



Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Nazarene

108 Central Avenue, Glen Burnie, MD 21061 443-557-0450 manazoffice@gmail.com www.manaz.org

David W. Bowser
District Superintendent
dwbowser@gmail.com

Terry S. Sowden
Assistant District Superintendent
tsowden@juno.com

Kenneth R. Balch
Missional Ministries Director
balchmadmission@gmail.com

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Dear Members and Friends of Bel Air Church of the Nazarene,

Greetings in the name of Jesus, the One who has called us into His service. Today, I celebrate His presence and provision as we take the “*next step*” in the life of Bel Air Church of the Nazarene. In the words of today’s scripture, “*Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.*” Joshua 3:5

It is a privilege to update you as we formally enter into this interim period in anticipation of new pastoral leadership for the future. It has been a joy to meet and work with your Church Board and to celebrate their passion for Jesus and His church. There are several areas that I would like to update you on as we prayerfully seek God’s direction for the church.

MEETINGS

In early **December of 2017** I began meeting with the Bel Air Church Board to consider the future of the church based on your pastor’s pending retirement. Since that time, it has been my privilege to conduct eight board meetings where we have worked together in preparation for the future of the church.

In **March of 2018** a Congregational Survey was conducted to gain the perspective and insights of those who attend Bel Air Church. The results of this Congregational Survey were tabulated, reviewed and a report was presented to the Church Board.

On **June 24, 2018**, I conducted a Congregational Meeting to share the results of the Congregational Survey. The results of the survey led to the development of a Pastoral Profile and an Opportunities Profile. Both will be online shortly and available for your review.

PASTORAL STAFF

In addition to the meetings with the Bel Air Church Board, I have met with the Pastoral Staff two times to update them on the status of the anticipated interim. As I shared in the Congregational Meeting on **June 24, 2018**, the Pastoral Staff will continue their ministry with you in the interim as directed by Manual paragraph 159.5 which states, *a local church board may request that the district superintendent approve the continued service of any or all associates. This approval, if granted, could continue until 90 days after the new pastor’s assumption of duties or until the incoming pastor nominates his or her paid associates for the coming year.*

During the interim period, the pastoral staff will care for the day-to-day responsibilities of the church. In addition to their present responsibilities, Pastor Gregg Alsbrooks will provide oversight of the church's General Operations and Pastor Noah Tharp will be responsible for Pastoral Care in the interim.

INTERIM PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

It is a privilege to announce that Rev. Shirley Goodman will serve as the Interim Pastor and will be responsible for the preaching/teaching ministry on Sundays. Shirley is an ordained elder and has faithfully served on the Philadelphia District for twenty-four years.

Her first pastoral ministry assignment was as Administrative Pastor in Vineland NJ, followed by five years as Senior Pastor of the Philadelphia First Church, a multicultural congregation. Then for six years, Shirley served on the Philadelphia District Staff as Urban Missions Director, where she was responsible to develop and implement a plan for the expansion of the work of the Church of the Nazarene in Philadelphia county and Camden, NJ.

She subsequently served for nine years as the Senior Pastor at the West Chester, Pennsylvania church. Currently, she volunteers as an Associate Pastor at the Pennsville, NJ church.

CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCESS

On **June 24, 2018**, in the Congregational Meeting you received a "draft" of the Pastoral Profile. Everyone had an opportunity to suggest potential pastoral candidate's names for consideration and to date nearly thirty names have been suggested.

As District Superintendent, I will begin the process of evaluating the candidates over the next thirty days. Following this evaluation, contact will be made to determine potential candidate's interest level and willingness to enter into a conversation. Following this review, I will recommend candidates to the Church Board for their prayerful consideration.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Bel Air Church of the Nazarene has a rich history and legacy forged by the faithfulness of pastors and people since the church was organized in 1932. God has been faithful in the past and I look forward to His faithfulness as we follow His call into the future. Please be assured of my continued prayers for you in the days ahead.

For the Kingdom of God,

Dr. David W. Bowser
Mid-Atlantic District Superintendent

cc: Rev. Terry Sowden, Assistant District Superintendent