



NORTHERN DISTRICT COUNCIL
PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE WORLD, INC.
5TH EPISCOPAL DIOCESE



Office of the Diocesan Bishop
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To The Distinguished, Dedicated and Committed Fathers of the precious Kingdom of God, and Members of the Northern District Council – Bishops, Suffragan Bishops, District Elders, Pastors, and Fellowlaborers:

Greetings in the Matchless Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

I want to take this time of correspondence to express my deep appreciation for the amazing outpouring of support shown at the recent celebration in my honor. The love, compassion, and Christian decorum was overwhelming. Your expressions of congratulations were inundating, and your acts of kindness shall forever be etched on the tables of my heart and in the archives of Northern District Council history. I and Lady Combs will forever be indebted to each and every one of the members of the Northern District Council staff who worked to make this historic event a spiritual success.

Bishop Noel Jones delivered an indelible sermon, “*Come Forth*” (John 11:1-44). The singers from Bishop Melvin Jordan’s City of Pentecost Cathedral (Grand Rapids) were stellar in their praise. The leadership of the NDC supported in a magnanimous fashion. All were spiritually uplifted and enamored. It was a most astounding occasion.

May the love of God and the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit rest, rule and abide with you both now, henceforth and forevermore. Have a glorious and Blessed Father’s Day!

The Northern District Council held its first in its history Good Friday Service with *The Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ* expounded by the NDC’s Suffragan Bishops. This historical service was hosted at the Apostolic institutional assembly of Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church of Muskegon Heights, where the former Diocesan Bishop Willie Burrell, Sr. and now Suffragan Bishop Avery Burrell is Pastor. The attendance was noteworthy, the ambiance of God’s Spirit was inundating. The presence of God met us in an amazing fashion. Jesus Christ was present and refreshed us as God in Christ confirmed his presence with our praise and worship of him and him alone. We are grateful for the hospitality of Suffragan Bishop Burrell, the Christ Temple of Muskegon family and the sacrifices made by each of you to make this most fascinating service a success.

“He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” – Micah 6:8

In addition, the Northern District Council's (first in its history) Pentecost Sunday Service was held May 20, 2018, in Flint, Michigan at the beautiful new campus of Christ the Rock Church, founded and Pastored by the soon-to-be-elevated, District Elder Wilbert Reed. The Greater Bible Way Temple choir (Jackson) joined with the legendary choir of Solomon's Temple (Detroit), founded by the late Bishop William L. Bonner and currently pastored by the now transformational Bishop Henry Davenport. Suffragan Bishop Theron Wiggins set the stage for an epoch in NDC history with his outstanding service as our Master of Ceremonies. The anointing of God destroyed yokes and demons were driven back to the pit from whence they came. The sanctuary was filled from the choir loft to the vestibule, and God in Christ Jesus was glorified as we celebrated the birth of the Apostolic Pentecostal New Testament Church.

We extend Christian greetings and accolades to all of you precious souls who participated and supported this epochal event! We now must continue to envelop ourselves in the presence of God and rededicate our being to the ministry of the Apostolic Church through our local assemblies.

Let us set ourselves to defend the Gospel of Jesus Christ, (¹⁵*Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: ¹⁶The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: ¹⁷But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.* – *Philippians 1:15-17.*) and remain ever faithful in our service to the Almighty God!

A Servant of Our Lord Jesus Christ,



Bishop Ira Combs, Jr., D.D.
Diocesan-5th Episcopal District