

# **Liberian Ministerial Alliance in North America (LIMANA)**

*First National Assembly Minutes - Bethel World Outreach Center, MD*

*May 28, 2016-Feb. 24, 2017*

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First session began with praise and worship directed by Evangelist J. Sonnyboy Hinneh, ushering us in the presence of the Lord at the start of the convention. The Interim President welcome all the participants and introduced Bishop Darlington Johnson, who graciously opened unto us the doors of his church to serve as the venue of the first national convention of LIMANA. Bishop was also given the honor to greet, welcome and to challenge convention participants with a brief exhortation. In his exhortation he stressed the importance of unity in purpose, plan, and value and purpose in order to achieve success in any endeavor. He iterated that there can be no organizational achievement or success except there is:

1. Common purpose that is compelling enough to generate
2. Extraordinary commitment, and there must be a
3. Clear and consistent communication. He urges participants to place high priority on communication, for once there is no clear communication there can be no clear
4. Coordination, referencing the New England Patriot's recent NFL victory in the Super Bowl championship as clear example of coordination. That their strategy was not just put on paper, but it was practiced and rehearsed thoroughly, so that everyone knew exactly what to do at a crucial period in their game. Everyone had their own assignment but it must be coordinated.

Rev. Dr. Moses Suah-Dennis, Interim President thanked Bishop Johnson for his words of inspiration and encouragement to the conference participants, and pointed out that the Liberian pastors and church leaders represented at the convention were very proud of his godly leadership and exemplary life in the diaspora.

The business session of the convention was then officially called to order by the interim president, which followed the reading of the assembly agenda by Rev. Thomas Siafa, the interim vice president. A motion was made to accept agenda by Moses Tambason, seconded by Pastor John Blah. This was followed by the introduction of churches, ministries, ministerial fellowships, and delegates represented.

The Interim Secretary, Rev. J. Orlando Flahn read minutes for LIMANA consultation held in Philadelphia, PA on Saturday, May 28, 2016. The purpose of the reading of minutes was to put in context the history of LIMANA so that delegates present at the first national convention had a some clarity about the inception of LIMANA. Rev. Dr. John Jallah moved to accept minutes for discussion, and was seconded by Bishop Maryann Mason.

The Rev. Dr. Suah-Dennis, restated the vision and mission as stipulated in the consultation minutes, and presented the adopted constitution to the participants at the convention for final ratification. Rev. Dennis gave more clarity when he addressed the addressed participants in his annual report, detailing the achievements of the six-man interim leadership team selected by

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delegates at the consultation assembly in PA, Saturday May 28, 2016. The consultation convention charged the interim team with the responsibilities of obtaining a Federal Tax Identification Number (EIN), incorporating the organization, opening a bank account, obtaining a domain name for a LIMANA website, and organizing LIMANA's first national assembly. The interim president disclosed that all responsibilities with which the Team was charged had been achieved at the time of first national assembly. The Interim President concluded his report with two open recommendations: One, that "the current leadership team be endorsed by this assembly to continue for another six months to a year, cautioning that transferring to a new leadership may impede ongoing progress and slow down momentum in the past short period of time. Second, that "an Interim Board of Directors consists of five – seven individuals be elected to work with current executive team to develop needed bylaws, policies/procedures and to organize next convention at which time permanent officers and board members would be elected.

The participants debated and contemplated the Interim President's recommendations, and after further clarifications on the vision and mission of the LIMANA, and for the fact that there were no clear guidelines and policies yet in place defining and describing the spiritual qualifications and competencies of those who should serve in executive positions, the Convention considered it expedient that current leadership remain in place to execute the planning of the next convention. To fill the vacancies for Treasurer and Financial Secretary, election was held and both Min. Betty Wleh (delegate from the OH Liberian Ministerial Alliance), and Min. Caroline Barnard (delegate from the MD ministerial association), were selected as Treasurer and Financial Secretary, respectively.

A suggestion was raised by Rev. Nyakoon, delegate from the Liberian ministerial alliance in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, for a need to restate or reword the vision and mission statements of LIMANA; that current statements were descriptive but not prescriptive. He points out the goal of a mission and vision statements are intended to make clear why we exist and what we exist to do. Several participants supported Rev. Nyakoon's proposal, and the Convention moved to set up a taskforce that would immediately revisit and begin to restructure the mission and vision statements for LIMANA compatible with existing constitution. **Taskforce members selected are as follows:**

1. Pastor Solomon Muin
2. Rev. Enoch Nyakoon
3. Bishop Wilfred Williams
4. Pastor Cecelia Sieh
5. Mr. Moses Tambason

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## **The new executive leadership team endorsed at the Convention as follows:**

1. Rev. Dr. Moses Suah-Dennis, President, PA
2. Rev. Thomas Siafa F. Siafa, Vice President, OH
3. Rev. J. Orlando Flahn, Secretary, MD
4. Min. Betty Wleh, Financial Secretary, OH
5. Min. Caroline Barnard, Financial Secretary, MD
6. Rev. Dr. Eric Whisnant, Chaplain, NJ

The Convention also elected members of LIMANA Board of Directors with each State represented selecting two members to serve on BOD. **Those selected on the Board were:**

1. Pastor Ed Mouphouet - MD
2. Pastor Roaland Weah – MD
3. Pastor Cecelia Sieh – OH
4. Rev. Dr. E. Solomon Ernst – OH
5. Bishop Maryann Mason – PA
6. Rev. Enoch Nyakoon – PA
7. Rev. Victor Jolo – PA, who was elected by BOD members as Board Chairman?

The Convention was honored to have special guests representing some outstanding Liberian organizations in the United States, who were given the opportunity to briefly address the convention. Mr. Moses D. Sandy of the Association of Liberian Journalists in the America (ALJA), who currently serves as President, encourages participants to work together with other local organizations and to use institution as conduit to stabilize Liberian communities and churches from bickering and divisive elements that continue to plague us as Liberians, realizing that in order to impact our communities we definitely need each other. He calls on Pastors and Church Leaders present to help mobilize, organize and educate people in Liberia to vote in upcoming presidential elections, “because to vote is their voice in making a clear choice of who leads our native land Liberia”, said President Sandy.

The Liberian Reformation Network (LRN), represented by Rev. Dr. John Jallah also brought a word to the Convention participants. Rev. Jallah iterates that LRN provides forum for discussing our differences and establishing common grounds for supporting education, adopting schools, renovating learning facilities and promoting holistic lifestyle among youth in Liberia and among the diaspora communities. LRN expresses a desire to work and collaborate with LIMANA in finding solutions for our communities especially for our young people.

A word from ULAA, represented by Mr. Arthur Doe, general secretary. He spoke briefly and challenged Pastors & Leaders to think about Liberian kids in jail across the nation. He pointed

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out that he was one of those who met with Homeland Security representing ULAA and there was no clear assurance from that meeting that the TPS, the program that has helped Liberians to remain in the USA would be renewed. He calls on LIMANA to stand strong and stay together, and that ULAA will work with all Liberian organizations and associations to promote the interests of our communities and people, that Liberians are good people and all we need to do is to talk to each other.

In concluding statement, the President Dr. Suah-Dennis reiterated his Executive Team's priorities in implementing the vision and goals of LIMANA, including the work of the taskforce to revisit vision and mission statement, the plans and programs for next conference, as well as mobilizing to increase the number of participants at next convention. Bishop Darlington Johnson advised that LIMANA as a new group could not prolong the next convention to next year; that therefore it is very important to plan another convention this if the group wants to succeed. The Convention voted for the next convention to be held in Philadelphia, PA , from August 4-5, 2017. Pastor Ed Mouphouet mentioned the need for leadership to establish an operational budget for the next convention in order for conference dues and costs to make sense and put in clear perspective. Tentatively membership fee stands at \$100 for each organization and sitting fee for each delegate as \$50.

Under Any Other Business (AOB) and announcements, the Global Prayer Network, represented by Bishop Wilfred Williams appeals for prayer and help for their upcoming prayer event in Liberia to be held at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia.

Pastor Cecelia Sieh encourages participants to not forget what has been discussed at convention and that we must carry with us the greatest mandate to stand in the gap for our nation and communities.

Solomon Muin challenges participants to be concerned and to pray about the immigration issues in the USA under the new administration, and for the Liberian elections this year.

Rev. Jallah calls on Convention to know that faith without work is dead, that we are called by God to influence and educate our people as leaders in the US in order to be informed about their voting rights. He said although we are in the US we can still influence votes in Liberia's elections so that the people put the right leaders in place for our native land Liberia.

Before adjournment of Convention, the new executive leadership team and the Board of Directors were installed into office by our host, Bishop Darlington Johnson, Presiding Bishop of the Bethel World Outreach Ministries, with headquarters in Olney, MD where LIMANA first national convention was held.

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**Participants at First National Assembly, Saturday, February 25, 2017**

**Attendance List**

1. Bishop Wilfred Williams...Global Prayer...609-346-7003...globalprayernetwork.org
2. Bishop Maryann Mason...LMADV...484-401-0808...masonmaryann40@yahoo.com
3. Rev. Dr. George Mason...LMADV...484-401-0808...masongeorge@yahoo.com
4. Pastor Miatta Sirleaf...New Hope...267-444-0637...nlwstp@yahoo.com
5. Moses D. Sandy...ALJA...302-494-4688...mds64.sandy@aol.com
6. Enoch Nyakoon...ALM Bucks Co...267-397-6117...nyakoon@gmail.com
7. Pastor Victor Jolo...UCF...412-230-0068...
8. Olive Jolo...UCF...412-354-1035...
9. Reuben Jolo...UCF...412-872-7418...
10. Becky Jolo...UCF...
11. Solomon Muin...LMADV...267-819-9960...solomonmuin@gmail.com
12. Moses Tambason...TGHS...215-939-6764...tambasonglobalservices@gmail.com
13. Dr. E. Solomon Ernst...LMC, OH...614-584-4157...evansernst@hotmail.com
14. Min. Betty G. Wleh...NBPC/LMC...614-519-2976...bettywleh08@gmail.com
15. Pastor Cecelia Sieh NBPC/LMC...614-596-0449...ceceliasieh@yahoo.com
16. Pastor Robert Washington...LMC...614-377-1057...rwashddan@gmail.com
17. Pastor J. Orlando Flahn...ALCM...240-350-7750...fjomar.vision@gmail.com
18. Pastor John C. Gblah...LMADV... 267-979-2208...johngblah@hotmail.com
19. Rev. Dr. John K. Jallah...LMADV...215-667-1531...revdrjkj@gmail.com
20. Pastor Henry K Walo...CCC...267-393-5052...hkwalo@yahoo.com
21. Bishop Darlington Johnson...Bethel World Outreach...202-409-4656...bishopdj1@hotmail.com
22. Rev. Thomas F. Siafa...LMC/OH...937-776-6277...tsiafa58@gmail.com
23. Massah Siafa...Heart for Africa...937-776-6277...tsiafa58@gmail.com
24. Rev. Roland Weah...ALCM...202-486-1470...weah796@yahoo.com
25. Min. Caroline Barnard...ALCM...202-431-1755...ccbarnard100@gmail.com
26. Josephus Hinneh...ALCM...240-437-7615...jfhinneh@gmail.com

**Submitted by: J. Orlando Flahn, SECRETARY**