

CHAIRMAN'S "2018 STATE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES"

To the Members of the Board of Trustees: First and foremost, I am truly blessed to have completed my first year as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Once again I am truly pleased to share with you my prayerful vision for the "State of the Board of Trustees" going forward into 2018 and beyond". Together, we continue to face several challenges and have to make several difficult decisions but I fervently believe that the role of the Board of Trustees is more relevant than ever and I truly believe that our collective efforts will be critical in assisting our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Keith W. Byrd, Sr., with moving Zion Baptist Church onward with a particular focus on his current vision of "*The New Era: Restoring Community*" Joel 2:25-27.

Secondly, I also believe that Zion owes a great debt of sincere gratitude to all of the Church Trustees who have served before us and have given unselfishly of themselves through their time, talent and treasure to care for the Church over and beyond the call of normal Christian duty. Members of the Board of Trustees who accept their responsibility do so with a sacred purpose of doing Christ's holy will for Zion Baptist Church. Specifically, the mission of the Board of Trustees is as follows: To lovingly, prayerfully, and faithfully serve as stewards of the Church through judicious management of all of its resources. Trustees shall study the Word, love the Church and willingly work with others to enable the fulfillment of the mission and ministries of Zion Baptist Church. Through its open and flexible administration of the Church's resources, the Board of Trustees shall facilitate the successful movement of Zion Baptist Church from mission to ministries. Scriptural Basis is II Corinthians 9:12-13.

This past year, Zion Baptist Church celebrated its one hundred and fifty-third year of existence and the Board of Trustees has been an integral part since its inception. Historically, the Board of Trustees has acted as the Church's agent in financial transactions, custodian of all Church property and manager of the Church's personnel and information resources. Keeping Zion Baptist Church in sound financial health, maintaining the property, equipping it with adequate staff to carry out its administrative functions and overseeing its information resources continue to be its role. Throughout the years the Board of Trustees has been blessed with the leadership of O.W. McDonald, George W. Peterson, James Randolph, John Thompson, Ralph Jones, George B. Thomas, Sr., Wesley Williams, Sr., James M. Christian, Sr., Madeline C. McCullough, Brenda I. Johnson, Delores D. Willis, Sharlyn Grigsby-Queen, Beverly Lewis-Koch and currently myself.

More recently, over these past fifty-plus years, Zion has established itself as one of the leading African-American churches in Washington, D.C. committed to empowering and mobilizing the congregation based on our core principles that Zion Baptist Church shall: Enlist Sinners, Educate Students, Empower the Suffering, Encourage the Saints, and Exalt our Savior. Acts 2:41-47. Under the leadership of our ninth servant-leader, the Rev. Dr. Keith W. Byrd, Sr., Zion Baptist Church has continued the legacy of our Christian faith with a renewed focus on Evangelism and Discipleship. Several significant accomplishments under Pastor Byrd's tutelage to date, with the collaboration of the Board of Trustees, include: (a) the Installation of the Stained Glass Windows in the Main Sanctuary, (b) the Establishment of a Strategic Plan for the Church, (c) the Establishment of the Historical Commission including a series of grants for an Oral History project, (d) the Installation of our Historical Archival Cabinets; (e) Significant Renovations to the Family Life Center, (f) the Amazing Visit of President Barack Obama and his Family at a Sunday morning worship service, (g) the Establishment of Zion Community

Enterprise, (h) the Centennial Birthday Celebration of four amazing women of Zion, and (i) Proposed Acquisition of Zion North Initiative among many others!!!

Thirdly, as members of the Board of Trustees, Zion Baptist Church's congregation has entrusted us with a service-oriented role of management and administrative services with the following core Christian attributes: (a) love of the church, (b) spiritual sensitivity, (c) humility, (d) sincerity, (e) transparency, (f) leadership, (g) teamwork, and (h) technical skills. Without a doubt, Zion has always benefited from insightful and highly committed members on the Board of Trustees who continue to exhibit a proven dedication to their fiduciary responsibilities. However, we must also be willing to recognize that the Board of Trustees today is not the same as it was in previous times during the life of Zion. New challenges have arisen, new social implications exist, new crises face the church, and new methods for resolution are necessary in order for us to lay the foundation for those who will eventually come after our tenure as trustees has come to a close. Over the next few years, under my leadership it is hoped that by working collaboratively with the Pastor, Ministerial Staff, Deacons, Ministry Leaders, and members of the congregation we anticipate making a great difference in several key areas as follows:

- Continue to revise and update the Trustee Manual to include necessary policies, procedures and guidelines that will empower the Board of Trustees to do all of their important work more effectively and efficiently.
- Implementation of a Capital Improvement Campaign that will enable us to realistically prioritize and ensure funding for both short-term and long-term projects.
- Moving Forward with the Implementation of Zion's Main Sanctuary Enhancement Project to include the development of a realistic financial strategy in order to fully pay for the entire effort.
- Establish a Planned Giving Campaign for financial endowment growth of the church's resources.
- Incorporate an enhanced utilization of information technology and communication applications through Share Point and other interactive mechanisms in order to provide for more impactful levels of communication and collaboration between Church Officers and Church Ministry Leaders.
- Re-establishment of an Information Technology Committee and seek to significantly improve the professional capacity and resources of all of the Standing Committees of the Board of Trustees.
- Continued Expansion and Sustainability of both the Scope and Impact of Programs and Services at the Genevieve N. Johnson Senior Day Care for both church members and the community at-large.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Zion Baptist Church I wish to express my utmost appreciation for all that you do, both individually and collectively, as a member of the Board of Trustees and I eagerly look forward to "doing more on behalf of Zion and its people" with your help in 2018 and beyond!

Sincerely,

David J. Saunders

Chairman, Board of Trustees