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# **Annual Leadership Retreat**

**January 15, 2011**

**8:00 am**

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## **Coming From Behind with a Made Up Mind- The Year of Advancement, Progressing Toward My Providential Prize!**

**Luke 8:44      Phil. 3:13-14**



### **Ebenezer United Church of Christ**

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Rev. Dr. Larry E. Covington, Senior Pastor/Teacher

Rev. Shawn Winstead, Executive Pastor

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**8:00 am**

**Coming From Behind with a Made Up Mind!**

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8:00 am - 8:20 am	Greetings & Blessing of Food & Fellowship
8:20 am - 8:30 am	Devotions/Morning Meditation <i>Minister Shawn Winstead</i>
8:30 am - 9:00 am	2011 Vision Presentation <i>Pastor Larry Covington</i>
9:00 am - 9:10 am	Break
9:10 am - 9:25 am	Vision Leadership Exercise
9:25am - 10:00 am	Morning Business
Trustee Concerns	John Vincent
Excel Christian Academy	Davina Woods
Manasseh & Ephraim Transition Min.	Allen Blue
Financial Overview	Edna Parker
From the CFO	Minister Dion Terry
Youth Ministry	Minister Brandon Dawson
Calendar Review	Gladys Shepard
Executive Pastor & Dir. of Ministries	Minister Shawn Winstead
	Ministry & Infrastructure Overview
10:00am - 10:30am	Leadership tips, Questions & Answers

## **2011 Visionary Address**

**Delivered by Rev. Dr. Larry E. Covington**

Greetings my fellow Ebenezerites! God has blessed us to enter into another year and for that we owe Him some praise. Before sharing our 2011 vision and exploring our theme, let me just review briefly some highlights from the previous year. 2010 was a year that many outstanding things happened among us: we honored God for the 88 souls added to our membership. We thank God for the Cobbins coming along side to give visionary leadership to our mentoring ministry. We praise God for Sisters Nicole Enoch, Reisha Drumgold, Denita Sturdivant, Bonita Stephenson, and others giving leadership to our Girl Scouts program. We also are blessed to have Nate and Gwen Terry to head up our Video/Broadcast Ministry as well as give leadership to our Boy Scouts program. During the past year, two persons have surrendered to preach the gospel (DionTerry and Jarred Webb), and we graduated over 21 persons from our computer Technology Ministry under the direction of Minister Joseph Alston and Brother Alvin Wilson. We continued to be compassionate through Operation Compassion, sharing with those that are less fortunate and needy. Thanks to your generosity we were able to officially add Sister Dion Terry as Fulltime CFO. Our Transition Ministry graduated another young man (William Combs), ECA became a 5-Star Daycare facility and was awarded a More At Four classroom. We hosted another successful "Harvest Conference" through E.I.T.S. and with the help of our It Can Be Done Partners, we completed the renovations and the furnishings of "The Place!" We started the Youth Empowerment Academy; God also blessed us on last year to celebrate 15 years together as Pastor and people. These accomplishments and more we did by the power of the Holy Spirit and your faithfulness to God and godly leadership.

Truly, we've come this far by faith and now we are like the woman with the issue of blood coming up from behind, with a made up mind. Yes, there are many areas that we are behind in: Sunday School attendance - we are not where we should be. Why aren't you in attendance, especially if you are a leader? Our evangelistic thrust is definitely not where it should be. When was the last time you either invited someone or brought someone to church? Thanks to Britt and Courtnee Cox, we had a Friends Day emphasis, but only a little over 15 cards were submitted. I also believe that we are behind in our corporate prayer emphasis. You do know that some things aren't going to happen except through prayer and fasting. Our family care can use some catching up also as well as our children and youth ministry. Quite a few of our ministries are either on life support or they have flat-lined. So, although we can shout because of what was accomplished, there are many areas that we are yet behind in. the missing link is the "made up mind" that gives energy to effort. Once we see people like Jesus sees them, we would minister to people like He did with passion, power and persistent pursuit. Let us keep in mind that if all we do is meet emotional, psychological, material, educational, recreational, sociological and relational needs and desires without keying in on the spiritual we would have missed the mark, so let us make up our mind and swiftly move with determination, devotion and dedication toward the providential goals that God has laid before us this year.

It is in that spirit of a motivated runner straining to break the tape that I submit the following vision statement for the 2011 church year.

## **Coming From Behind with a Made Up Mind!**

(Luke 8:44 Phil. 3:13-14)

### **I. Christian Education**

- Continue our emphasis on Sunday School and Fulfillment Hour through teacher recruitment, adopting the shepherding model with an in-reach/outreach emphasis
- Sponsor Quarterly Christian Education/Teacher training experiences
- Use the Sunday School/Fulfillment participants in worship to give testimonials and challenge others to become apart
- Increase attendance by 100% by year's end as we move toward the goal of 300 consistently in Sunday School

### **II. Worship**

- To hire a musician to assist in the music ministry by March 30, 2011
- To have in print an Ebenezer manual on Worship and Music by July 2011
- To activate the Worship Ministry team; to meet on a quarterly basis under the leadership of Mrs. Rachel Cobbin and Deacon Ronald Hunter
- To build a 5-year plan that will look at the total worship ministry of EUCC, to be presented at year end Dec. 1, 2011
  - (a) To include - a minister of music (part-time or full-time)
  - (b) Research choir arrangement/musicians and instrument arrangement
  - (c) The flow of the order of Worship
  - (d) Sound System/Microphone/Instrument needs
  - (e) Review present choir/music feasibility

### **III. Deacon-Family Ministry**

- To formally ordain brothers Chris Miles and Albert Holness to the Deacon Family Ministry by April 2011
- To allow the DFM to administrate and coordinate all "Operation Compassion" projects on a year round basis
- To operate a small food pantry for emergency needs only here at the church
- To enact the DFM model fully with yokefellows, Prayer Captains, and Social Coordinators
- To include DFM in Leadership training experiences throughout the year

### **IV. Property Acquisition**

Trustee Orlando Blount was requested by the Senior Pastor to be the point person to meet with Mr. Mebane, Mrs. Mebane, and Sister Burnette about their selling and our purchasing the property at 839 Apple Street that includes a house and over an acre of land next to it. This property can help us to expand ministry here in our Jerusalem.

#### V. Evangelism/Discipleship

I am appointing Minister Felix Castro and Minister DeeAnn Castro to Ministers of Evangelism and Discipleship. Though this is a volunteer assignment, it will be regarded very highly as a priority for our ministry. As you know that one of the areas that is most important to God and least operative in a coordinated fashion in our church is a strong emphasis on corporate as well as personal evangelism and follow-up. Minister Castro(s) will organize and lead our efforts. They will give oversight and accountability to the Encouragers Ministry, First Friends, Evangelism and Follow-up.

#### VI. New Member Ministry Review and Evaluation

-By April 2011, the Executive Pastor will conclude an exhaustive inventory of all of our ministries that will lead us in the compiling of an accurate ministry manual to be produced by September 2011.

-There will be an annual Ministry Fair conducted to recruit new workers under the leadership of the Executive Pastor by July 2011.

#### VII. 2011 New Ministry Focus

-Wednesdays Tutorial and Homework Academy at The Place. Mrs. Courtnee Cox and Mr. Christopher Swinton will conduct Wednesday Academic Academy to assist middle and high school students in selected subjects starting February 9th from 4:30pm-7:30pm at The Place

-The "Place" will officially open February 5th for Youth and community programming

-The Director of Recreational and Leisure Ministries will begin programming the ECCO center for the church and community.

-We will begin the process of revising and updating our organizational structure as an incorporated entity along with developing a five-year strategic plan

-Look at re-invigorating the following ministries:

- (a) The Ebenezer Center for the Performing Arts
- (b) The King's Cuisine

These and other initiatives, by faith and through the joyful submission to the voice of the Lord, we will pledge ourselves to achieve during this 2011 calendar year. It is my prayer and hope that Ebenezer will continue to stay true to the message of the Cross and the movement of the community toward healing and being a redemptive presence. I look forward not only to us reaching 100 new souls for Christ, but also nurturing those that have joined with us already through discipleship and follow-up. This is our mandate and marching orders for the 2011 year, let us go forth with a made up mind to press towards the prize of the upward call!

Be Blessed and See You at the Finish Line,

***Pastor Covington***

Matt. 6:33