

**MINUTES OF THE 66th SESSION OF THE NEW JERSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL/MINISTRY NETWORK SUMMIT OF
THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD (VIRTUAL)
Convened/Led from Burlington, New Jersey
Monday, June 29, 2020**

The 66th session of the New Jersey District Council/Ministry Network commenced at 1:05 pm. at the Fountain of Life Center in Burlington, New Jersey, with hosts, Brooke Altshcul and Brian Petrow. (Before the meeting started, informational slides were shown explaining the format and workings of the virtual meeting.)

Presentations

An Assemblies of God Credit Union (a financial sponsor) video was shown to the virtual audience.

Diverse credential holders helped to open the Network Summit in prayer by way of video.

Devotion

Superintendent Don James and his wife, Donna, welcomed the virtual constituency. He then shared a devotion on "Pathway to Blessing." One of the central themes of Scripture is the blessing of God. God blessed everything He created (Genesis 1). God blesses us to make us fruitful. From the beginning of time, God released His blessing on man (Genesis 1:26-27). What does it look like when God wants to bless?

1. The Principle of Stability (Genesis 1) – nothing was out of control when God put His hand on it. Creation became stable. Unlike the world, every ministry should be marked by the virtue of stability. This is exactly what the world needs.
2. Excel and Fruitful – Under God's blessing, things will excel, move forward and become fruitful (Genesis 1). The Great Commission characterizes this (John 15:1-8; Isaiah 54). God desires excelling, fruitful ministers.
3. Thriving – Adam was to exercise authority/rule and dominion. God wants our churches to thrive. (Ephesians 1: 22).

How do we insure the blessing of God? The life of Abraham exhibits all of these (Genesis 12:1-3). It starts with God. Are we God-centered (Matthew 6:33)? We are then blessed to be a blessing! Blessing flows to us and through us. We are still living in the blessing of Abraham (Galatians 3). God wants to bless, but are we bless-able? Why was Abraham bless-able?

- He was obedient – moving out for God even when we don't have the answers. God will reveal enough to get you to the next level.
- He was honorable – there is a direct connection between being honorable and being bless-able. We are to honor God in everything we do. Everything we do is to be an act of worship. Abraham gave a tithe as an act of worship. God desires and deserves out firstfruits.
- He was faithful – Abraham was the father of faith (Romans 4:18-21). God blesses faith.

Business Session

The superintendent (chairman) asked Executive Secretary Frank Reitzel to give the roster report.

Roster Committee Report

Frank E. Reitzel, Jr. Chairperson of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 1:30 pm on Monday, June 29, 2020:

Credential holders: 263
Delegates: 22
Total Voting Registration: 285

A motion prevailed to archive the roster report into our records.

Adoption of Agenda

The superintendent announced that the Summit has an agenda. A motion prevailed that the agenda be adopted.

Minutes

A motion prevailed to archive the 2019 District Council/Network Summit Minutes.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Don James read the report of the superintendent. A motion prevailed to accept his report.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer David Dallenbach offered the report of the treasurer by video. He then followed up with live commentary regarding the new budget system, the Network supporting missionaries, the sacred tithe, and Assembly Offerings. Questions and discussion with the treasurer followed, including the sacred tithe, value based ministries allocations, along with an update of last year's resolution regarding Assembly Offerings. A motion prevailed to archive the Treasurer's Report.

Ratification of Presbyters and Department Leaders

The superintendent shared the names of the leaders who were to be voted upon.

Virtual Election Process

Assistant Superintendent Bryon White walked the virtual attendees through the election process. The ballot was cast for the ratification of presbyters and department leaders.

Memorials 2020 Video

Executive Secretary Frank E. Reitzel, Jr. expressed appreciation and honored, by video, four ministers who went to be with the Lord since our 2019 District Council/Network Summit.

Ratification of Presbyters and Department Leaders cont.

The assistant superintendent reported that all of the presbyters and department leaders were ratified.

District Presbyter	Yes	No
John Bechtel – ECN Section	206	0
Wes Kenyon – N Section	198	8
Mike Pignaloso – NW Section	198	8
Russ Hodgins – WCN Section	202	4
Guido Encalada – Hispanic Fellowship	202	4
Nestor Arellano – Filipino Fellowship	203	3

Departmental Directors

Brian Donnachie – Men’s Ministries	198	8
Andrea Rovaggi – Women’s Ministries	202	4
Anna Nicktern – Girls Ministries	193	13
Ellwood Cutler – Royal Rangers	191	15
David Amendola – Assistant Youth Director	201	5
Nancy Tonnessen – Deaf Ministries	206	0

Election of District/Network Youth Director

The executive secretary read from the district bylaws and policy and procedure manual regarding the election of the District Youth Director. The superintendent announced that one name was nominated by the district presbytery: Fabian Kalapuch.

Virtual Election Process

The assistant superintendent walked the virtual attendees through the election process. The ballot was cast for the election of the District Youth Director.

Presentation

The executive secretary announced a special gift for credential holders from the Network and RightNow Media. A video presentation was shown to the virtual assembly.

Election of District/Network Youth Director cont.

The superintendent announced that Fabian Kalapuch was re-elected to the District Youth Director position.

Total Votes Cast	214
Votes Needed To Elect	143
Fabian Kalapuch	179

Fabian Kalapuch and his wife Dawn thanked the assembly.

Resolutions

Note: All resolutions presented were passed. All of them were presented seriatim, allowing for questions. After discussion of all the resolutions, they then were voted on all at once virtually using Election Runner.

Resolution: Honorary Presbyter – Carl J. Colletti

Frank E. Reitzel, Jr. executive secretary and member of the Resolutions Committee, presented the first resolution: Honorary Presbyter – Carl J. Colletti. The resolution was sponsored by the district presbytery and therefore was already moved and seconded. The motion was carried to adopt the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, Carl J. Colletti has served the Assemblies of God with great distinction as a minister of the Gospel for 52 years; and

- WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a general presbyter for 28 years, during which time he served as district treasurer of the New Jersey District for 5 years, and as district superintendent of the New Jersey District for 20 years; and
- WHEREAS, He served on the Board of Trustees of the University of Valley Forge for a total of 23 years and chairman of the Board of Trustees for 17 years, and
- WHEREAS, He continues to serve as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Valley Forge; and
- WHEREAS, He has served on various committees of the General Council; and
- WHEREAS, This Fellowship has been blessed by his spiritual leadership, practical wisdom, and faithfulness in ministry and service; and
- WHEREAS, It is proper and fitting to honor those whose service among us has represented the highest standards of integrity, ethics, loyalty, diligence, and hard work; and
- WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 3, of the New Jersey District Council Constitution and Article I, Section 2.g, of the Council's Bylaws, makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be recommended as an honorary presbyter by the District Presbytery and approved by The New Jersey District Council of the Assemblies of God in session by a majority vote; and
- WHEREAS, Carl J. Colletti meets all of the New Jersey District Council Constitution and Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary presbyter; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That Carl J. Colletti be elected by this 2020 New Jersey District Council to the position of honorary presbyter of The New Jersey District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution: Organizational Assistance (to align with 2019 General Council changes)

Frank E. Reitzel, Jr. executive secretary and member of the Resolutions Committee, presented the second resolution: Organizational Assistance. The resolution was sponsored by the district presbytery and therefore was already moved and seconded. The motion was carried to adopt the new reading as follows:

New Jersey District Council Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 4:

Organizational Assistance: The services of both the General Council and district council are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 30 percent of the voting members, with the petitioning process and delivery to the district council taking no more than 30 days in total to complete. When district officers receive such requests, it is recommended they first verify that scriptural principles of reconciliation, such as those found in Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:19, have been reasonably attempted by the requesting party in situations involving interpersonal conflict. District officers shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the responsible district governing entity, (e.g., district presbytery or district executive presbytery). At its discretion, that governing entity may act to provide organizational assistance to the church and, when necessary, revert it from General Council Status to

district affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved. *General Council Bylaws, Article VI, Section 4.c.*

Resolution: General Council Nonresident Executive Presbyters

Frank E. Reitzel, Jr. executive secretary and member of the Resolutions Committee, presented the third resolution: General Council Nonresident Executive Presbyters. The resolution was sponsored by the district presbytery and therefore was already moved and seconded. The motion was carried to adopt the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, The position of Executive Presbyter is a nationally known position and voted on the General Council floor every two years; and

WHEREAS, We seek to save and consolidate the time spent for this process at Network Council in a streamlined manner; and

WHEREAS, The proposed bylaw edits are for conformity purposes with the Policy and Procedure Manual changes by the district presbytery in 2013 and 2020, helping to expedite the voting process in District and Sectional Councils; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the District Council Bylaws, Article I. Elections and Vacancies, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph f. Nonresident Executive Presbyters, which reads:

f. Nonresident Executive Presbyters- The New Jersey District Council shall, at its annual meeting, during the General Council year when the Northeast Area executive presbyter is being elected, and prior to the General Council session, nominate two ordained ministers, one of whom is not an elected full time district official. For these two nominees, there shall be open nominations at a District Council and a two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate to the General Council. On a rotating basis, three additional individuals shall be nominated: one who is an ordained minister under forty years of age at the time of election, one ordained female (no age requirement), and one ordained African-American minister (no age requirement). These names are to be presented to the General Council as nominees from the Northeast region. A ballot shall be presented to the District Council in session and a two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate.

Be amended to read:

f. Nonresident Executive Presbyters- The New Jersey District Council shall, at its annual meeting, during the General Council year when the Northeast Area executive presbyter is being elected, and prior to the General Council session, nominate two ordained ministers, one of whom is not an elected full time district official. ~~For these two nominees, there shall be open nominations at a District Council and~~ A two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate to the General Council. On a rotating basis, three additional individuals shall be nominated: one who is an ordained minister under forty years of age at the time of election, one ordained female (no age requirement), and one ordained African-American minister (no age requirement). **If any election is not declared on the third electoral ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be the only nominees to be voted upon until an election is declared.** These names are to be presented to the General Council as nominees from the Northeast region. A ballot shall be presented to the District Council in session and a two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate.

Resolution: District Presbyters Term Limits

Mario Gonzalez, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented the fourth resolution: District Presbyter Term Limits. The resolution was sponsored by two credential holders and therefore was already moved and seconded. After discussion for and against the motion, a call for the question was made along with a point of order by the parliamentarian regarding the vote, which was cleared up. A motion was moved, seconded, and carried by two-thirds vote to move the previous question. The motion was carried to adopt the resolution as follows:

- WHEREAS, There is a desire to develop the next generation and a diversity of leaders; and
- WHEREAS, There is a need to engage and promote leadership opportunities; and
- WHEREAS, It is beneficial to have greater awareness of Network operations; and
- WHEREAS, There is value in the variation of voices; and
- WHEREAS, Without term limits, an incumbent may feel the obligation to perpetually continue in office, even if they would like to step down, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Bylaws, Article I—Elections and Vacancies, Section 2 Nominations and Elections, Paragraph C—District Presbyters, Page 2, which reads:
District Presbyters – They shall be nominated biennially at the Sectional Council by a secret ballot two-thirds vote of their respective sections, and shall be declared elected by ratification at the following District Council. In the event that ratification does not occur, members of the respective section, present at the Council, shall caucus and present another name for nomination. The term of office for district presbyters shall be two years and shall begin immediately upon ratification by the Council in session. Elections will be conducted on alternate years with half of the presbyters elected each year. A newly nominated presbyter may meet with the District Presbytery during the interim between the Sectional Council in which he is nominated and ensuing District Council, but may not have the right to vote on any issue as a member of the Presbytery until after the adjournment of the session in which he is ratified.

Be amended to read:

District Presbyters – They shall be nominated biennially at the Sectional Council by a secret ballot two-thirds vote of their respective sections, and shall be declared elected by ratification at the following District Council. In the event that ratification does not occur, members of the respective section, present at the Council, shall caucus and present another name for nomination. The term of office for district presbyters shall be two years and shall begin immediately upon ratification by the Council in session. **The total amount of consecutive terms a Presbyter may serve once ratified by the District Council shall be limited to four (4) terms for a total of eight (8) consecutive years. Once a Presbyter has left office, having served the maximum number of consecutive terms allowed, and having not been in office for at least one (1) full term, he may again be considered for the position of Presbyter.** Elections will be conducted on alternate years with half of the presbyters elected each year. A newly nominated presbyter may meet with the District Presbytery during the interim between the Sectional Council in which he is nominated and ensuing District Council, but may not have the right to vote on any issue as a member of the Presbytery until after the adjournment of the session in which he is ratified;

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That the amended reading is to take effect over the next two (2) years at the ratification of each District Presbyter.

Virtual Voting Process

The assistant superintendent, at the request of the chairman, walked the virtual attendees through the resolution voting process. The votes for the resolutions were cast.

Presentation

An Emery and Webb (insurance providers – financial sponsor) video was shown.

Resolution Results

The chairman reported that all resolutions were passed.

Missions Church Giving and Missions Thanks

Two videos were shown. On the first video, Missions Director Rich Leksell informed the virtual assembly of the top missions giving churches. The second video was a collage of missionaries thanking the New Jersey Ministry Network family for their faithful giving to missions.

Retirement Announcement

Rich Leksell announced his retirement as assistant to the superintendent in world and home missions/church planting. The superintendent thanked the Leksells for their tireless efforts on behalf of the New Jersey Ministry Network. Former superintendent Carl Colletti led in prayer for Rich and Nancy.

Presentation

A Ministers' School video was presented.

Courtesy Announcement

The executive secretary read a courtesy announcement thanking all those who helped and who invested into the Network Summit, including AGCU, Emery and Webb, Network leaders and staff, committee members, Fountain of Life Center, Pastor Russ Hodgins and the church team.

Adjournment – Prayer

Superintendent Don James closed the meeting in prayer at 4:09 pm. A motion prevailed to adjourn.