

**AMERICAN BAPTIST HAITIAN CAUCUS  
ANNUAL REPORT  
YEAR 2017**

**Prepared By: Rev. Dr Edgard Nicolas, President**

2017 was a year of great challenges. As a result, it also raised great tension within the Haitian community and Haitian churches. First and foremost, the immigration issue on the refugee's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) caused fear, deportation, family separation and transition to Canada or elsewhere. The Haitian Clergy Association of New Jersey organized a big rally, which was held at The Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey. Several government officials were present such as, the Mayor of the city of Newark and Governor's representative were there in unison with over fifty Haitian Pastors and congregations. They all came to support and voice concerns about the Haitian refugees. The Mayor brought greetings but Rev. Al Sharpton was the keynote speaker. Both leaders expressed their sympathies and concerns for the Haitians refugees. I was also invited to bring greetings and words of comfort on behalf of the Haitian Caucus. Love and sympathy expressions were shared with the Haitian crowd. The information that I relayed to them was that, "The American Baptist Churches did not forget about you in this refugee's struggle."

Another issue that brought a lot of concern in our Haitian churches, was the local church autonomy. It caused panic, confusion, division and church closures. The worst part was the threat of physical violence that created unsafe environments and thereby triggered Police present in Holy places; for safety and security reasons. It is shameful, blasphemous, and scary. Such behavior will hinder our mandate to proclaim the good news to the lost souls in this world. It will not bring edification to the Kingdom of God. Last March The Haitian Caucus Met with the ABC/USA General Secretary, Rev. Dr Lee B. Spitzer to submit a statement of concerns, seeking guidance, wisdom, and assistance to help alleviate the Haitian churches situation.

**SPRING MEETING**

Our spring gathering took place in March 2017 at the leadership retreat, Camp Liebenzell, New Jersey. The following items were discussed: June Biennial in Portland, Oregon, participation and Caucus exhibit, Caucus breakfast, traveling cost (airfare, hotel and meals). In response to that, only a small delegation of people wanted to attend, six people to be exact. With such a small number it was not possible to plan the Caucus breakfast. We plan on working on this matter, at our next Biennial. Therefore, the Haitian delegation will join in the Inter-Caucus breakfast. A suggestion was made to visit the Haitian refugees in Tijuana, Mexico. The Mission trip to Haiti was also on the agenda because of hurricane Mathew has flooding the Northern and Southern part of the country. It destroyed houses, school and church buildings, leaving many people homeless and in despair.

**FIELD VISITS**

On August 2017, a delegation of fourteen people went to Haiti. We visited South Haiti: La Colline d'Aquin and les Cayes and West Haiti: Port-Au-Prince. School supplies, health supplies and toiletry items were distributed to more more than two hundred people. We also provided financial assistance to the single mothers and fathers.

On October 2017, Rev. Dieudonne Merinvil and I went to Tijuana, Mexico. We visited Debora House, which is a shelter for battered women, Five Haitian shelters and the host Pastors and their spouses. On

behalf of the Haitian and American Baptist community, we expressed thanks and gratitude for their love and hospitality toward our Haitians' brethren. We conducted workshops on church leadership, Sunday school, and health seminars. We also saluted the birth of four new Haitian Churches in Mexico. Upon the IM missionary request, we ordered thirty French Bibles and thirty French-Creole Hymn Books and distributed them to all four of the new congregations. We also gave out thank you and gift cards, including plaques to each of the seven host Pastors and their spouses.

### **FALL MEETING**

Our annual gathering was held at First Haitian Baptist Church of New Hampshire, with the host Pastor: Rev. Renaud Dumond. We were honored by the presence of our ABC/USA General Secretary, Rev. Dr Lee B. Spitzer who led the Pastors' workshop, while the Rev. Dale the Executive Minister of New Hampshire conducted the bible study. Three members from Haiti's Baptist Convention were also present: Rev. Dr Emmanuel Pierre, General Secretary, Rev. Dr Eugene Gedeon, Consultant, and Rev. Pierre Michel Julien, President. A plaque was given to the following Pastors for their years in faithful service: Rev. Dr Emmanuel Pierre for thirty-three years and Rev. Dr Eugene Gedeon who is currently retired, for thirty years.

AMERICAN BAPTIST HAITIAN CAUCUS  
2017 FINANCIAL REPORT  
Prepared By: Rev. Dr Edgard Nicolas, President

**INCOME**

Previous Balance.....	\$ 619.00	
ABC/USA.....	8,000.00	
Haitian Baptist Church/Crossroads.....	1,300.00	
Alliance.....	1,050.00	
ABCNJ.....	<u>4,000.00</u>	
<b>Total Income.....</b>		<b>\$ 14,969.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

**Spring Meeting:**

Travel/Transportation.....	\$ 1,800.00
Lodging.....	1,250.00
Meals.....	950.00
Honorarium.....	1,050.00
Office Supplies.....	<u>200.00</u>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 5,250.00</b>

**Fall Meeting at New Hampshire:**

Travel/Transportation.....	\$ 1,900.00
Lodging.....	1,450.00
Meals.....	900.00
Honorarium.....	875.00
School Assistance.....	2,700.00
Financial Assistance.....	<u>250.00</u>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 8,075.00</b>

**Total Expenses.....** **\$ 13,325.00**

**Balance.....** **\$ 1,644.00**

AMERICAN BAPTIST HAITIAN CAUCUS  
2019 PROPOSE REPORT  
Prepared By: Rev. Dr Edgard Nicolas, President

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# Caucus Reference Form

**1. Name of Caucus: American Baptist Haitian Caucus**

**2. Caucus President**

a. Name: Rev. Dr. Edgard Nicolas

b. Preferred Mailing Address: 111 Ampere Parkway, East Orange, NJ 07017

c. Phone: Home (973) 676-6459

**3. Caucus Treasurer**

a. Name: Rev. Dr. Lemaire Alerte

b. Preferred Mailing Address: 1962 Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07305

c. Phone: Home (201) 435-7451      Office: (201) 243-5021

**4. Caucus Representative to Credentials & Caucus Committee Meetings**

a. Name: Rev. Duvalles Cineus

b. Preferred Mailing Address: 2549 Church Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11226

c. Phone: Home (718) 209-9673      Office: (718) 693-8214

**5. GEC Member who will Represent Caucus Interests at GEC Meetings**

Name: None

**6. Who should receive bills incurred by the Caucus?**

a. Name: Dr. Lemaire Alerte

b. Preferred Mailing Address: Same as above

c. Phone: Same as above

**7. Who should receive function sheets and stipulate requirements for Caucus meetings occurring around General Board Sessions?**

a. Name: Rev. Dr. Edgard Nicolas

b. Preferred Mailing Address: Same as above

c. Phone: Same as above

**8. For matters related to Biennial Exhibits, who is the contact person?**

a. Name: Mrs. Mathedalie B. Nicolas (Dalie)

b. Preferred Mailing Address: 49 Pillot Place, West Orange, NJ 07052

c. Phone: (973) 573-2744 Email: Dalie.b.nicolas@gmail.com

**9. Are there other responsibilities for which you would like to designate a contact person? If so, please indicate the activity/responsibility.**

a. Activity/Responsibility: Secretary

b. Name: Rev. Francel L. Jacques, D. Min.

c. Preferred Mailing Address: 310 Highwood St., Teaneck, NJ 07666

d. Phone: (201) 753-2011 Email: Flashjacques@yahoo.com