

The Official Board held a meeting on Saturday night, March 19, 1977, to meet with District Superintendent Williams and Secretary-Treasurer Lewis. Present were: Bros. Ambrose, Cook, Davis, Gerhart, Henders, Luff, Massucci, Sakash, Sampson, Spuler, Weinacht, Wiktorchik; Sisters Huff, Manor, Sampson, Wallen, Zehner and Muir (18)

Brother Al Luff took charge of the meeting. Scripture was read by Sister Mary Sampson (2 Peter 1:1-7); we were led in prayer by Bro. Massucci.

Brother Luff welcomed Brothers Williams and Lewis to our meeting.

A letter of resignation from Brother Bartlett sent to the Board, members and friends of Highway Tabernacle was then read (copy attached). A motion was made by Brother Massucci, seconded by Bro. Wiktorchik, that we hear from the District Brethren concerning the allegations and the evidence in the case before accepting or rejecting the letter of resignation (Pastoral) from Brother Bartlett. The motion was carried. Note: The District Brethren had left the meeting until the resignation of Bro. Bartlett as Pastor was considered.

The District Brethren were then called back into the meeting. A copy of a letter from the District office (dated March 17th) to Bro. Bartlett was read. There will be another hearing for Bro. Bartlett by the District Presbyters on March 31 at 9:30 A.M. to further consider his case. (Copy of the letter attached)

Brother Williams stated that the District Board of Presbyters had taken no action because of the letter from the Psychiatrist presented to the Board by a representation of Highway at the District meeting on the 14th - the Board of Presbyters wanted to extend every courtesy and kindness to Bro. Bartlett that was possible; if Bro. Bartlett failed to appear on the 31st as he did on the 14th, his papers from the Assemblies will be dropped; he can appeal to Springfield if he wants to. Bro. Williams continued to say that there was very damaging evidence presented against Bro. Bartlett. He also stated that there was a carrier or contact on the Official Board of the church who was taking everything said in the Board meetings back to Bro. Bartlett; therefore, the two brethren did not care to reveal certain evidence in the present meeting because of this contact. He also stated that the matter of discipline was the District's problem; the matter of the church pastorate was the church problem.

After further discussion, Brother Duane Henders from Teen Challenge (on the Board as a Deacon) resigned from the Official Board. A motion was made after Brother Henders had left, that the resignation of Brother Henders be accepted by the Board. (Motion made by Bro. Spuler, seconded by Bro. Davis). This motion was put to vote and carried.

With reference to the letter sent to the Membership and friends from Bro. Bartlett, dated March 15th, Brother Williams further stated that credential holders with the District cannot withdraw their papers if they are under discipline until the credential holder is proven innocent or guilty. They could not accept the resignation of Brother Bartlett from the Assemblies until after the case was closed. He further stated that Brother Bartlett had resigned from Highway of his own accord; the District did not ask him to do this - neither did the church ask him to do this. As far as the "slander" area mentioned in the letter, the District is not afraid of this. They have very damaging evidence and know whereof they speak. They and Brother Williams have tried to be honest before God; they have looked into the

*Accepted without reading (Synopsis)
See Action 4/19/77*

matter from the area of it being a power struggle for Teen Challenge; they have looked into the situation with the accusers.

Copy of a letter from Bro. Bartlett to Pat Fiore, promising him \$200, was then passed around; the first copy of the letter enclosed \$20.00.

A tape of evidence was then played back to the hearing of the Official Board.

A motion was then made by Bro. Ambrose, seconded three times, that the resignation of Bro. Bartlett as Pastor of Highway Tabernacle, be accepted. It was put to vote and unanimously carried.

A letter will be sent to Bro. Bartlett, accepting his resignation as of the 15th, by action of the Official Board on the 19th. His compensation will cease as of the 15th.

Concerning the Meeting of the Membership to be held on Sunday, the 20th, Supt. Williams stated that there would be no business transacted in the Sunday Membership Meeting - it would be an informative meeting. The meeting will be called to order, a copy of the letter from the District to Bro. Bartlett will be read to the people; the decision of the Official Board to unanimously accept Bro. Bartlett's resignation as Pastor of Highway Tabernacle will be given to the Membership.

Brother Sakash made the motion that Bro. Williams chair the meeting on Sunday ... this was seconded and carried.

Bro. Massucci moved that the entire Board be used as a Pulpit Committee to find a new Pastor. One candidate at a time will be voted upon. This was seconded and carried.

Other items of Business:

The contracts with the radio companies will be looked into immediately and cancelled, if possible, immediately.

The Church Van will be taken from parking at Teen Challenge and will be left at the home of Bro. Ambrose.

It was moved and seconded that Highway will withhold their monthly contribution to Teen Challenge until things are straightened out concerning the situation there. This was carried with one opposing vote.

The Official Board asked Brother Williams to approach Bro. Roger Casey about giving thought and prayer to being presented to the congregation as next Pastor of Highway Tabernacle.

The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth C. Muir
Ruth C. Muir, Church Clerk

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