

## MINUTES OF THE FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

May 3, 2011

Davison Missionary Church, Davison, MI

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP** The Annual Conference of the Michigan District of the Missionary Church was held May 3, 2011 at the Davison Missionary Church, Davison, MI. The Conference began at 10:00 AM with praise and worship led by Jason Rohde and the worship team of Davison.

Rev. Jim Keller opened the conference in prayer and challenged those in attendance with a message titled "The Pursuit," based from Psalm 63:8. In his message, Rev. Keller encouraged the conference to pursue God, pursue the vision, and pursue the lost.

**WELCOME** Pastor Allen Sudmann of Davison Missionary Church then greeted the conference and provided some instructions.

**CALL TO ORDER** The business meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

**CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE** The First Report of the Credentials Committee was presented by Rev. Bart Adams as follows:

165- Total voting members  
75- Ordained  
15- Licensed  
57- Delegates  
2- Lay workers under D.S. appointment  
17- Other voting members

This report was received by unanimous consent. M/S/A

**AGENDA** The agenda for the Conference was presented by the District Superintendent.

RESOLVED, that the agenda be adopted. M/S/A

**RULES OF ORDER** The Rules of Order were presented by the District Secretary from page three of the conference journal. Articles four, five and seven were noted in particular.

RESOLVED, that the Rules of Order be adopted. M/S/A

**CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS** The following appointments were presented for approval:

Parliamentarian: Rev. Don Severance, Chairman; Rev. Karl Yoder, Asst.

Conference Program Manager: Dr. Alan Yerke

Assistant Secretary: Rev. Jonathan Boyer

Recommendations and Resolutions Committee: Rev. Doug Connelly, Chairman; Rev. Bill Barnwell, Rev. Jim Jordan, Jr.

Introductions Committee: Rev. Jeff Hossler, Chairman; Rev. Jim Thompson

Credentials Committee: Rev. Bart Adams, District Office Staff

Tellers-Ushers-Greeters: Pastor Chris Glantz, Chairman; Pastor Becky Bartle, Pastor Jeff Bridell, Rev. Dan Hamrick, Rev. Tim Patch, Rev. Rick Turner

RESOLVED, that the Conference appointments be approved. M/S/A

## **CONFERENCE BAR**

The Conference Bar was established by the District Superintendent as all seats in the auditorium from the first row to the fourth row from the back.

RESOLVED, that the conference bar be established. M/S/A

## **INTRODUCTIONS COMMITTEE**

The first report of the Introductions Committee was presented by Rev. Jeff Hossler. The following guests were warmly welcomed by the Michigan District:

Jerry Dziejzik – Stewart and Associates, Davison

Don Pierce – Brotherhood Insurance

Dr. Steve Cramer and Dr. Dennis Engbrecht – Bethel College

Dave Mann – World Partners Director

Joseph Oyuki – Missionary Church of Uganda

Ezekiel Ango – Missionary Church of Nigeria

Dr. Bill Hossler – President of the Missionary Church USA

Dr. Tom Murphy – Development and Communications Director

Mr. Steve Sisson – MCIF

Rev. Bob Ransom – US Ministries Director

## **BETHEL COLLEGE GREETING**

Dr. Steve Cramer, President of Bethel College, assisted by Dr. Dennis Engbrecht greeted the conference on behalf of Bethel College. Dr. Cramer reported Bethel had 570 graduates this year, with over 2200 students total. The school currently ranks at 16<sup>th</sup> out of 40 similar schools in the region, has recently received a superior accreditation review, successfully launched an urban ministry center, is remodeling the cafeteria, and is exploring partnership possibilities in China and India. Dr. Cramer reminded the conference that Bethel's vision is to keep Christ first in all they do, help students be academically prepared and remain spiritually fervent. Dr. Engbrecht concluded the greeting with some inspiring testimonies regarding the recent revival that had occurred on the campus in February 2011.

DS Jim Keller then led the conference in prayer for Bethel College.

**DISTRICT  
SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Keller, made comments regarding his report focusing on the personnel changes, installations, and retirements in the District. A note was made about the changes to page seven of the conference journal under Pastor Commissioning and Installation Ceremonies to change the dates of last three of commissioning/installations from 2010 to 2011. M/S/A

**MEMORIAL REPORT**

The Memorial Report was presented by Rev. Tom Knight. Rev. Jim Thompson concluded the report by leading the conference in prayer.

RESOLVED, that the District Superintendent's Report and the Memorial Report be approved. M/S/A

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE  
BOARD REPORT**

Rev. Mike Cadrette, District Executive Board Secretary, presented the District Executive Board Report.

RESOLVED, that the Executive Board Report be approved. M/S/A

**WRITTEN AND  
FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Dr. Al Yerke led the conference in a brief review of the various ministry reports, especially thanking Rev. Christine Crocker and Rev. Stan Liechty, for their years of faithful service as District Directors.

RESOLVED, that the written and financial reports be approved. M/S/A

**REORGANIZATION  
PROPOSAL**

DS Jim Keller and Dr. Al Yerke led the conference in a review and discussion of the proposed structural changes, with careful attention given to any potential questions from the body. District Conference Secretary then read the District Executive Board recommendation. Rev. Tom Knight led the conference in prayer.

**SPECIAL DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE BOARD  
RECOMMENDATION  
RE: REGIONAL  
BYLAWS AND MISSION  
DISTRICT GUIDELINES**

The District Executive Board Recommendation to District Conference 2011 was presented:

WHEREAS, the Missionary Church and the Michigan District, in obedience to Jesus Christ her Lord, is committed to being holy people of God in the world and to building His Church by worldwide evangelism, discipleship and multiplication of growing churches to the glory of God...

AND WHEREAS, the Missionary Church as a denomination has engaged in a thorough process of evaluation and reorganization to become more effective in fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20, that has culminated with the adoption of a new ministry vision and support structure at General Conference 2009...

AND WHEREAS, the Michigan District has also undergone a process of evaluation and reorganization which includes a statement of vision, mission and priorities and adopted in principle at District Conference 2010 the concept of transitioning to a Region with multiple districts...

AND WHEREAS, District Conference 2010 approved in principle that this new structure would include all current District churches, pastors and ministries and that, as time, resources, vision, etc. permit, new mission districts within the Michigan Region be formed...

AND WHEREAS, District Conference 2010 authorized the District Executive Board to appoint an implementation team to develop a strategy to guide the District through this period of transition and to prepare a set of bylaws for the Region and guidelines for mission districts...

AND WHEREAS, the implementation team has met during the fall of 2010 and the winter of 2011 and has prepared a set of bylaws for the Region and guidelines for mission districts, which were approved by the District Executive Board on February 1, 2011 and presented to the District at a forum on March 26, 2011...

BE IT RESOLVED, that we recommend to District Conference 2011 the approval of such bylaws and guidelines for mission districts and these bylaws and guidelines go into effect July 1, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on July 1, 2011, the Michigan District will become known as the Michigan Region and the District Office as the Resource Center. On July 1, 2011, the Regional Oversight Council will become the main governing body of the Region between Regional Conferences and the positions of District Superintendent and the Director of District Ministries will change to the positions of Regional Director and Regional Ministries Coordinator respectively...

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that current District ministries, teams, boards and committees, which include but are not limited to Brown City Camp, Mancelona Camp, Youth Ministry Team, Family and Children's Team, Church Multiplication Team, and Strengthening the Local Church Team, continue to operate in the Michigan Region. Current job descriptions and team, board and committee duties will be published in a Regional Handbook on Policy and Procedures which will be subject to review and/or modification by the Regional Oversight Council and the Regional Conference...

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conference budget adopted by

District Conference 2011 will serve as the operating budget for the Region until the Regional Conference adopts a budget for 2012 and that the current formula and rate of apportionments (to be known as ministry shares) continue to operate in the new Region and will not be modified without the approval of the Regional Conference...

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we acknowledge God's sovereign leadership in this process, recognize our utter dependence on His Holy Spirit, and seek to implement this new structure as a means to reach lost people for Christ, make disciples, strengthen local churches, and plant churches and districts, all to the glory of God.

RESOLVED that the DEB recommendation be approved. The motion carried by a show of hands. M/S/A

#### **ELECTIONS**

Rev. Tom Knight led the conference in the presentation of the ballot. Rev. Knight led the conference through each section individually, providing for nominations from the floor, There were no nominations from the floor.

#### **LUNCH BREAK**

Adjourned for lunch at 12:45pm

#### **SECOND SESSION**

The second session began at 2:05pm.

#### **WORLD PARTNERS PRESENTATION**

Rev. Dave Mann led the World Partners presentation with a video update about his recent trip to Africa with DS Jim Keller and Rev. Phil Whetstone. Rev. Mann gave us a brief survey of God's activity as he met with 18 African leaders from 8 different countries. The conference was then introduced to Rev. Joseph Oyuki, International Africa Partners director. Rev. Oyuki shared his testimony, the impact of the Keystone training in his life, and an encouraging summary of his current ministry..

DS. Jim Keller then presented Rev. Oyuki with a check for \$3500 dollars from the churches and the District.

Rev. Mann then wrapped up his presentation by giving each church a current copy of *Operation World* and challenged the conference to include Central Africa in our missions planning.

DS Jim Keller then led the conference in a season of prayer for Rev. Oyuki and his ministry.

**READING OF THE  
MINUTES FROM THE  
FIRST SESSION**

RESOLVED to forgo the reading of the minutes from the first session and refer them to a committee composed of Dr. Michael S. Cadrette, Rev. Jonathan Boyer, and Rev. Karl Yoder. M/S/A

**CREDENTIALS  
COMMITTEE**

Rev. Bart Adams presented the second report of the Credentials Committee.

172- Total voting members  
78- Ordained  
16- Licensed  
58- Delegates  
2- Lay workers under D.S. appointment  
18- Other voting members

This report was received by unanimous consent. M/S/A

**INTRODUCTIONS  
COMMITTEE**

There were no new introductions.

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
AND THE 2010  
CONFERENCE BUDGET**

District Treasurer, Mr. Harlan Gingrich, presented the Treasurer's Report and the Report of the Auditors.

RESOLVED, to adopt the Auditor's Report. M/S/A

RESOLVED, to adopt the Treasurer's Report. M/S/A

RESOLVED, to adopt the 2011 Conference Budget. M/S/A

**ELECTION REPORT**

RESOLVED that election results be presented without numbers. M/S/A

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Rev. Jim Keller is elected as regional Director. (Elect 1 for 4 year term)

REGIONAL OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

The Regional Oversight Council will have seven members, elected by the Regional Conference. Four of the seven will be credentialed ministers and the other three members will be laypersons. They will be elected for staggered four-year terms. Those elected:

Pastors:

(Elect 2 for 2 Year Term)

Doug Connelly

Jim Jordan

(Elect 2 for 4 Year Term)

Reggie Courliss

Jeff Hossler

Laypersons:

(Elect 1 for 2 Year Term)

Steve Severance

(Elect 2 for 4 Year Term)

Darrell Schlabach

Kurt Tuckey

BROWN CITY CAMP BOARD

Pastors:  
(Elect 2 for 3 Year Term)  
Tom Knight  
Brent Kriesch

Laypersons:  
(Elect 1 for 3 Year Term)  
John French

MANCELONA CAMP BOARD

Pastors: (Elect 2 for 3 Year Term)  
Jim Jordan  
Cliff Batterbee

This report was received by unanimous consent. M/S/A

**BREAK**

Conference adjourned at 3:15pm to allow MML&I to conduct its annual meeting.

**THIRD SESSION**

The third session began at 3:45pm.

**YOUTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Rev. Tim Patch presented an overview of youth ministries, highlighting 3DYC, youth camps, Student of the Year Awards, and SonLife training.

This report was received by unanimous consent. M/S/A

**CHURCH MULTIPLICATION TEAM REPORT**

Rev. Tom Blaylock presented the Church Multiplication report. He reported that 35% of our churches are currently involved in church planting, reviewed the recent church plants, and thanked Colonial Woods in particular for their commitment to daughtering new churches. Rev. Blaylock then shared video clips from Josh Hossler at Evident, Matt Woodburn at VOX, Bassim Gorial in Dearborn, and Adam Lockhart from Pursuit Church in Riverview. Tom concluded his report by leading a time of prayer for these church planters and ministries.

**DENOMINATIONAL GREETINGS**

President of the Missionary Church USA, Dr. Bill Hossler, greeted the conference. He began by explaining the importance of a retirement plan using Guidestone, and thanked newly elected Regional Director Jim Keller for his leadership. Regarding the new approved structural changes, Dr. Hossler reminded the conference that the new regional director's role would be one of leadership development, and concluded his remarks with an invitation to send young leaders to an upcoming leadership conference in Orlando, Florida in April 2012.

Rev. Bob Ransom, US Ministries Director, also shared greeting. Rev. Ransom reported that 35 new churches have been started across the denomination so far this year this year, and plans are in the works for 20-22 more in 2011.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Rev. Doug Connelly presented the report from the Recommendations Committee. There were no recommendations forwarded to the conference.

The Resolutions Committee Report was presented by Rev. Doug Connelly as follows:

### **Recommendation from the Resolutions and Recommendations Committee:**

We encourage all pastors and licensed ministers to examine carefully the proposed “Core Affirmation” document and to submit any questions, concerns, or requests for clarification to the Constitutional Commission in a timely manner.

### **Resolutions:**

Whereas Pastor Allen Sudmann and all of the staff and volunteers at Davison Missionary Church have hosted this conference in such an exemplary way and have extended Christ-like hospitality to us,

Be it resolved that we express our appreciation by standing and giving them a rousing round of applause.

Whereas Jim Keller has served faithfully as the *last* District Superintendent of the Michigan District for the past twelve years and has been overwhelmingly elected as the *first* Regional Director of the Michigan Region by this conference,

And has challenged us by word and example to pursue God, pursue the vision, and pursue the lost,

Be it resolved that we renew our personal and regional commitment to follow hard after the Lord and affirm such with a shout of “Praise the Lord.”

Whereas our brothers, Ezekiel and Joseph, have shared with us their passion and zeal for the Lord and demonstrated their courage and sacrifice for the accomplishment of the Great Commission,

Be it resolved that we regularly lift these men and their associates in prayer and that we as a Region partner with them in their efforts to bring Christ’s light to the people of their countries;

And whereas we have been gripped by their example and humility,

Be it resolved that we pledge to bring that same missional zeal to our own communities and state and that we express that desire with a hearty “Amen.”

RESOLVED, to adopt the Resolutions Report. M/S/A

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** RESOLVED: to refer any unfinished business to the District Executive Board’s June 2011 meeting for action. M/S/A

**CONFERENCE MINUTES** RESOLVED: to suspend the rules and forego the reading of the minutes for the entire District Conference and submit them to a Committee of Dr. Mike Cadrette, Rev. Jonathan Boyer, and Rev. Karl Yoder. M/S/A

**DATE FOR FRIST REGIONAL CONFERENCE** The date for the first Michigan Regional Conference is tentatively set for April 26, 2012.

**CALL TO FASTING AND PRAYER** District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Keller reviewed the commitment to the Call to Prayer and Fasting that is in the conference journal and dismissed us in prayer.

**KEEPING THE VISION CHALLENGE** Rev. Phil Whetstone shared a final challenge on “Keeping the Vision,” using Paul’s visionary example from Philippians 3:7-14. This word of encouragement was presented as we seek to implement what we have seen and heard during conference. Paul’s life reveals four keys for living out the vision one has for ministry:

1. Paul is able to discover what hurt him.
2. Paul is able to discover what he should be doing.
3. Paul is able to determine how to get it.
4. Paul is able to ignore distractions.

**CLOSING PRAYER** Dr. Michael S. Cadrette closed the conference in prayer.

**ADJOURNMENT** The 2011 Michigan District Conference of the Missionary Church was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Michael S. Cadrette, Secretary