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BETHEL AME CHURCH  
1525 Michigan Avenue~ Buffalo, New York 14209  
Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse, Pastor

September 13, 1999 ~ 7:00 PM

### STEWARD BOARD MEETING

**Presiding:** Rev. Stenhouse

Rev. Stenhouse called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. He offered prayer and read Psalms 54.

**Roll Call:** Bro. D. Cassell, Sis. L. Edwards, Sis. C. McKinnon, and Bro. Stafford Trueheart excused. All other stewards present as well as Sis. F. Costley, Steward Emeritus.

**Minutes** – read in silence. Sis. B. Abram moved that minutes be accepted with necessary corrections. Sis. B. Wyatt seconded.

**Finance Report** – Rev. passed out Income & Expense reports – see sheet.

Rev.'s Comments – We paid Bro. Ivey what we thought was correct, but he was not satisfied – the bill was \$2500.00 and we paid at least \$4000.00.

**Old Business** -Rev. passed out the extended 8:00 AM church service schedule. See schedule for dates, serving and changes. All stewards should be here at 7:30 AM. See Sis. J. Hartley and Sis. M. Brown as to our duties.

If assigned to 8:00 M service, all money should be taken upstairs.

Minister Melvin Bryant will continue to provide music at the 8:00 Am services.

**Stewardesses** - Rev. will be sending out letters for more stewardesses. Sis. B. Abram agreed to work with stewardesses to get communion supplies (wine, wafers, etc.) Money will be taken from Central Fund. Stewardesses must be confirmed every year.

**Travel Expenses** - We will cut down on travel.

**Upcoming Events** –

A. Sis. M. Younger, Bro. C. Tisdale, and Bro. Green are going to Chicago to a Christian Education Training Seminar September 23, 24, and 25, 1999.

B. The second weekend in October (8,9,and 10) YPDers are going to Newark, NJ. There will be 15 people in all. We will try to get the van and rent another van.

C. WNY Conference Branch WMS Mass Meeting will be on Saturday, September 18, 1999 here at Bethel.

D. First Quarterly Conference will be held here at 7:00 PM on September 15, 1999. The stewards will be confirmed. Please brush up on duties of a steward.

E. October 14 & 15, 1999 – District Conference in Rochester, NY. Sis. B. Abram was nominated. Sis. B. Wyatt moved that Sis. Abram serve as delegate. Sis. V. Williams seconded.

F. Fall Revival - September 21, 22, & 23, 1999 – 7:00 PM nightly. Rev. Melvin Wilson will be the preacher. We will ask for an offering of \$10.00 for the three nights to cover the expenses. Bible Study will be held at 12 Noon but not at 7:00 PM.

We hope to get a 70,000.00 loan at 9 ½ % interest.

**G.** Sunday, September 26, 1999 Family and Friends Day –Rev. Trevon Gross will be the preacher. Please bring your families. After the 10:30 AM service, cake and punch will be served.

**H.** Women's Day is coming up. The last Sunday in October. Please pledge for Women's Day; it will be published in the bulletin. Please support the Journal with ads, patrons, etc. There will be fundraiser, **A Taste of Bethel**, will be held. Special guests with special recipes will be invited. Tickets are \$20.00, Children – \$10.00.

**I.** We hope to get a 70,000.00 loan at 9 ½ % interest for the repairs of the church. Once we pay \$15,000.00 for Fall Convocation, the rest will go for repairs of the church.

**Rev. Stenhouse never authorized a person to come behind the altar.**

**Offerings** – the money is staying about the same since we stopped marching.

**Praise Team** - Bro. Walter Kemp is putting together a Praise and Worship Seminar. He will get people to enroll, train them and select a praise team. Anyone can go through the training including the youth.

The **Bibles** have been changed – the other bibles are upstairs in the office.

Rev. Stenhouse will be occupied on Friday afternoons and Saturdays until 3 for three weekends a month. He is attending the United Theological Seminary.

**Funeral for Naomi Smith will be held at Bethel, Friday. Wake – 10 A –12N; Funeral 12 Noon. We will feed the family( about 50-75 people).**

**Study Circle** - Rev. asked if we were interested in study circle dealing with racism. Bro. Tucker, Sis. Abram, and Sis. Brown volunteered to participate.

Rev. thanked all for supporting Sis. Abram at her Initial Sermon. He explained the procedure for becoming a minister:

- A. The candidate expresses the call to preach to the pastor, who takes it to the Steward Board, then to the Church Conference.
- B. The candidate preaches initial sermon and is then presented to the Quarterly Conference where he/she is given license to preach.
- C. Sis. Abram will be presented to the District Conference October 14, 1999.
- D. In May, she will be admitted to the Annual Conference.
- E. She will study for 2 years at The Ministerial Institute at which time she may become a Local Deacon for Bethel Buffalo.
- F. To become an Itinerant Minister, there are 2 ordinations : Local Deacon after 2 years; Itinerant Deacon after 4 years
- G. This time may be shortened if the pastor requests her services sooner. The church can say we have a need. The Pastor can petition the Annual Conference to ordain earlier.

Evangelist A. Wilson will be licensed to preach (exhort) at a local church with the approval of the pastor.(see Discipline) Sis. Wilson is not going for ordination.

Rev. Stenhouse asked for a motion of approval by Steward Board that Sis. Abram be licensed to preach. Sis. Wyatt moved and motion was unanimously seconded.

Rev. asked for a motion that Evangelist Wilson be licensed to preach. Sis. Hartley moved and motion was seconded unanimously. Sis. Abram thanked the Board.

**Second Sundays** - Rev. announced that every second Sunday – Men only will be in charge. (for Announcements, Visitors, Decalogue and Invitation.) Bro. Tucker will coordinate.

**Fourth Sundays** - Youth will be in charge on the fourth Sunday. May do the order of service if not in the choir. If all the youth **are in the choir, they may come out of choir to participate.**

**In October, Rev. wants a man to stand with the Stewardess during the invitation; to give the appearance that men are in the church.**

**Acolyte Meeting** – Meeting will be held Thursday at 5:30 PM. Sis. J. Hartley is he supervisor.

Rev. informed us that he would start asking us to render the closing prayer at this meeting and on Sunday mornings.

Sis. Hartley moved that meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Rev. rendered the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vanetta Williams