley AME Zion Church-installing officer, among others.

Our successful holding of the December mini-retreat and February inaugural ball provided us with the opportunity to begin achieving our proposed platform to structurally strengthen the LMADV, build concrete legacies and identify active community partners. The Liberian Association of Pennsylvania (LAP) initiated the first outreach gesture. Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church was honored with the presence of Mr. Dahn K. Dennis, other officers and members of the Board of Directors at our regular 11:30am service when I administered their oath of office and later served as installing officer at LAP's inaugural ball.

LAP's President, **Mr. Dahn K. Dennis** encouraged by our visibility and engagement in the community elevated the relationship between LAP and LMADV by inviting us to serve a key partner on the Coalition that planned and successfully implemented Liberia's 167th Independence anniversary here in Philadelphia, July 25-27, 2014. I received LAP's 2014 Outstanding Community Leadership Award for the LMADV work at the 167th Gala Ball at the Airport Marriott attended by His Excellency Ambassador Jeremiah Sulunteh, ULAA President, City Philadelphia and State Officials and other Signatories.



Crises and Opportunities

Our involvement in two significant crisis in our community on behalf of the LMADV contributed to our receiving of the LAP Community Leadership award. The first being the wrongful arrest of two prominent Liberians (Mr. & Mrs. Korlewala) on April 3, 2014 on alleged robbery charges, which were eventually dismissed. The July 5, 2014 early morning Gesner Street fire was the second.

The fight for justice for the Korlewalas' was almost to the finished line when news of the tragic death of 4 Liberian children reached us on the early morning of July 5th. We rushed to Bartram High School that morning, met with Red Cross Representatives, family members of the deceased children, and later that day welcomed Mayor Michael Nutter, Ambassador Jeremiah Sulunteh-whom we accompanied to City Hall for a meeting with City Officials. We worked tirelessly with numerous community leaders, including our Board Chair, the Rev. John Jallah, Rev. Napoleon Divine, Mr. Dahn Dennis, Mr. Shiwo Kamara and working committees at providing the leadership our community needed during those very challenging months.

Official word about the spread of the deadly Ebola disease in Liberia reached us at the 167th Independence celebration Gala on July 26. Ambassador Jeremiah Sulunteh in his keynote address at that Gala Ball urged Liberians in the Diaspora to join in the fight against Ebola. We were again appointed by the Liberian Association Pennsylvania (LAP) President, Mr. Dahn Dennis to lead the community's Ebola Response effort. LAP's efforts in the fight against Ebola was expanded in October when the City of Philadelphia through the Mayor's Commission on Africans and Caribbean Immigrants Affairs invited us to expand our coalition to include Guinean and Sierra Leonean Communities in the Delaware Valley Ebola Response—www.operationcrushebola.org


Looking Ahead


The Year 2014 is ending and there are carry-ons that we will continue to work on into 2015. The Ebola response is obvious. The LMADV support, prayer of thanks for Bishop Amos Tarpeh for physical strength as we did for his medical recovery must continue. The LMADV developed many relationships as a result of the Korlewalas' situation, Liberia's 167th Independence Celebration Coalition, the Gesner Street fire, the Ebola outbreak and subsequent formation of a working coalition. Our leadership role in the Liberian/African Community and the City of Philadelphia are likely to increase. I pause here to applause our collective effort in doing all that we have done and all that we will accomplish together in 2015 and beyond.

2013-2014 Recaps

Before putting forth some recommendations, here is a recap of our achievements in 2014 for the platform we put forward:

- I. The following efforts were directed at strengthening the leadership structure of the LMADV
 - 1 Mini-retreat and bi-election on December 14, 2013
 - 2 Designing and requesting of members to complete and turn in membership forms as a way of formalizing membership in the LMADV (November 14, 2014)
 - 3 Formation of working committees that worked on constitutional and structural issues that produced recommendation I will recommend this convention to review and adapt (November 14, 2014).
 - 4 Holding of officials meeting/conference call prior to all regular general monthly and called emergency meetings (November 2013-December 2014).
 - 5 Engaged in conversation with other Liberian Minister Organizations, locally and nationally (January-December 2014).

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- II. Our Legacy Building efforts was achieved by
1. The honoring of former LMADV members, leaders and other Liberian Pastors at the inaugural launched our efforts at legacy building initiatives (February 16, 2014).
 2. Formation of a Mass Choir that sang at our inaugural ball, hosted an exhibition concert and made our community very proud at the 167th Independence Day celebration Thanksgiving service was the next step (January 2014).
 3. Development of a very functional and user friendly website (www.lmadv.org) was the third and most significant initiative directed building lasting legacy (March 2014).
- III. We identified and worked with the following community partners:
1. LAP: planning and implementing Liberia's 167th Independence Day celebration in partnership with the Liberian Women in Progress, Soccer Coalition, Liberian Association of Buck County and the Liberian Embassy in Washington DC (May-August 2014).
 2. We held a dinner meeting Dr. Rob Cavoto and Attorney Gary Hensil. Both men pledged their services to our community as needed (March 2014)
 3. Ministers and Spouses rekindling fellowship dinner in partnership with the Marriage School under the leadership Rev. Natt Miller, II was an very important initiative in our effort at partnership within and outside of the LMADV (October 18, 2014).
 4. Mr. Alan Richardson of ADT Security Company offered free installation of security systems as a result of the Gesner Street Fire. Our partnership with Mr. Richardson is still ongoing (August-December 2014).

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5. Initiated conversation with the Philadelphia Fire Department and the 24th Police District to work together as community as a result of meetings we had at the Fire Department Head Quarters 9/11/14 and Community Meeting at Christ International Baptist Church, 11/19/14.
 6. We are currently chairing the Delaware Valley Ebola Coalition made of the LAP/LMADV, the City of Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on African Caribbean Affairs, the Sierra and Guinean Communities (September 2014-).


RECOMMENDATIONS

To God be the glory for seeing us through a rather challenging and yet fulfilling year. We had a successful election and bi-election; successful inaugural ball; facilitated the formation of an active mass that participation in all LMADV major programs; participated in an unprecedented joint 167th July 26 Independence celebration and provided leadership to our community to our community during the arrest of the Korlewalas, the Gesner Street Fire tragedy and the Ebola crisis. Let me thank members of the LMAV, my fellow officers, board members, LAP officers; and all our partners, supporters and friends of the LMADV for your participation and support in 2014.

To continue, increase and expand our work for the next year of our term and that of future administrations, I am requesting your approval the following recommendations:

I. Structure Building

1. Review our monthly regular meeting day quarterly to ensure maximum participation in our meeting and activities.
2. Review the working committees' report to address the following needs of the LMADV: clarification of membership requirements/obligations and ineffective members and office holders.

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3. Appoint the Constitution Committee to implement the reinstatement/renewal of LMADV lost 501 C3 status with the IRS by January 31, 2015
 4. Adapt proposed guidelines for the governance of the mass choir membership and leadership.
 5. Member-churches without other covering considered tithing with the LMADV for which they receive full covering from the LMADV.
 6. Others:

II. Legacy Building

1. Continue to hold an annual event on the third Saturday of February (inauguration day) to celebrate, confer membership awards and recognition of leadership accomplishments. This will be launch on February 21, 2015. Buttons will provide membership buttons/pin to all registered due pay members.
2. Required all registered ministers of the LMADV to commit minimum of 5 or 10 members of their choirs/praise team members to the mass choir.
3. Continue Ministers and Spouse Rekindling Fellowship Dinner annually on a suitable day in November.
4. Others:

III. Identifying Community Partners

1. Fully continue an active support of the work of the Delaware Valley Ebola Response Coalition with focus on post Ebola planning in 2015 and beyond.
2. Work closely with LAP to utilize proposed partnership with the City of Philadelphia's Fire Department, 24th Police District, Mayor's Commission on African and Caribbean Affairs, and the Philadelphia Community of Leaders.
3. Continue Partnership with the Marriage School to host Ministers and Spouse Rekindling Fellowship Dinner annually.

4. Others:

In closing, let thank my fellow officers: (VP: Rev., Urias Dixon, Secretary: Rev. Solomon Mandala Mui, Financial Secretary: Rev. Amos Suah, Treasurer: Rev. Dr. Samuel Ndorleh, Chaplain: Rev. Letricia Roberts and PRO: Minister Hannah Brooks); officers of the Board of Directors (Rev. John K. Jallah-Chair, Bishop Gabriel Lardner-Co-chair, Bishop Joshua Cummings-Secretary, Rev. Henry Koffa-member, Rev. John Gblah-member); Members of the LMADV, Officers, Directors and members of the LMADV Mass Choir, Friends and Supporters of the LMADV and My family (wife: My First Lady Helena Lauren Johnson-Dennis and Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church) for your support during 2014.

Because the task at hand and ahead is extensive and our work has just began, I call on all of you to join us in moving the LMADV forward in 2015 and beyond. As Liberians, especially those of us who are Ministers in Diaspora must embrace our inevitable responsibility to be pillars of community, individually and collective for the "Unity for Spiritual Progress and Commitment" that we are called to foster. May God continue to bless the work, workers, supporters and efforts is of the LMADV now and in the years ahead, shalom!

2. THE TREASURER REPORT

The report of the treasurer was presented by Rev. Dr. Samuel Ndorleh. The report highlighted income and expenditure for the period covering 2014. The Treasurer report that in such an economic year, the organization ran into deficit but all expenses were incurred. He challenged the Assembly participant to do what they could to pay of the deficit. The treasurer on behalf of his church, Word of Life with pay 33% of the deficit and asked the assembly to cover the balance 66%

\$11272 the current administration started with.

Proposed Budget See financial sheet

E. GROUP SESSIONS

The groups' session was divided into three groups with each group discussing an assigned topic. The groups were divided into youth, women, and male pastors discussing the topics: the weaknesses and tensions that are challenging Liberian churches unity, and what are the strengths and opportunities that can be maximized for effective collaboration, and envisioning a 2015 of progress, the role of the Christian women, youth and pastor in fostering collaboration and community empowerment. These groups were facilitated by Rev. Nathaniel Miller, Rev. Marron Cassell, and Rev. Dr. Samuel Ndorleh for the youth, women and pastors respectively. After hours of discussions, the following were reported by each group:

1. The Youth Group

Bro. Diamond Hne read the Youth report on behalf of the group and the following were what they came up with:

Tension and Weaknesses: Every church seek to promote individualism than collaboration, there is lack of unity among young people, poor leadership, lack of zealousness among youth people for the Word of God, lack of good mentor for youth, rotation of youth from one church to another without question from host pastor,

Opportunities: The followings were opportunities presented by the youth group: present of youth to encourage each other, the energy of youth for active service.

Need for the future: Youth seminar for youth leadership empowerment, Pastors that will relate to youth, mobilize the youth into a structure for empowerment

Decision: Rev. Nathaniel Miller and Bro. Diamond Hne were endorsed as co-convenor of the youth structure to continue the work of the LMADV among youth from the churches.

2. The Women Group

Minister Lorpu Hunter made the presentation of the women group and the following were their **Tension and Weaknesses:** The women said the weaknesses that engulf the Christian community were pride, selfishness, self-centerless, disloyalty, forgiveness, and fear of being judge.



Strength and opportunities: Christ-centered, unity, care for one another

What need to be done: to see a bigger picture through the pastors. The pastor have to show the sheep that they are united which will encourage the members to follow. The women said that members need to encourage their pastors to be a part of the ministers Association. They noted that no one can survive as an Island, therefore pastors need to be encouraged to be a part of the greater body. Help and support pastors and their first ladies. Hold a retreat that will enrich one another. They also proposed a community center as a place for meeting and enrichment activities.

Action: To begin visiting the sick and shut-ins of members in the community. Bishop Tarpeh was suggested as the first person to be visited by the women.

Decision: Rev. Marron Cassell and Min. Lorpu Hunter were endorsed as co-conveners for the women group to continue the work of the LMADV with the women in the churches.

3. The Pastors Groups

The group report was read by Minister Abraham Mulbah and the following were what came out of their discussion:

Tension and Weaknesses: Division within the churches overflow and impact the Association, Leadership disrespect of time, pastor want to seek what is in it for them, lack of commitment and communication from pastors, share agenda and plans to be incorporated as one to reduce conflict

Strength: Leadership commitment, the administration was applauded for being committed. The Association has the opportunity to nurture churches to grow. The association has the human resource that can be made used of. Information sharing, Effective outreach

Need: The association should set up a work committee to plan activities for spiritual growth, and the ability to measure spiritual growth of member churches.

The group recommend that a committee be set up for the implementation of the recommendations from the pastor report and all others.

II. THE SECOND SESSION EMPOWERMENT SERVICE

The empowerment service of the Assembly started at 4:30 P.M. and was led by Rev. Nathaniel Miller as master of Ceremony and the Marron Cassell Ministries International Children Choir as guest Choir, and the Reverend Dr. Darlingston Johnson as Guest Preacher. The children Choir rendered three selections under the directorship of rev. Marron Cassell. The scripture reading of the service was done by Rev. Louise Koffa, reading from Ephesian 4:1-4. Intercessory prayers were lifted for Liberia, the United States, and the church universal by Bishop Gabriel Lardner.

Assembly Empowerment Message

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Darlingston G. Johnson


Theme: The Power of Partnership

Text: Ephesians 4:1-4

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called

The assembly Empowerment Service Message was delivered by the Presiding Prelate of the Bethel World Outreach Ministries International. Rev, Dr. Darlingston G. Johnson. Bishop Johnson spoke on the theme: "The Power of Partnership, using as reference the Assembly text of Ephesians 4:1-4. Bishop Johnson told the gathering that it is very important as ministers in this work to keep the bond of unity strong in other to achieve anything. He noted that it is difficult but with one goal, effective communication and the ability to resolve conflict, success can be achieved.

Bishop Johnson highlighted his message with reference to the Biblical story of the Tower of Babel found in Genesis 11. He noted that the people with one language and an agreeable goal show a power in partnership and God realized that the people if left alone, nothing can be impossible to them. Bishop Johnson said if God can hold the fact that when people partnership,



nothing can be impossible to them, it tells how powerful partnership can be. He appeal to the ministers to hold together for the sake of the Gospel.

Bishop Johnson said in order for partnership to be sustained these three things must be key in the partnership: having a clear goal, having effective communication, and having the ability to resolve conflict as they come out. Reflecting on these, he admonished the Liberian Ministers Association and Pastors in the Delaware Valley to hold together. Have a define goal to pursue, ensure effective communication, and be able to resolve conflict. He noted that conflict in any organization with people of different background is e inevitable but should not be the means of disbanding the organization. He laid contrast of the power of the devil to what God did with the people as the agreed in building the tower. As God change their language so that they will not understand each other, He said this is what the devil do to create conflict among people in organization that purposed to work for God. Once he is able to infuse gossip, backbiting people easily fall into conflict and take their focus from the goal.

Bishop Johnson climaxed his message by praying for the ministers and encouraged the ministers to hold on to the unity of the body of Christ regardless what happen. He said people have high expectations in the minister and therefore, let nothing be done to break the unity for in union success is sure.

III. Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The assembly generated the total of \$1,362.10 from delegate registration, general and special offering, and contribution

PROPOSED BUDGET

Liberian Ministers Association of the Delaware 2015 Proposed Budget

Description	2014	2014	2015
INCOME	Proposed	Actual	Proposed
Convention Income		1500	1500
Offerings		25	150
Membership Registration		165	300
Memberships Dues		283	400
Mass Choir Fund Raisers		2571.75	3000
Independence Day Thanksgiving		2275.5	1500
Awards Program		0	1200
Rekindling Dinner		659	900
Grants		<u>0</u>	<u>3000</u>
Total		7479.25	11950
EXPENSES			
Convention Expenses		1400	1500
Benevolence		200	300
Supplies		339.39	500
Mass Choir Activities		2955	2500
Website Maintenance		1015	320
Anniversary Gifts to members		150	600
Independence Day Thanksgiving		780	1400
Award Program		1307	1000
Rekindling Dinner		850	1000
Misc (Meeting/Transportation)		<u>760</u>	<u>1500</u>
Total		9756.39	10620

IV. Attendance

Name	Assembly Status	Church Affiliation	
Rev. Moses Suah-Dennis	President	-Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church	
Rev. Solomon M. Muin	Secretary General	Faith-Immanuel Lutheran	
Rev. Dr. Samuel Ndorleh	Treasurer	Word of Life International	
Rev. Amos Suah	Financial secretary	Agape International Baptist	
Rev. John K. Jallah	Board of Director	Agape Senior Center	
Rev. Henry J. koffa	Board member	Wesley AME Zion	
Rev. Zaworlo Gatei	Planning Chair	Divine Fellowship Church	
Rev. Nathaniel Miller	Speaker	CHRUDAL	
Rev. Selah Decku	Delegate	Full Gospel Living word	
Rev. Hosea Kanmoh	Delegate	New Hope Int'l Baptist	
Rev. Marron Cassell	Co-convener	Marron Cassell Ministries Int'l	
Minster Lorpu hunter	Co-convener	Fellowship of Intercessors	
Mother Helena Dennis	Women Delegate	Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church	
Rev. Louise Koffa	Women Delegate	Wesley AME Zion Church	
Bro. Diamond Hne	Youth Co-convener	Fellowship of Intercessors	
Bro. Carlos	Youth Delegate	Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church	
Sis. Sadia Sherman	Women Delegate	Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church	
Bro. Lemue Quimene	Youth Delegate	Greater Refuge Church	
Rev. Dominic Dunbar	Delegate	Divine Fellowship Church	
Bro. Steve Gatei	Delegate	Divine Fellowship	
Sis. Patricia Oleyama	Youth Delegate	Fellowship of Intercessor	
Min. Abraham Mulbah	Delegate	Fellowship of intercessor	
Sis. Myers	Women Delegate	Full Gospel Ministries	
Bro. Jackie Wleh	Youth Delegate	Agape International Baptist	
Dr. Eric Edi	Guest	AFRICOM	
Deacon Jessie Jallah	Delegate	Liberian Community Mass Choir	
Ms. Victoria Harris	Guest	Jack Herzig Law Firm	
Rev. Joseph Koroma	Guest	Sierra Leon Christian Community	
Rev. Dr. Malcom Byrds	Guest	Mayor Commission on Faith-based Initiative	



Mr. Allen Richardson	Guest	ADT	
Bishop Gabriel Lardner	Delegate	Fellowship of Intercessors	
Bishop Darlington Johnson	Guest Preacher	Bethel World Outreach Ministries	

V. Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with deep gratitude the following individual without whom the Assembly wouldn't be as possible as it was

1. The Planning committee of the Assembly for the beautiful work done and to mention its chairman and members
 - Rev. Zarwolo Gatei.....Chairman
 - Rev. Napoleon Divine....Member
 - Rev. Henry Kofffa..... Member
 - Pastor Doris Howard...Member
 - Rev. Amos T. Suah..... Member
 - Min. Abraham Mulbah. Member
 - Min. Hannah Brooks...Member
2. The Guest Choir, The Marron Cassell Ministries International Children Choir and Ambassador Marron Cassell
3. The Guest Preacher and Presiding Prelate of the Bethel world Outreach Ministries International , the, Reverend Dr. Darlingston G. Johnson
4. the Groups Facilitators
 - Rev. Dr. Samuel Ndorleh
 - Rev. Amb. Marron Cassell
 - Rev. Nathaniel Miller
5. The Special Guests who attended the Assembly:
 - Rev. Dr. Malcom Byrds, Coordinator of the Mayor Commission on Faith-Based Initiative
 - Dr. Eric Edi, President of AFRICOM
 - Rev. Joseph Koroma, President of the Sierra Leonean Christian Community of PA
 - Mr. Allen Richardson of ADT
 - Ms. Victoria Harris of the Jack Hetzig Law Firm
6. The Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church for providing the Association their space to host the Assembly
7. Janet and Associates for providing the Assembly Catering service
8. And all of our pastors and ministers who left their busy schedule to spend the whole day for the sake of the Liberia Christian Community.

VI. Contact Information

Respective Contacts

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