

The Official Board held a meeting on Thursday, September 8th, following the Bible Study and Prayer Service... Present were Bros. Cook, Davis, Gerhart, Massucci, Sakash, Sampson, Spuler, Wiktorchik; Sisters Huff, Manor and Muir - and our Presbyter, Brother Papit, who had taken the Thursday night service. (11 of the Board)

Brother Sakash turned the meeting over immediately to Brother Papit.

Brother Papit stated that he felt sorry that Bro. Christiansen wasn't coming; that in the process of again choosing a pastor, we must give attention to it without making haste - that is, set the wheels in motion to bring in candidates or review some of the former candidates.....

Brother Papit continued to exhort - I can't overemphasize the importance of the Board coming together at this particular time. Agree together as to procedure - vote on the procedure - if 2/3 vote one way and you didn't vote that way, go along with the majority and keep the work vibrant. Live with some of these matters - they are only temporary.

The matter then discussed was the fact that some of the congregation are now desiring to have just one candidate and vote on him; Bro. Papit then took a poll of the thinking of the Board and the majority felt we should have just the one candidate and vote

After discussion, Bro. Wiktorchik made the motion the the Board recommend to the membership at the next called meeting that we rescind the motion to bring in more than one candidate, and that now we bring one man in at a time, vote on him, and if he does not get the pastoral vote majority, go on to the next man. This was seconded by Bro. Sampson, put to vote and carried.

Bro. Papit further advised the Board that the age of the candidate cannot be legislated - that he has seen some men old at 30 and some young at 60 ... that we cannot have a novice at Highway, that the average age in Highway would be between 40 and 60, and that a man is needed who can relate to both age groups; even if a Youth Minister is brought in, he stated, the young people still have to relate to the pastor.

The next matter for discussion was whether or not to contact the former candidates, and after polling the desire of the Board members present, Bro. Davis moved that we contact Bros. Harrup and Norcross, advising them that Bro. Christiansen has changed his mind about taking the church, and asking them if they would be interested in having their names placed again before the membership. This was seconded by Bro. Massucci, put to vote and carried. The Church Clerk was advised to call the two men on the next day, Friday.

If the former candidates are agreeable, it will be the recommendation of the Official Board to the membership that they again consider these two former candidates, letting up to the membership the order in which they will be called or voted upon; they would not necessarily have to recandidate.

Brother Papit also advised that Board that the candidates must understand the problems at Highway, that they must tell him what they are prepared to give him in the way of salary, etc.

Brother Christiansen's letter was then brought up and it was the consensus of opinion that we would not reply to the letter.

Brother Sakash then brought up the matter of the change in the manual which requires that anyone considered for an official position has to have had the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and spoken in tongues. Brother Papit stated that it was his understanding that the membership voted to revise the By-laws some time ago and that he also felt the Board should be brought to a better size and blended ... he stated that we really have three separate boards; further, that the elders should know every area of the church (that is, be aware of what is happening in every area), that no two or three men on the Trustee Board should decide where the money goes nor should the Trustees make all the decisions regarding money matters, but that the whole Board should decide, etc.

There was opposition expressed (by Bro. Massucci and Sister Huff) concerning the Board's action of presenting the contributions to Bros. Roberson and Waggoner to the membership; they said it was not done with the full consent of the Board. Brother Papit advised that since the action has gone through, it should be lived with, etc.

Brother David Milley from New Jersey was mentioned as a possible pastoral candidate. Brother Papit recommended Bros. Reginald Stone and Reginald Yake and Charles Elliott as good speakers for the pulpit. He was then asked if he could suggest an Interim Pastor - Bro. Papit will try to find someone who could fill this position when he is in Harrisburg on Monday or Tuesday of next week; he further stated that we need a pastor who can minister to the Body, not to evangelize particularly at this time, but who can bring healing to the people.

The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth C. Muir
Ruth C. Muir, Church Clerk

*Accepted Oct 4, 1977
See Action of Board
By Synopsis*