



128th Session of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. Pre-Convention Board Meeting September 8, 2008 -Cincinnati, OH

The National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated met in Cincinnati, Ohio on September 8, 2008 under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. William J. Shaw, President and Presiding Officer, Reverend Dr. Harry Blake, General Secretary, Reverend Dr. H. Devore Chapman, Recording Secretary. The meeting was called to order by President Shaw following the devotional period and reading and adoption of the June Board Meeting Minutes.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- ◆ Correction to the June Board Minutes
 - ✓ Reverend Dr. James Collins was appointed as Director General of the Congress of Christian Education replacing Dr. Reuben Green.
- ◆ Overview for the 128th Annual Session
 - ✓ President Shaw gave an overview of the program for the week. It was duly noted that there are two (2) sites for the plenary sessions, the US Bank Arena will be used on Tuesday and Thursday morning sessions and all other sessions will convene in the Duke Energy Center Grand Ballroom.
- ◆ Report of Sick
 - ✓ Mrs. Camellia Shaw and Dr. Harry Blake are absent due to illness.
 - ✓ Dr. Guy Campbell thanked the body for prayers for his wife.
 - ✓ Also noted the presence of Dr. McKinley who has been very sick.
- ◆ Disaster Relief Report
 - ✓ Bro. Harold Simmons, President of the Laymen, updated the convention on the efforts of the Laymen. The Laymen have purchased materials at discounted rates for use in the rebuilding efforts in New Orleans, LA. The Laymen go to New Orleans bi-monthly to continue the rebuilding efforts and others were encouraged to join the movement.
 - ✓ Reverend Dr. Randy Vaughn addressed President Shaw and thanked him for the opportunity to serve as Director of Disaster Management.
 - Tornadoes touched down in Jackson, TN following the September 2007 meeting.
 - Floods devastated Cedar Rapids, IA. Two (2) NBCUSA, Inc. churches were destroyed.
 - Fires in California are being monitored through the American Red Cross.
 - Hurricane Faye touched down on the Florida shores. The Florida Baptist State Convention has volunteers trained and certified by the American Red Cross.
 - Hurricane Gustav devastated the cities of Houma, Morgan City, Baton Rouge and Plaquemine all located in Louisiana.
 - Hurricane Hanna struck the Carolina coast however it is too early for assessment.

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- Hurricane Ike is likely to touch down in Louisiana and many have already been asked to evacuate.
- Appeal for prayers and resources for Haiti, the Bahamas, and other areas affected by hurricanes
- The question was raised as to statistics on the conventions contributions to relief efforts. President Shaw responded there are numerous printed documents with information. (The Foreign Mission and Home Mission both published contributions.)
- ✓ Teach For America Presentation – Nicole Fulgham, Ph.D
 - Outstanding leaders are recruited to teach for two (2) years in low-income schools in America to help close the education gap.
 - A handout was distributed and the web address given for additional information, www.teachforamerica.org
- ✓ Special \$1,000,000 Finance Effort
 - \$400,000 need for American Baptist College (took a line of credit in anticipation of funds from the Convention)
 - \$200,000 unfunded President's endowed scholarships (three of five have been funded)
 - \$200,000 approximate cost to replace roof at the Baptist World Center building.
 - \$100,000 approximate cost for 2009 election and the work of the election supervisory committee.
 - \$100,000 cost parking lot at Baptist World Center building.
 - Offerings were received and a period for pledges.
- ✓ Review Preliminary Budget 2009
 - Copies of the preliminary budget were distributed. It was stated the budget is to be approved in the opening General Session.
- ✓ Report on Convention Programmatic Re-alignments
 - Reverend Dr. Alvin Love presented the organization structure planning meeting consolidated report. The goal of the re-alignment is to eliminate duplication of services by the convention.
 - ❖ Council on Global Missions
 - ❖ Stewardship Management and Budget (all auxiliaries)
 - ❖ Faith and Works (all auxiliaries – SSPB, Housing, etc.)
 - ❖ Communication, Marketing and Technology (TOPIC Ministry, Public Relations, other publications)
 - ❖ Education and Training – Congress of Christian Education and Sunday School Publishing Board
 - Final design will be submitted for adoption in the January 2009 meeting.
 - Questions raised by:
 - ❖ Reverend Dr. G. Gunns
 - ❖ Reverend Dr. Calvin Butts
 - ❖ Reverend Dr. Simmons
- ✓ Election Procedures for 2009
 - Nomination Certification Committee to be named in the September 2008 session. This committee will be appointed by President Shaw.
 - Each candidate must have a minimum of 100 letters of nomination from qualified churches. The submission must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2008.

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- Non-financial churches cannot nominate a candidate.
- To be considered a financial church a church must register at least one of the two prior years (2007 or 2008)
- The certification committee has three weeks to certify churches. Churches are authenticated by the convention registration records.
- The maximum number of votes allowed any by church is three according to the Constitutional Amendment 5.14, proposed in January 2006 and adopted in September 2006.
- ✓ Election Supervisory Commission named – January 2009
 - No new voting procedures will be introduced.
 - Each qualified candidate will be supplied a list of authenticated churches.
 - If a church is not on the list they must provide proof of registration (Registration receipt or copy of a cancelled check)
 - All delegates must have some form of identification to vote in the election.
- ✓ Distribution Listing of Eligible Churches – January 2009
 - The listing of eligible churches will be presented to each certified candidate during the January 2009 session.
 - Numerous questions were raised:
 - ❖ Should letters be notarized? (No.)
 - ❖ What disqualifies a potential candidate? (Not having 100 letters of nomination.)
 - ❖ Is there a specific form for the letters of nomination? (No, the church may choose their language for the letter of nomination.)
- ✓ National Election- 2008
 - The convention sent letters of invitation to the Republican National Convention and the Democratic National Convention giving two options stating Thursday as the preferred day. President Shaw stated he would announce the response in the Tuesday morning opening session.
 - Senator John McCain will not be able to attend.
 - Reverend Dr. Calvin Butts respectfully stated his distress that Senator Obama himself would not appear at the convention after having the invitation extended.
 - President Shaw told the body Mrs. Michelle Obama will speak on Wednesday at 5 PM in the general session.
 - Following brief discussion and announcements the session was adjourned.
- ✓ Action Items – Motions Carried
 - Minutes of the June 2008 Session accepted
 - ❖ Motion by Reverend Dr. Harris
 - ❖ Second by Reverend Dr. Luther
 - Adoption of Agenda for Board meeting accepted
 - ❖ Motion by Reverend Dr. Calvin Woods
 - ❖ Second by Reverend Dr. Jones
 - Adoption of Convention Programmatic Re-alignments
 - ❖ Motion by Reverend Dr. Tellis Chapman
 - ❖ Second by many.

Humbly submitted,
Reverend Dr. H. Devore Chapman, Recording Secretary
Reverend Dr. Harry Blake, General Secretary