

Liberian Ministerial Alliance in North America (LIMANA)

Consultation Minutes, May 28, 2016-Feb. 24, 2017

House Keeping: Rev. Dr. Moses Suah-Dennis in his opening remarks welcome consultation participants to Philadelphia: “the City of brotherly love and sisterly affection”. He provided binders that were enclosed with day’s agenda and draft proposed vision statement, mission statement and constitution after which he invited the Rev. Orlando Flahn to lead the opening devotion for the day.

Opening Devotion: Rev. Flahn called on consultation participants to read Matthew 7:24-28. “Foundation, Foundation, Foundation, very important” were his opening words. He shared a recent house buying experience when his family was attempting to purchase a home in the Metro DC area. He had driven-by a great looking house that was for sale. The house had been on the market for couple of months and was not sold because it had a faulty foundation. “Life is filled with storm and the foundation determines how one goes through a storm.” He further stressed that “storms determine the quality of a foundation.” Rev. Flahn suggested “three quality stones c-words needed” if the consultation dreamed association was to be attained. 1. **Courage:** he explained that courage (Joshua 1:8) establish leadership and effective leadership requires courage. 2. He argued the importance of **character:** “people do not care about your theology, spiritual gifts when you got a credibility problem.” (Ezekiel 22:30) 3. **Commitment:** Pastor Flahn illustrated the lacked of commitment in the Liberian community with a story that resonated well with other participants. A church member (call John Paul) was asked to read one of the Scripture reading at the 11am Sunday worship. Pastor calls John Paul at 11:05 concerned that worship was about to start and John Paul tells him that he was out-off town at a family member graduation event.



Reading and Adaption of Agenda: Rev. Dr. Suah-Dennis read the consultation Agenda that included:

GATHERING ACTIVITIES

1. Arrival and Registration.....8:30-9:00 A. M
2. Breakfast.....9:00-9:30 A. M
3. Opening Devotion.....9:30-10:00 A. M
4. Welcome and Introduction of Participants.....10:00-10:30 A. M
5. Group Photograph

BUSINESS SESSION

6. Business Session 1: Review of Purpose Gathering.....10:30-11:00 A. M
7. Review of Proposed Vision and Mission Statements.....11:00-11:45 A. M

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8. Review of Proposed Constitution.....11:50-12:50 P. M
9. Lunch.....01:00-01:30 P. M
10. Looking Ahead/What Next?.....01:35-2:15 P. M
 - A. Interim Working Committee/Next Tasks...???
 - B. Possible Annual/Bi-annual Gathering...???
 - C. Others

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

11. Closing Devotion.....02:20-02:50 P. M
12. Group Photograph.....02:50-02:55 P. M
13. Adjournment and Departure

Welcome and introduction: The Rev. John Gblah welcomed participants at the consultation and cautioned us to not be another Liberian organization that starts well but sooner or later becomes idled. He however was impressed by the commitment of participants demonstrated by attending consultation on a holiday weekend.

Participant posted from group photograph and proceeded to take a bathroom break in preparation for the business session.



Business Session

The Rev. Dr. Moses Suah-Dennis called the business session into order, reminded participants of the purpose for the consultation and invited them to share their shared-understanding for being at the gathering. Different speakers reiterated that the consultation was a direct outcome of the felt need among Liberian Ministers to come together for the unifying purpose of working together to better serve our respective communities in the US and while at it contribute to the rebuilding of Liberia.

First up for discussion was a suitable name for the proposed organization. The fictitious name Christians (Congregations, churches, ministers, ministries, organizations, etc.) United for Liberia (CuLi) was first in line for consideration. Liberian Ministerial Alliance in North America and Liberian Ministerial Council in North America were also suggested. The three names were voted upon and Liberian Ministerial Alliance in North America (LIMANA) had the highest vote. It was also agreed that the venue (65 Penn Blvd. East

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Lansdowne, PA 19050) of this first face-to-face meeting that birthed LIMANA be the official address of the organization.

The draft vision and mission statements along with the proposed pre-amble and constitution were discussed, edited and adopted. See Appendix I, II, III.



The meeting break for lunch at 1pm. The first lady of Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rev. Mother Helena Dennis prepared pepper soup, Fufu, rice, fried Plantains with fruits for lunch.

The consultation resumed after a 30-minute lunch break to continue with the appointment of an interim leadership through a process of nomination. The following individuals were elected to a six-month term (June 12016-January 13, 2017).

Full Name	Position	Organization	City and State
Rev. Dr. Moses Suah-Dennis, D. Min.	President/Chair	LMADV	E Lansdown, PA
Rev. Thomas Siafa	VP/V-chair	KC	Kettering, OH
Rev. Orlando Flahn	Secretary	ALCM	Laurel, MD
	Assistant Secretary		
Mr. Joe King	Treasurer	CF	Pittsburg, PA
Rev. David Kollie	Financial Treasurer	UFCC	Trenton, NJ
Rev. Dr. Eric Whisnan	Chaplain/Parliamentary	LCC	Trenton, NJ

The consultation agreed that the next face-to-face of LiMaNa be held on Saturday, January 14, 2017 in Trenton, NJ; hosted by the Rev. Dr. Eric Whisnant and the Liberian Council of Churches. The interim leadership also agreed to continue the monthly tele-conference. It was also agreed that each member organization pays an annual due of \$100. Additionally, each delegate at the January 14, 2017 Trenton, NJ assembly pays a sitting fee of \$50.00.

Closing Devotion was led by the Rev. Dr. Eric Whisnant led the closing/sending devotion. He read Matthew 6:31 urging participants to stay focus.

Informal conversation continued for another hour. Rev. Dr. Suah-Dennis offered to take out-of-towners for brief tour to down town Philadelphia and the consultation was officially adjourned at 2:30pm.

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ATTENDANCE: participants attending consultation registered and provided identifying and contact information at arrival and received name badges.

Full Name	Email	Cellphone No.	Organization	City and State
Rev. Dr. Moses Suah-Dennis	mosessuah@gmail.com	267-259-0538	LMADV	E. Lansdowne, PA
Mrs. Helena Dennis	Helenadennis14@gmail.com	267-506-2444	LMADV	East Lansdowne, PA
Rev. John Gblah	johngblah@hotmail.com	267-979-2208	LMADV	Philadelphia, PA
Mr. Matthew Kiamue	kiamuema@gmail.com	267-481-6985	LMADV	Philadelphia, PA
Rev. Thomas Siafa	Tsiafa58@gmail.com	937-776-6277	Kettering Church	Kettering, OH
Mrs. Massa M. S. Siafa	"	"	"	"
Rev. Victor T. Jolo	vtjolo@gmail.com	412-230-0068	UCH	Pittsburg, PA
Olive B. Jolo	"	412-354-1035	"	"
Mr. Joe King	Joe.kingimc@gmail.com	412-551-8768	"	"
Rev. Orlando Flahn	Fjomar.vision@gmail.com	240-350-7750	Assoc. of Liberian Christian Ministers	Laurel, MD
Rev. Solomon Saypam	sksaypam@gmail.com	443-515-9886	"	"
Rev. Dr. Eric Wisner	Whisnant.eric82@gmail.com	609-851-1659	Liberian Council of Churches	Trenton, NJ
Bishop Gabriel Lardner	Gabriel.lardner@yahoo.com	215-605-5274	LMADV	Philadelphia, PA
Rev. Archie Kamara	pastorzealous@yahoo.com	267-342-3269	United Fellowship of Christian Churches	Philadelphia, PA
Rev David Kollie	Davidn.kollie@yahoo.com	908-922-2223	"	"
Rev. Ishmael Waters	reverenddagbeh@yahoo.com	203-676-1179	"	"

Appendix I: Vision Statement

Appendix II: Mission Statement

Appendix III: Constitution

Appendix V: Participants/Attendees:

1. **Rev. Dr. Moses Suah-Dennis:** _____, Pastor-Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church and President Liberian Ministers Association of the Delaware Valley.
2. **Helena L. Johnson-Dennis**
First Lady, Pastor-Faith-Immanuel Lutheran Church and Liberian Ministers Association of the Delaware Valley.

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3. **Rev. John Gblah:** _____ Founder/Pastor Agape International Baptist, Philadelphia, PA and Chairman: Board of Directors, Liberian Ministers Association of the Delaware Valley
4. **Rev. Orlando Flahn:** Pastor of New Hope Lutheran Church, Laurel, MD and President of the Liberian Ministers Association of Metro Washington DC.
5. **Rev. Victor Jolo:** Pastor of United Christian Fellowship, Pittsburg, PA. Chairman of the Liberian Ministerial Fellowship in Pittsburg, PA.
6. **Mrs. Olive B. Jolo:** wife of Rev. Victor Jolo, Pastor of United Christian Fellowship, Pittsburg, PA. Chairman of the Liberian Ministerial Fellowship in Pittsburg, PA.
7. **Rev. Thomas F. Siafa, Sr:** Founder/President of Heart for Africa Ministries, Inc. Director of Global Ministries, Kettering First Church of God, Kettering, OH.
8. **Mrs. Massa Siafa:** Wife of Rev. Siafa Sr. Founder/President of Heart for Africa Ministries, Inc. Director of Global Ministries, Kettering First Church of God, Kettering, OH.
9. **Rev. Dr. Eric Whisnant:** President Liberian Council of Churches, Trenton, NJ.
10. **Matthew Kiamue:** Computer/Website Admin and member of the Word of Life, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
11. **Mr. Joe King, Jr.:** Pastor of United Christian Fellowship, Pittsburg, PA. Chairman of the Liberian Ministerial Fellowship in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
12. **Rev. Solomon Saypam:** (Petter Garden Fellowship, Soul Clinic Community, Liberia) guest of **Rev. Orlando**