

NF DAILY NEWSLETTER

“The Time is Now!”

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Volume 11, Issue 2

A DAY OF “FIRSTS”

Yesterday (Wednesday) at the 2018 AG National Deaf Convention was an awesome day! Many things happened for the first time in history!

The day started with Sandeep Kaur (Deaf) from England sharing a great testimony about how she was saved. Now she is ministering with Deaf people in the United Kingdom! Then Sandeep led a song in BSL!



And Rev. Byron Skidmore from PA led our morning devotion with talking about the seven Old Testament feasts, and encouraging each person not to give up when we are facing hard times, but to be faithful in your ministry.



Then it was time for us to go down to the Capeci Choir Room for the 2018 NF Business Meeting.



While getting things ready and setting up the meeting, Lottie Riekehof suddenly went to the piano and did some great worship songs! And Joyce Mather joined in singing to bless us with some great worship music!

Then God did some amazing things as we talked and shared about the NF Business. God led us to suspend some of the by-laws and do a test for the next two years! See the full report on page 4.

After lunch, an awesome panel of ministers taught the workshop “Credentials - How?” All emphasized first you must be called by God!! Revs. Tom and Joyce Mather shared the Southern California system and the School of Ministry. Dr. JoAnn Smith talked about the 36-credit hour

credentialing Deaf program that is here at UVF. Rev. Olivia Bibb shared how for 8 years, her church in Vallejo, CA has been a Global University small group study center. And Rev. Kevin Babin filled in for Rev. Ed Graham -- shared Ed’s dream that NF will work toward setting up regional training centers and work with the hearing districts to allow more Deaf God-called persons the ability to be credentialed or grow in discipleship.



Later in the afternoon, President Belinda McCleese gave us a biology lesson called “Touched by Jesus blood”. Belinda shared some info that one man said

(continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

Schedule for Today	Pg. 2
Newly Credentialed!!	Pg. 2
First time in NF history!	Pg. 3
Evening Worship Service	Pg. 3
NF Business Meeting News	Pg. 4

Schedule for Today Thursday, June 21st

7:00 - 8:30 AM Breakfast - Cafeteria

9:00 - 10:00 AM Worship Music - Gloria Sobral
Devotion - Rev. Seth Sobral
in Cardone Hall #101



10:15 - Noon Business Meeting
Capeci Choir Room
(No workshops --
business meeting only)

12:00 - 1:30 PM Women’s Ministries Lunch - Cafeteria
with guest speaker Rev. Marva Petrus

12:00 - 1:30 PM Men’s Ministries Lunch - Cafeteria
with guest speaker Rev. Rod Smith



1:30 - 3:00 PM Workshop - “How to be a Mentor”
with Rev. Anne Potter
in Cardone Hall #101

3:00 - 3:15 PM Break

3:15 - 4:45 PM Workshop - “Worship and Praise”
with Tanisha Cotton
in Cardone #101



5:00 - 6:30 PM Dinner - Cafeteria

7:00 PM Worship Service in Cardone Hall #101
Rev. Nancy Tonnessen, Host MC
Tanisha Cotton, Worship Music
Rev. Olivia Bibb sharing God’s Word



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NF President: Rev. Belinda McCleese
Daily News Editor: Rev. Debbie Stiles
You are welcome to write an article
that will lift up our Lord. Leave the
story or news under the door of
Bongiorno Hall Room 125.

The editor reserves the right to add,
change, or delete information
depending on space limitations. The
vision is to share uplifting info that
will meet the needs and goals of the
2018 NF Deaf Convention!



2 Timothy 4:1-5

**NEWLY CREDENTIALLED
AG MINISTERS IN
DEAF MINISTRIES
(2016-2018)**

Certified Minister

**Max Miller, LA
Gary Palmer, VT
Cheryl Ragas, LA**

License to Preach

**Joey Contreras, CA
William Eipper, CA
Barbara Evans, MO
Vickie Gipple, CA
Marva Petrus, IL
Anne Potter, PA
Jeremy Roe, MN
Lucy Schmidt, WI
Jeff Taylor, CA
Jill Valentine, AZ
Steve Valentine, AZ
Ralph Visscher, IL**

Ordained

**Chery Besette, MO
Mary Earl, RI
Linda Martin, VA**

(continued from page 1) about the Blood of Christ. Some things are difficult to believe. Belinda presented them to us with the intent to stir up our minds and start thinking. She said she wants us to think about how we explain the blood of Christ to other people. We then broke out into different regions to discuss, meet each other, and share our needs.



The evening service was soooooo anointed. Dr. JoAnn Smith was the MC for the opening prayer, announcements, and offering. Then Revs. Belinda McCleese and Nancy Tonnessen presented a list of newly credentialed AG ministers in Deaf ministries from 2016-2018. (See *the names on page 2.*) It was the first time in NF history that we had a "passing the mantle" time with the regional reps giving each new minister a beautiful sash and praying over them. Then all the audience could come and congratulate each one!!

Then it was time for 4 men from San Jose, CA. Rev. David Rawson led us in a time of anointed worship and praise songs. Rev. John Davis started the evening with encouraging the audience to say, TIME NOW! A funny drama called "Peter 2018" was presented by James Parker, Larry Cotton, and John Davis, which led to the sermon.

Rev. John Davis shared that we can't depend on tomorrow - you might not be here! Like Peter and John in Mark 3:13-18, some of us have worked through the night and saw no fruit (fish). You must have big faith to be a fisherman. But why did Peter go back to the boat??

Some people will say Peter went back because he was backsliding. Where in the Bible does it say that?? God chose him to be a leader - Peter was called out and appointed! Our identity is in Jesus Christ - understand that God chose you!! If you are on fire, you will set others on fire!

Peter was with Jesus on the mountain of transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-8), he fed the 5000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fishes (Matt. 14:13-21), he walked on water (Matt. 14:29), etc. Peter experienced so many miracles, signs and wonders. So why did he go back fishing??

Was it "failures" that stole Peter's focus? Jesus found Peter sleeping when he should be praying (Matt. 26:40-41), Peter draws a sword and cuts off the servant's ear (John 18:10), and Peter denies Jesus, then goes out and weeps bitterly (Matt 26:27).

In your hurts, failure, bitterness -- DON'T GO BACK TO YOUR BOAT! Soon many of us were praying at the altar and seeking God to stay strong, get rid of our hurts and failures, and move forward with our Lord!! IT'S TIME!

Note - again this was broadcast on Facebook Live. As of early this morning, it has been shared over 9,700 times!



National Deaf Culture Fellowship (NF) Business Meeting - News from Today



Yesterday, the “National Deaf Culture Fellowship of the Assemblies of God” (NF) began our regular biennial business meeting. *(Here is the NF newsletter editor’s view - not exact minutes of the meeting.)* President Belinda McCleese called the meeting to order at about 10:45 AM with 46 voting members present.

The NF President’s Report by Belinda McCleese was summarized and then accepted. The 2016 NF meeting minutes were approved. Motion for the officer’s reports and department reports to be “accepted as read”. Passed.

Then VP Bill Gipple was called to lead the next part of the business meeting. Member Seth Sobral (RI) shared his view of the history of NF and his struggle as the ONLY credentialed AG Deaf pastor in his whole state. Seth shared how NF has improved but still needs to change. Next Secretary Nancy Tonnessen was asked to read the formal language of Resolution #1, as needed by law. This is a resolution submitted by the NF Executive and Administrative Committees. Then Dr. JoAnn Smith, resolutions chair, was called to explain the resolution. It says:

- We will do a test for 2 years (2018-2020) and suspend the regular NF constitution and by-laws. The current position of “President” will be divided into TWO positions.
- A new “Executive Administrator” would be the business head, run business meetings, sign all official papers, do all the “business” stuff, and be general presbyter in meetings for the National Deaf Culture Fellowship of the Assemblies of God.
- A new “Spiritual Care Mentor” will respond to the ministers in need, providing emotional and spiritual support. He/she also provides resources and referrals as needed, but does not handle the business matters of the NF.

- The Vice-President will support both the new Executive Administrator and Spiritual Care Mentor. He/she will also become the planning coordinator for the National Deaf Convention.

The point of this resolution - the NF Officers have heard your cry for help and changes! THIS IS YOUR NF! We need to stop the hierarchial way (top leaders doing a lot of the work, and giving commands to people to follow). Instead, the NF wants to “flatten out”, delegate more, and have more members supporting one another!

An amendment was added that the NF Officers would like to suggest 2 names - Rev. Emory Dively as the Executive Administrator, and Rev. Belinda McCleese as the Spiritual Care Mentor. After some great discussion, the amendment passed. Then back to the main motion. After more questions and discussion, a vote was taken.

While waiting for the results, it was announced that the previous plans for the 2020 National Deaf Convention scheduled for Chicago would not work out. Instead, the 2022 site of Austin was asked to host earlier in 2020, and they accepted. Rev. Debbie Stiles welcomes the NF Convention to come to Austin, Texas in 2 years!

Voting and discussion then happened for the 2022 National Deaf Convention. Southern Illinois was selected. Passed.

Then the voting results of the resolution #1 was announced. Passed! Both Rev. Belinda McCleese and Rev. Emory Dively shared a few words. Congratulations!!

Because time was running out, the 2018 NF business meeting was recessed with a closing prayer by Franky Ramont. Meeting will continue today at 10:15 AM - the NF officers strongly urge you to come and learn how God is doing some great things! “I AM NF!”