

# MINUTES OF THE CNYBA MID-YEAR MEETING

May 4, 2014

At Living Water, Owego, New York

**Call to Order.** The CNYBA Executive Board was called to order by Assistant Moderator, Jeff Ford, Pastor of Lyons Falls BC

**Attendance.** Seventeen messengers from 9 churches registered and 11 visitors and guests attended the meeting.

**Scripture Reading and Season of Prayer.** CNYBA Assistant Moderator, Jeff Ford began the meeting by sharing Job 29. He wants to be like Job in his righteousness noting verse 14. An update of pastors and wives who have had health problems was given. Dan Schallmo, Bonnie Novack and Chrissy Lower are recovering at home. Waylon Bray and Clint Potter were both able to attend the meeting. A season of prayer followed.

**Welcome.** Elton Winskie, deacon of Living Water welcomed everyone to the church and invited everyone to stay for lunch after the meeting. Pastor Wayne Sibrava is in Peru on a mission trip.

**Congregational Singing.** Lyn Hart played the piano and Ed Hart led the congregation in singing 'Blessed Redeemer'

**Approval of Minutes.** The minutes from the 2013 Annual Meeting were presented and approved.

**Director of Mission's Report and Challenge.** Director Ed Hart reported that the two leadership forums had been well attended. There will be one more forum the last Saturday in May at Emmanuel in Cortland. The Lord is moving and Brother Ed is receiving calls about starting Bible studies. Bible studies can lead to forming new churches and feed existing churches.

Brother Ed is leading a discipleship study at West Hill on Wed. nights. He has taught a similar study at Davis and is available to share this at other churches. Without discipleship there can't be growth.

Brother Ed reported there are 48 churches or starts in the CNYBA of which 24 have started since 1996 when he came to the Association. Tim Bissell reported that good things are happening with regard to new church planters. Pastor Harold Lefler announced that the property that Agape had been trying to get rid of has been sold. They will be ordaining John Jablonski on May 10 at 3:00. Bill Lower announced a Ladies Encouragement Day at West Hill on

May 10. This has proven to be a good means of attracting first time visitors to the church. Jeff Ford announced that Lyons Falls is planning a mission trip to Mexico. The church has baptized 8. Under Pastor Clint Potter's leadership, North Fenton is developing people from their congregation to serve in ministry leadership. Pastor John Talada announced that Good News Church is starting a hymn sing on the first Sunday evening of each month.

Brother Hart's challenge was on the importance of obedience. He used the illustration of Roger Staubach, former quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys who had to come to grip with the fact that in the games, the coach called all the plays instead of allowing Staubach to call them. We also need to be obedient to the leadership of Christ and follow his directions. John 14:23 and Matt.16:24-25. Our cross may not be a literal cross but possibly a mission that God has called us to. Will we be obedient? A believer must be transformed into the image of Christ both in character and conduct.

### **Close of Executive Board Meeting of Executive Board and Call to Order of Mid-year Meeting**

#### **Congregational Singing.**

The congregation sang 'At the Cross'

#### **Ministering to the Hearing Impaired.**

Lynn Finch of the 'Hearing Loss Association of America' spoke on ministering to the hearing impaired. Some 22% have some degree of hearing loss. Many people are reluctant to use earphones where churches have them available. However, there is a new system, the loop, whereby it is possible to have a wire loop around a section in the church that will work with certain hearing aids and enable the users to hear better through their own hearing devices. Mr. Finch is available to visit any interested church and give them the information on this.

#### **Associational Business.**

##### **Recommendations from the Leadership Team (page 6)**

##### **Proposed changes regarding use of CNYBA Block Party Trailer and Tents.**

That reservations for the use of the CNYBA tents and for the use of the Block Party Trailer shall be limited to 7 days until May 1<sup>st</sup> of the year use is requested. After May 1<sup>st</sup> churches may request reservations for any time remaining open.

Both proposals were passed unanimously.

##### **Nominees to replace Leadership Team members.**

(NW Cluster Area) David Barrows to fill out the term of Doug King, who is no longer attending Clyde BC

(NE Cluster Area) Shawn Salsman to fill out the term of Lorraine Goewey, who has resigned.

Approved unanimously with no discussion.

**Congregational Singing.**

The congregation sang 'Power in the Blood'

**Missionary Speaker.**

Ronnie Wyatt, Church Planter – The Neighborhood Church, Syracuse - brought information on his church plant in a neighborhood in Syracuse known as the 'War Zone'. His own background was far from Christian. At age 29 the Lord saved him and he has served as pastor, evangelist, and Christian comedian. He described himself as the kind of pastor who makes his own congregation uncomfortable because of those he wants to minister to. In his neighborhood he told of a man's being shot and killed and later when his wife came to put a remembrance at the spot, she was also shot and killed. There are at least 80 refugee groups in the area. He described a difference between refugees and immigrants. He referred to the refugees as 'broken locals' – people in poverty, scared, believing no one cares and whose lives are full of chaos. Using Luke 14:12-14, he told stories of how abundantly God blesses those who *'bless those who cannot bless you back'*. People need to know that someone cares and if they don't know that you care, they will never know that Jesus cares.

**Dismissal for Lunch.** Jeff Ford adjourned the meeting and dismissed everyone for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted,

Billie Winskie, Acting Clerk

