

APOSTOLIC MANIFESTO CRITICAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Overview: The critical issues committee chose as the first assignment under the Apostolic Manifesto to address and recommend to the Executive Board of the PAW, Inc., the matter of elevating women to the bishopric in the PAW, Inc. Although there will be and are several other critical issues which need to be addressed, this committee prioritized this particular issue over and above other issues since this subject has been raised in the past without any action taken one way or another. The critical issues committee strongly recommends that action be taken on the elevation of women in the PAW, Inc. without any more legislative delays and tablings, and vote the matter up or down in 2009.

Process: The meeting dates of the critical issues committee via phone conferencing were as follows:

November 3, 2008

November 17, 2008

December 8, 2008

December 15, 2008

January 22, (EBC) 2009

February 2, 2009

In preparation for the EBC meeting which met on January 22, 2009, our committees were given the following task assignments:

Dr. Jane Sims: Do an historical purview of women in leadership roles in the PAW, and the backlash this organization could face in the possibility of promoting women into the bishopric as early as the next summer convention in 2009: Start date of assignment- November 18, 2008; End date of assignment- December 15, 2008

Pastor Cozette Snead: An in depth research of PAW constitution and bylaws addressing women in ecclesial leadership. Does the present language include or exclude promoting women into higher leadership role? Are our legislative practices discriminatory and/or biased on what is written; and the legality of promoting women by the language used in our legislated material? Start date-November 18, 2008; End date-December 15, 2008

Dr. Vanuel Little, Jr.: Determine the amendment and ratification process/procedures in changing our bylaws and constitution that will legislate the promotion of women into the bishopric: What type of caucusing will be needed to get feedback from constituents without looking political and "evil"? What would a draft Communication Plan look like in order to get leadership to accept our recommendation? Start date-November 18; End date- December 15, 2008

Suffragan Bishop Ruben Graham: An in depth study on other denominations who promote women into the bishopric.

- a. What impact did this action have on the organization?
- b. What was the damage control taken to prevent a split in the organization?
- c. Has the organization experienced new life and growth due to promoting women into the bishopric? Start date- November 18; End date-December 15

Pastor Yolanda Hunt: An intense study of Pauline theology in I Corinthians 14:33-35; understanding Greek culture at the time of his writing, addressing the treatment of women in that day, which areas of culture have we in Western culture maintained from Greek culture, and which areas have we rejected and denied? Start date- November 18; End date-December 15

Dr. Rosa Sailes: An intense study of Pauline theology in I Timothy 3:1-7; understanding Greek culture at the time of Paul's writings and the treatment of women in that day. Is this text truly addressing men only, (there are at least 10 references made to men in this text, using words as "man", "he", "his", in the authorized version. Is there any basis to rule out women if this text is essentially male specific, or does the text mean women as well? What is the authorial meaning of the text, is this a text addressing the qualifications of bishops using generic language regardless male or female, or is this a text of male specific bishops? Start date-November 18; End date- December 15

District Elder Charlotte Petty (Co-chair of committee): An intense study of Pauline theology in I Timothy 2:9-15 using Greek and Hebrew studies; understanding Paul's thoughts in this very controversial text; is this text referring to marriages, or women in ministry? If the PAW sanctions women pastors, then how can it not sanction women in the bishopric in light of this scripture? If a woman can't teach, then can she teach SS? Bible Class? Women's Group? Choir songs? What is the authorial meaning of this text? Start date-November 18; End date- December 15

Bishop Richard Howell, Jr.: Pulling together all resources and research from all committee members' reports, formulating a formal treatise (draft) prepared for presentation by January 1, 2009. This document will be submitted first to our Presider, and hopefully will be made available for all constituents after our Presider's approval, so all can read our findings. Start date-December 16; End date-January 1, 2009

The Draft was completed by January 1, 2009 and submitted to our Presider's office. This draft was presented to the EBC on January 22, 2009 in Detroit, and was adopted by the EBC.

Objectives: The Critical Issues committee is recommending action from the Executive Board of the PAW, Inc. to promote women into the bishopric as early as this summer's convention in Atlanta, in 2009. In an era when women are being promoted to the ranks

of CEO's and COO's of Fortune 500 companies and women are serving as prominent and powerful political leaders in nations around the world, and that both sons and daughters shall prophesy in this pre-rapture era, we believe that God is raising qualified women to lead as both a need to minister and in season for the PAW in order to secure our future.

Humbly Submitted:

Bishop Richard D. Howell, Jr., Chairman