



“For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given...”

Antioch Baptist Church (ABC) Congregation

December 23, 2022

Thanking God for His amazing grace and for the miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Once again, Antioch has been blessed in so many ways. In this communication, we will share highlights from our sixth All Saints Meeting of the year, which was held on Thursday, December 15, 2022. Key elements included:

Provisional Leadership Committee (PLC) Report:

Deacon Capers Brown, PLC Co-Chair, provided a brief update summarizing commitments honored, building momentum, and a look ahead into 2023. Key activities highlighted were the requests for the IT/Media and Property & Facilities sub-committee volunteers, the beginning of resume reviews for the Director of Youth and Young Adults, the 2023 Budget, and the recommendation for the Transitional Pastor. The PLC will focus on the following key priorities next year:

- Supporting the hiring of the ABC Senior Pastor by Q4 2023
- Increasing Bible Study among our congregants
- Enhancing the Music Ministry with a permanent Director of Music by Q3 2023
- Strengthening our Youth Ministry with focused programs and initiatives for youth and young adults to age 21
- Missionary outreach = 10% of total contributions; 50% local, 35% national; 15% int'l
- Strategic preventative maintenance program for ABC buildings and facilities
- Developing a plan to expedite retiring the church mortgage at the earliest opportunity

The PLC is continuing to monitor the ABC mask policy to ensure the safety of all and will review the COVID protocols periodically. Deacon Brown expressed sincere apologies for the delayed distribution of the financial documents and committed to ensuring that documents are distributed in advance of future meetings.

Pastor Selection Committee (PSC) Report: Deaconess Tujuana Williams, PSC Chair, gave an update on the committee's progress to date, a summary of the "Food for Thought" Focus Group, the Church Profile and Job Description for the Pastoral Search and the PSC's next steps. Below are some of the key takeaways:

- A "Food for Thought" Focus Group was held on November 13th to engage with Antioch's middle, high school, and college aged students. The youth were actively engaged and expressed that they want a caring and creative Pastor who listens, connects, provides strong leadership and has engaging and inspiring sermons. They are looking for great fellowship, a fun and safe learning environment as well as opportunities to serve in various ministries, missions, and outreach activities.
- The Antioch Baptist Church profile and Pastor job description will be posted to the ABC website in January.

“and the government will be upon His shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6



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- The next steps are to finalize the technology sourcing, advertising plan and develop the interview process. The PSC is on track with their stated deliverables.

Q3 Finance Report: Brother Reuben Johnson provided the Q3 Finance Report which included an overview of our third quarter balance sheet, income, expense, and the membership profile.

ABC 2023 Budget: Deacon Anthony Thompson, Finance and Budget Sub-Committee Chair, presented the 2022 Budget Update and the 2023 Proposed Budget. Deacon Thompson shared that the 2023 budget process was very thorough including a detailed review by director/ministry, by line item, and by expense category. Items were funded based on the priorities for 2023 outlined by the PLC. He highlighted the 2023 staffing needs, selected enhancements, activities, a COLA increase for the ABC staff, and outreach initiatives as well as the specific challenges identified for the year. He acknowledged that this year's change in process and very thorough reviews were large drivers for the delay in distribution of materials. Please see the 2023 Plan Review documents distributed via email by Brother Reuben Johnson for the detailed budget components.

Transitional Pastor Presentation and Motion: Deacon Capers Brown, PLC Co-Chair, provided an overview of the Transitional Pastor decisions for hiring, the role, the required/desired qualifications, and the motion approved by the congregation on August 25, 2022. He also shared the PLC selection process, the candidates interviewed and a recommendation to the congregation for the hiring of Reverend Jeffery Gaines Sr. as Antioch's Transitional Pastor. A motion and discussion were followed by an overwhelmingly favorable vote to have Reverend Gaines serve as Antioch's Transitional Pastor beginning January 10, 2023 until a Senior Pastor is hired.

Reverend Jeffery Gaines, Sr. and his family have been affiliated with Antioch for over twenty years. He and Sister Gaines have been married for over thirty-eight years and have two adult children, Jeffery Jr. and Candice, a lovely daughter-in-law, Ryann and a wonderful son-in-law, Anthony. They have four adorable grandchildren.

Reverend G has a servant's heart and is dedicated to caring for others. Please join us in welcoming Pastor Jeffery Gaines Sr. and his lovely wife Brenda back to Antioch.

Congratulations to our Trustee Leadership! Trustee Beverly Wilson, PLC Co-Chair, has served as a Trustee at Antioch for twenty-three years and as Chair for seven years. She was elected and graciously served two full terms which end December 31, 2022. Trustee Willie Horne serves as Vice Chair. On January 14, 2023, Trustees Ron Beasley and Derrick Savage will serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Please join us in congratulating and thanking them all for their dedicated service and continued commitment to Antioch.

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