

**AMERICAN BAPTIST HAITIAN CAUCUS
ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR 2018**

Prepared By: Rev. Dr Edgard Nicolas, President

My report consists of the following:

1. Immigration Concerns
2. Annual Gathering
3. Field Visits
4. Conflict Resolution

IMMIGRATION CONCERNS

Some of our Haitian congregations are deeply affected by the immigration changes. Specifically, those who do not have a Permanent Visa in their hands. Although, they can use the IRS as a reference they are concerned about the expiration date. “What are we going to do? Maybe we can face deportation unless we leave the U.S. on our own.” At this moment, this raised worries and uncertainty.

During my visit to one of the Haitian Congregations, two active young ladies approached me. They informed me that their immigration status was extended until July 2019. After the expiration has ended, they will face the uncertainty. One of the young ladies who shared her concerns with me is a victim of the big earthquake, that devastated Haiti and took thousands of lives. She was a university student and while she was in class the building was shaken, collapsed, and debris fell upon the whole class. One of her classmates who was hit, fell and died on this young lady’s left side. After several days under the debris, the body started decomposing on her. As a result, left arm and leg became badly infected. Thankfully, she was rescued but unfortunately Doctors could not save her leg and arm.

I was very saddened to see her with these physical disabilities and having to face this new immigration dilemma. She expressed to me her desire to further her education but unfortunately, she is undocumented. If there is anything that can be done to assist this young lady, she will be more than happy and grateful. I don’t know many other young men and women in her situation and so we are asking you to please pray for an intervention.

THE ANNUAL GATHERING

Our Annual gathering was held in Philadelphia at Evangelical Haitian Baptist Church, with the host Senior Pastor Reverend Christian Cezar. Our theme was “Christian Unity” and the reference text was Ephesians 4: 1-3. The Keynote Speaker was Reverend Pierre Michel Julien who is President of the Haitian Baptist Convention, accompanied by the Former General Secretary, Reverend Dr. Emmanuel Pierre and Reverend Eugene Gedeon, Consultant. The following topics were introduced:

- What is Christian Unity? Reverend Dr. Edgard Nicolas
- How to Cultivate Christian Unity in Diversity? Reverend Eugene Gedeon
- Why Should We Cultivate Christian Unity? Reverend Pierre Michel Julien

In term of participation we had less attendees compared to the previous year. We had delegates from New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York, Philadelphia, Rhode Island except for Florida.

FIELD VISITS

On October 2018, we visited and met with Haitian Leadership in Fort Lauderdale, to bring direction in term of maintaining a close relationship with the region. Eight Haitian Churches joined American Baptist Churches of New Jersey, under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Lee B. Spitzer before he was elected as ABCUSA General Secretary.

Attended the Women Convention in June 2018, Board of General Ministries in Philadelphia, ABC National Women Ministries Team in Orlando to plan the 2020 Women Celebration, Space for Grace Conference in Philadelphia on November 2018 and ABCNJ COAL Leadership workshop held in East Orange, NJ.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Three Haitian Congregations were deeply affected by “Power Struggle” among their leadership, which resulted in legal actions. One of the three Haitian Leadership Intervention ended peacefully with the Pastor submitting his resignation. As of right now the Congregation is doing fine. One of the other congregations, decision is still pending contingent on the Court’s decision. Lastly, the third church discontinued their fellowship with ABCNJ family.

AMERICAN BAPTIST HAITIAN CAUCUS
2018 FINANCIAL REPORT
Prepared By: Rev. Dr Edgard Nicolas, President

INCOME

Previous Balance.....	\$	1,644.00	
ABC/USA.....		<u>7,200.00</u>	
Total Income.....	\$	8,844.00	\$ 8,844.00

EXPENSES

Travel/Transportation.....	\$	1,350.00	
Lodging.....		1,100.00	
Meals.....		860.00	
Scholarship.....		1,000.00	
Office Supplies.....		350.00	
Honorarium.....		800.00	
Miscellaneous.....		<u>120.00</u>	
Total Expenses.....	\$	5,580.00	\$ <u>5,580.00</u>

Income Balance.....			\$ <u>3,264.00</u>
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AMERICAN BAPTIST HAITIAN CAUCUS
2020 PROPOSE BUDGET
Prepared By: Rev. Dr Edgard Nicolas, President

INCOME

Proposed Fundraising.....	\$ 1,500.00	
ABC/USA.....	<u>7,200.00</u>	
Total Income.....	\$ 8,700.00	\$ 8,700.00

EXPENSES

Travel/Transportation.....	\$ 1,350.00	
Lodging.....	1,100.00	
Meals.....	860.00	
Scholarship.....	1,000.00	
Office Supplies.....	350.00	
Honorarium.....	800.00	
Miscellaneous.....	<u>120.00</u>	
Total Expenses.....	\$ 5,580.00	<u>\$ 5,580.00</u>

Total Balance.....		<u>\$ 3,120.00</u>
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