

Legislative Review Committee

Mid-Atlantic District

District Conference October 5-8, 2022

Committee Members: Jonathan Thornton - Chair, Robin Martin - Vice Chair, Carl Park, Erick Adams, Chari Daley, Ed Maliskas,

Regarding the report of the Church Planting Director

We are excited to welcome Mark as our new church planting director. We are encouraged by his positive outlook as he begins this ministry. We are happy to hear that he has been learning from various conferences, trainings, and people. We would appreciate hearing his initial thoughts on how what he is learning will help reinvigorate church planting in our district. We affirm his statements that what we do as district churches matters. We stand with him and implore us all to press into helping create a church planting movement in our district.

Regarding the report of the Assistant to the District Superintendent

We are grateful for how Ira has served our district. We commend him for the many hats that he wears and encourage the various committees under his oversight to keep up the good work. We appreciate his forthright communication on the status of our district. While sobering, it is good for us to know the details of the reality we face as a district. We stand with Ira in communicating to the district the urgency of our situation. We implore all of our churches to evaluate the Kingdom impact they are having in their community. We are grateful for the resources available for churches to improve their effectiveness in making disciples and reaching people for Christ. We encourage churches to avail themselves of these resources and press into the process they offer. However, while these resources are helpful, we recognize the insufficiency of these tools apart from the power of the Holy Spirit to transform our district from declining to thriving. It is only as we surrender and depend on the Holy Spirit that we will see a turn around. We implore everyone to be on their knees seeking the presence and power of the Holy Spirit for their lives, churches, and communities

Regarding the report of the President

We are grateful for the Christlike leadership of our president John Stumbo. His heart for the church and for the lost is an encouragement and example for us all. We appreciate the various events and forms of communication that the national office continues to offer. We recommend that our churches avail themselves of these resources and events. While we appreciate the president's encouraging report we wished to hear more of his vision and heart for this coming year, as well as the highlights of some of his activities in the previous year..

We are thankful to hear the updates on how the Alliance continues to engage well in global missions. We affirm the various ways they keep adapting to the current realities of a changing mission field. While we are glad to hear that the funding changes have created lift, we are disappointed in the level of communication regarding our funding changes. We feel that the national office continues to address these changes in positive but vague language. This creates confusion in our churches and leads to misunderstandings. We ask the national office to

improve their communication regarding this matter. We would appreciate a greater level of forthrightness, transparency, and detail regarding this process.

We are encouraged by how we have had a positive net gain in churches nationally for the first time in years. We affirm vice president Terry Smith's message to our churches. We stand with him in imploring our churches to refocus. We desire to see all of our churches focused on the Gospel, the Kingdom, disciple making, and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. We recommend that churches avail themselves of the resources listed to help them refocus. We agree that the Lord is still on His throne and accomplishing His purposes. May we spend the time necessary to refocus and join Jesus in what He is doing as He builds His church.

Regarding the Report of the District Executive Committee

We are grateful for the hard work of the District Executive Committee over this past year. We applaud their humility as they have led us to accept the reclassification of our district. We are encouraged by the initial steps that have been taken to address our current situation.

The Committee on Legislative Review moves to accept the recommendation as stated in the Report of the District Executive Committee.

RECOMMENDATION #1

That the January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024 Fair Share Inclusive Budget of \$870,034.91 be adopted.

Regarding the report of the Treasurer

We are grateful for all the hard work of the finance team. We appreciate their efforts in a challenging year as they have updated our bookkeeping system. We affirm the decision to spend money to help our district get healthier. We encourage our churches to continue to press into supporting the district through the fair share budget. Furthermore, we implore churches to listen to the Holy Spirits leading on how to financially engage with our future church-planting efforts. We look forward to the day when we will be able to have a balanced budget without the need of reserve funds.

Regarding the report of the District Superintendent

We are encouraged by the Superintendent's humble and clear-eyed report. We are grateful for all the hard work accomplished in a year of transitions. We pray that the Lord will bring the right people to work alongside him.

We stand with him in imploring our churches to become community-transforming churches. We agree that in order for this to happen we will need to get outside of our buildings and engage our communities. We encourage people to listen to the Holy Spirit on how to do this.

We affirm the reclassification of our district and are encouraged by the initial steps taken from the strategic plan. We are excited to have a new church planting director and are eager to see how God will use him.

We affirm the outward focus in the mission statement to Multiply, Train, and Send. We stand with the Superintendent's challenge to prayer, and we encourage everyone to engage in our district prayer gatherings on February 10th and September 15th.

We were encouraged by the effectiveness of the lay leadership training and discouraged by the two that had to be canceled. We encourage the district staff to continue to think through creative ways to empower our lay people. We ask the district staff to consider additional modes of communication to help get our lay people on board. We also implore our pastors and lay leaders to press into district initiatives and to engage with the communications they receive.

As we seek to be community transforming churches we encourage everyone to press into the next phase of our strategic plan. May we utilize the resources available to us and follow the Holy Spirit as we seek effectiveness in evangelism and making disciples.

Respectfully submitted

Jonathan Thornton - Chair, Robin Martin - Vice Chair