



## Annual Business Meeting

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Sunday, January 29, 2023



300 Valley Road • Clifton, NJ 07013 • 973-278-0953  
[www.VCAG.org](http://www.VCAG.org)



# Annual Report to the Membership for 2022

## Annual Business Meeting – January 29, 2023

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### Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Secretary’s Report
3. Treasurer’s Report
4. Deacon Board Elections
5. Pastor’s Report
6. Adjournment

**Valley Chapel Assembly of God**  
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## **Pastor Timothy Satryan’s Report**

### **The Dynamics of a Changing World**

The world we live in today is a rapidly changing world. That being said, I want to say this upfront –

#### **There are Some Things that NEVER change –**

- The message of salvation through Christ
- The mission of the church – to reach the lost, to build believers
- The make-up of people – we are built for relationship

As we stand here today at the onset of a new year – 2023 – we must recognize that even though the message of Christ is the same, the world around us is a VERY different world than it was just a short time ago.

#### **Things that have drastically changed in the last decade:**

- The way we **communicate** –
  - Before – mail, fax, telephone
  - Now – texting, email, social media
- The way we **shop** –
  - Before – stores, malls, shopping centers
  - Now – Amazon, Ebay, Uber-eats, DoorDash
- How we get our **news** –
  - Before – newspapers, “the evening news”
  - Now – social media, online news sources
- **Population** in the US
  - Before – majority white, English speaking, Christian, GenX
  - Now – black & Hispanic is RAPIDLY becoming majority, Spanish language, no religious background, and Millennials are now the largest generation!
- Church **attendance**
  - Before – most people attended, on average, two times per month
  - Now – many who call themselves Christians attend once per month or less

#### **Things that have changed just since Covid –**

- Our **society**
  - “post pandemic”
  - Fear driven, over-cautious, cynical
- Our **economy**
  - From robust to recession
  - Fuel costs, food costs, household supplies, cost of living
- Our **world**
  - Wars, rumors of wars

- The “unseen” war on us through powers far from us geographically

As I have spoken with numbers of individuals, including MANY pastors, a consensus opinion is this –

*“Covid itself has not really changed our world – but it HAS served as a catalyst to quickly magnify and intensify changes that were already taking place.”*

## **Valley Chapel...**

### **Your pastor –**

- My “chronology”...
  - I am now completing my seventh year as your pastor
  - I have just turned 67 years old
  - My plan, Lord willing, is to step back from full-time pastoral ministry when I am 70 – that is three years from now. I will have pastored here for 10 years at that time.
- My mission...
  - When I came here 7 years ago, to “revitalize” this church
  - We were well on our way when the covid pandemic struck
  - Following the pandemic, for the last 1-2 years, we have been set back on that goal.
  - My mission now is to move us forward, past the pandemic mindset, preparing Valley Chapel for its future, following my departure.

### **Valley Chapel’s future –**

- We need to...
  - Understand where we are now
  - Think about where we want to be in the future
  - Develop realistic plans of how to go from here to there

### **Assessing Valley Chapel’s current condition...**

- Attendance, while increasing, is far below what it was pre-pandemic
- Finances have been trending down – many reasons for this
- Demographics –
  - The average age in this church is far older than what is necessary for longevity
  - Although the church is located in Clifton, only a handful of our people live in Clifton
  - This church has traditionally been an English speaking church, but our greatest growth as well as current largest attendance is primarily Hispanic.

## **Here is the reality as we begin 2023...**

### **A candid look at today's world...**

- Recognize that some churches die. We **MUST** decide if **THIS** church is to live or die!
  - If we decide to “If you do what you are already doing, you will just get what you already have” – is no longer true. There is a great possibility that what worked in the past will no longer work!
- The message never changes – but the methods **MUST** change
  - The “front door” is no longer the front door – it is the internet
  - Rarely will people just show up at church without either an invitation from a friend, checking out our web site, looking at our presence on social media, and viewing videos of our services.
  - People no longer make proximity to their home a primary consideration in where they go to church.
- Many people – including many Christians – do not see physical attendance at a church worship service to be necessary in their life.
- There has been a shift in preference from large gatherings to smaller, more intimate gatherings – including online and home.
- We no longer live in a predominantly Christian environment. The majority of people living in this area have **ZERO** religious background or preference.

### **Goals we **MUST** create strategy for as we move forward...**

- Develop and create more avenues of relationship building
- Purposefully becoming more “personally invitational”
- Relaunching and/or creating significant youth and children ministries/events
- Discovering and launching ministry that is culturally significant.
- Embracing and taking advantage of current internet standards and concepts.

Let us pray!

Yours for **HIM**,  
Pastor Tim Satryan

## **Secretary's Report**

José Guzman, Secretary

### **Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

January 30, 2022

The 2022 Valley Chapel Annual Business Meeting was called to order, following the Celebration Worship Service on Sunday, January 30, 2022, at 12:30 pm.

**Devotional:** Sunday's service has served as the devotional for the meeting.

**Opening Prayer:** was presented by Pastor Tim

**Secretary's Report:** José Guzman, church secretary, read the minutes from the previous year's business meeting. There were no questions, and the minutes were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rukshan Perera, church treasurer, presented the financial report for 2021. Rukshan stated that it was another tough year. Attendance was down therefore affecting the tithes and offerings. In total tithes and offerings were down 2% which was about 3k from last year. The PP loan buffered 2020 and this year we did not have that.

**Elections:** Pastor Tim reviewed the process followed by the nominating committee for the selection of nominees to the deacon board, as well as the qualification to serve as a deacon. With paper ballots Rukshan Perera and Dennis Lichtenberg were elected as deacons, and will serve a three-year term on the board.

**Pastor's report:** Pastor Tim delivered the Pastor's report to the congregation. It was themed 2 long years. Look forward and forget former things.

**Motion to adjourn:** Rukshan Perera and Dennis Lichtenberg were called to the front for prayer led by Moreen Williams. Following a prayer for the board and the meeting, a motion was set to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jose Guzman, Church Secretary

## Financial Report for 2022

<b>Beginning Balance in all accounts</b>		<b>\$ 14,483.25</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Tithes & Offerings	\$ 165,832.85	
Missions Income	10,392.00	
Refunds & Reimbursements	7,830.71	
Building Fund	275.00	
Sunday School Income	256.90	
Benevolence Income	180.00	
MPact Income	20.00	
Miscellaneous Income	58.46	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>184,845.92</b>	<b>\$ 184,845.92</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Departmental Ministries</b>		
Sunday School	149.97	
Royal Rangers Boys Ministries	495.00	
<b>Total Department Ministries</b>		<b>644.97</b>
<b>Missions &amp; Benevolences</b>		
Missions	14,380.00	
<b>Total Missions &amp; Benevolence</b>	<b>14,380.00</b>	<b>14,380.00</b>
<b>Operational Expenses</b>		
Ministry Supplies	5,165.67	
Fellowship Functions	527.21	
Office Supplies	825.00	
Multi-Media	447.00	
Guest Speakers	800.00	
<b>Total Operational Expenses</b>	<b>7,764.88</b>	
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>		
Banking fees	194.96	
Online Giving Fees	4,162.63	
Payroll & Taxes	115,286.35	
Conferences & Seminars	1,702.58	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	385.51	
Misc. Administrative Costs	75.00	
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>121,807.03</b>	
<b>Facilities Expenses</b>		
Utilities	28,867.58	
Maintenance & Repairs	7,755.88	
Insurance	9,812.50	
<b>Total Facilities Expenses</b>	<b>46,435.96</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 191,032.84</b>
<b>Closing Balance in all accounts</b>		<b>\$ 8,296.33</b>

