

African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA) – Los Angeles
General Session Meeting Minutes - April 27, 2024

Approved – June 22, 2024

Present: The following officers were in attendance: Andrea Johnson, Vice President; Tom McKee, Treasurer; Dn Gwen Jackson, Region II Representative. Members present were: Connie Chaney, Teem Pastor Mary Ann Harrison, Renee Brandt, Mary Shipp, Janice DeMar, Darryl Mays, Dorothy Cole and Teem Pastor Maurice Ingram. Rev. Tracy Williams (by phone).

Excused: Rev. Scott Adams, Rev. Peg Schultz-Akerson, Jeanne Armstrong, Judith Tutt-Starr, Rev. Albert Starr, Dn Dale Washington. Officers excused were President Carolyn Foster and Secretary Randall Foster (vacation).

- I. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:20 am by VP Andrea Johnson and Pastor Maurice provided an opening prayer.
- II. Devotions** – Dn Gwen Jackson led us in devotions, titled “Your Faith Requires Imagination.” She explained that faith requires us to believe in things not seen because that will last forever. Things we can see will not last forever. Your faith lives in imagination. She closed devotions with prayer.
- III. Agenda** – The Agenda was Approved after the following correction regarding the day of the Viejas Casino. Date should read ‘Saturday’
instead of Friday. (MSC)
- IV. Meeting Minutes** – The Minutes were approved as read with no corrections. (MSC)
- V. Treasurer’s Report** – Tom McKee presented the report (Feb 19 – April 19, 2024) as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$4,114.91 |
| Credits/Deposits | 3,974.66 |
| Debit/Fees | 3,180.23 |

Current Balance \$4,909.34

Report was accepted for file pending audit.

- VI. Region II Report** – Dn Gwen Jackson advised that there was nothing new to report. They are still in the process of trying to organize and make plans for the next convention in 2025 in conjunction with the ELCA National Assembly in Arizona.
- VII. African Descent Strategy Planning Team (ADSPT)** – Written report was given to everyone in attendance, and they were invited to read the entire report at a later time. Those who had previously read it felt that it was quite informative and thorough.
- VIII. Old Business**
- a. **National Assessment Goals** were deferred.
 - b. **Trout Endowment** is still on going. Goal \$25,000. We need to reach goal before Scholarships can be offered. Everyone was encouraged to continue giving.
 - c. **Membership Drive** for 2024-2025 is still open. Dn Gwen Jackson will accept all monies for the membership today.
 - d. **Eyeglass collection** is on-going, so everyone was encouraged to continue bringing in used eyeglasses.
 - e. **Aluminum Pull tabs** are still being requested for The Ronald McDonald House. Please continue to bring them.
 - f. **Grown Women Real Talk (GWRT)** - Plans for first session will be at CLU Friday, Oct. 4th. There was a conflict for the 2nd session reported to be held at Olivet on Saturday Oct. 5th. Mary Shipp informed everyone that the Olivet OLCW had other commitments on that date and suggested another location. Connie Chaney of First Lutheran Church in Carson volunteered 1st Lutheran for the event on Saturday Oct 5th. She will confirm after checking with her church. Everyone will be advised at a later date.
- IX. New Business**

- a. **Synod Assembly**, May 31-June 1, 2024 (Synod Office) – Registration volunteers are needed. Pastor Mary Ann said that she would help. Gwen Jackson advised that they are looking for nominees for Synod Council, especially people of color. She also mentioned that they have an opening for the Endowment Committee.
 - b. **End of Summer Gathering** – 2024 is pending.
 - c. **Dodger Game with the EDLA** – Sept 6th @ \$35 per person
 - d. **Viejas Casino Bus Trip** - Saturday, Sept 7, 2024 Amount of trip to be announced later with further details.
 - e. **God’s Work Our Hands** – Hygiene Kits. Everyone felt that we should handle this project a week later on Sept. 15th. They thought that 3 events in a row would be too much. It will be determined later.
- X. **Pastor Tracy** gave a report via telephone updating us on various past activities including Black History Month.
 - XI. **Open Discussion** - Teem Pastor Mary Ann Harrison informed us of the changes being made at CLU regarding the Campus Ministry and Pastor Scott’s staff.
 - XII. **Projects to Remember** – We discussed the Popcorn Fundraiser and there were pros and cons. Janice DeMar made a motion that we do the Popcorn Fundraiser. There was no second so motion was withdrawn. It will be tabled until the next meeting when more members will hopefully be present.
 - XIII. **Next Meeting** – June 22, 2024 @ 9 am. Pastor Mary Ann volunteered her church. Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church, 185 Altadena Drive, Altadena, CA
 - XIV. **Meeting concluded at 10:35 am.**

Mary L. Shipp

**Acting Recording
Secretary**