

MISSISSIPPI BOULEVARD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Congregational Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2020

The December 14, 2020, Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church (MBCC) Congregational Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Moderator James E. Jones, Jr. Dr. Leo Davis led the congregation in singing, “We Have Come This Far by Faith.” Devotion was offered by Rev. Angele Johnson, “Remember to Look Up to God”. You are not in a permanent hold, but just a temporary holding pattern. Prayer and Scripture – Philippians 4:12

Moderator Jones reviewed the **Virtual Meeting Ground Rules**.

Reading and Approval of December 9, 2019 Minutes

The minutes of the December 9, 2019, MBCC Congregational Meeting were made available to members prior to the meeting. A motion to receive and approve the minutes was made by Mary Brown and seconded by Metric Houser to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried and was approved with 164 “yes” votes.

Moderator’s Moment

Moderator Jones, in a spirit of gratitude, thanked God for 99 years of ministry and worship provided by Mississippi Blvd Christian Church. He thanked Dr. Vivian Henry and Charles Atkinson for their service as they roll off the Church Council. He thanked his wife for her support.

Moderator Jones mentioned that our theme for next year was “A Year for Connections”. Connect people in the community to Christ. Continue to stay connected and care for our members.

Some of the 2020 church accomplishments highlighted were:

- Over \$100k raised for student scholarships
- Mana Outreach serviced many families
- Completed “Emotionally Healthy Spirituality” Life Group Bible Study
- Distributed back packs with student supplies
- CCM continued to reach out and care for the congregation
- Development of Ad-Hoc Committee
- Mortgages liquidated at both campuses
- New website launched under the leadership of Minister Joshua Narcisse

Moderator Jones mentioned that plans were underway for a Centennial Celebration in 2021. He gave thanks to Pastor Turner and the Leadership Team. He ended his moments with a reference to scripture I Corinthians 2:9 – Keep Serving God’s People.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee Chair, Dr. Jesse McGee, expressed gratitude to all who served on the Nominating Committee. He named the 2020 committee members and presented to the virtual congregation for approval and adoption by the congregation the names of all persons recommended by the committee to serve for the 2021 Church Leadership. The recommendation included eight Church Council members, fifteen Elders, three Elder Emeritus, sixty-two Diaconate, two Diaconate in Training, two Diaconate Emeritus, one Diaconate for reinstatement, and eleven Trustees. Andre Dean made the motion for the Nomination Report to be accepted by the congregation, and Derek Brassel seconded it. The motion carried.

Ad-Hoc Committee

Andre Dean, Vice Moderator and Ad-Hoc Committee Chair presented “Re-Imagining The Blvd”. The committee was established in 2019. A detailed study conducted in the year 2013 led to the demolition of unused space. Dean thanked committee members. The committee is comprised of:

- Andre Dean (Chair)
- Glenn Sessoms (Elder, Former Moderator)
- Cathay Fleming (Diaconate) realtor
- Debra Massie (Trustee) attorney
- Harold Collins (Former Moderator)
- Edith Kelly Green (at large member)
- Brian Harris (at large member)
- Johnny Moore (at large member)

They are working with the M&M Enterprises Architecture Firm led by James Macklin. The Blvd is one of the largest landowners in the Madison Heights area. The areas around us continue to improve. The VA and Methodist Hospitals have recently completed major upgrades. Studies have been conducted for potential uses of the Blvd land and real estate. No decisions have been made about future property usage, but the church is looking at all viable options.

The church is being proactive in thinking about the future of Mississippi Blvd. Lay leaders within the church will be asked to identify facility needs to support their various ministries. Selling church property is not an option. Any new development will produce revenue for the church.

Senior Pastor’s Message

Pastor Turner said that his heart was filled with thanksgiving. He went on to acknowledge and give thanks to the work, commitment, and accomplishments of Moderator Jones, the Church Council, Elders, Diaconate, Trustees, Ministerial Teams and Staff: Justin Johnson (Director of Finance), Dr. Leo Davis (Worship and Creative Arts Ministry), Charles Monger (Operations Team), Media Team, Chantay Branch (new HR Director) and he thanked Mrs. Bridgett Turner. We have set a gold standard for employees and benefits in the African American church within this region.

- Sister Bridgett Turner leads a Prayer Call for the Chosen Vessels Women’s Ministry

- Virtual service began the third Sunday in March 2020. People from many states and countries around the world are attending our virtual service.
- Thanks for your continued stewardship that keeps our church financially sound.
- Two HBCUs received 10k each in donations from The Blvd.
- Mortgage Burning planned for the end of 2020.

Mississippi Blvd has always been a leading church. We have been leaders in Economic Empowerment. We support Racial Reconciliation – Love Thy Neighbor.

Three Ways We Need to Take the Lead in 2021:

1. Embracing the Virtual Church
 - 20% have not logged on
 - 40% are likely to invite others to the virtual services
2. Take the lead in Social Justice
 - Caring for others in need
 - Feeding the hungry
 - Provide clothing for those in need
3. Extending our Stewardship of our Property

Pastor Turner’s message closed with the scripture Philippians 3:12-16

2020 Budget Presentation

Justin Johnson, Director of Finance, presented the 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Budget Plan. God has allowed us to meet or exceed our 2020 budget.

Recap of 2020 Highlights

- \$10k donated to Jarvis Christian College, and Tougaloo College
- \$40k donated to Christian Church (DOC) Mission Fund
- Net Income \$651K
- Cash balance \$1,947,060
- Paid off Midtown and Southwind loans
- No revenue expected for Family Life Center in 2021
- Theatrical lighting systems installed
- Roof replacement

2020 Total Revenues \$6.7 Million

- Tithes and General Offering - \$5.1M
- Leasing Revenue - \$598.6M
- Servant Fund and Scholarship Fund Giving - \$295K
- Miscellaneous Revenue - \$204K
- Grant Revenue - \$450.5K

2020 Total Expenses \$6.0 Million

- Salaries and Wages \$2.4M
- Outreach \$336K
- Ministry Operations \$799K
- Facility Operations \$1.5M
- Debt Services \$668K

2021 Budget Projections

2021 Total Revenues \$6.1 Million (Projected Budget)

- Tithes and General Offering - \$5.1M
- Servant Fund and Scholarship Fund Giving - \$305K
- Leasing Revenue - \$436K
- Miscellaneous Revenue \$220K

2021 Total Expenses \$6.1 Million (Projected Budget)

- Salaries and Wages \$2.7M
- Outreach \$535K
- Ministry Operations \$857K
- Facility Operations \$1.5M
- Building Renovations and Enhancements \$275K
- Covid-19 Contingency Funds \$200K
- Other \$50K

2021 Projections

- Projected Net Income \$51.9K
- Projected Cash \$2.4M

Darryl Arbor motioned to approve the 2021 Budget. Charles Atkinson seconded the motion. The motion carried and was approved with 181 “yes” votes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm with closing prayer offered by Minister Joshua Narcisse.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Jones

James E. Jones, Moderator

Mattie Keaton

Mattie Keaton, Assistant Secretary