



St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.

813 PINE AVENUE
SANFORD, FLORIDA 32771

June 8, 2022

Greetings: Bishops and Standing Committees of
the Episcopal Church, and Diocese of Florida

We pray all is well!

As Pastor Emeritus of the oldest Black Missionary Baptist church in Sanford Florida, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, it is very humbling for me to write this letter of support for Rev. Charlie Holt. It is my understanding that Charlie is being considered for a Bishop leadership role in the Episcopalian Diocese. As a servant of the Lord I strongly believe Charlie will serve extremely well in any capacity of the Ministry of the Gospel. Some of my reasons are expressed in this letter.

I truly believe under the direction of the Holy Spirit Charlie and I were destined to become Brethren in a ministry of the gospel. Perhaps this is for such a time as this as I bear witness of his Love of God and mankind. First, I became familiar with Charlie indirectly while working with one of his members, Ernie Mander. Under Charlie's leadership Ernie operated St. Peter's Grace & Grits Ministry to feed the homeless out of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church where I was serving as Pastor. St. Paul MBC is centrally located in an urban area of Sanford, the birth place of Black Lives Matter. Having easier accessibility for the needed to be served St. Paul was a better location than where the St. Peter Episcopal edifice is located. The poor, the sick, the addict, the prostitutes, all ethnicities and the "have nots" without prejudice were welcomed to be served in the ministry of helps. Ernie was persistent that Charlie(his spiritual leader) and I meet. Ernie's persistency began to cause me to wonder why it was so important for Charlie and I to physically come together? Why did he want his spiritual leader to meet with me as a spiritual leader? My thought was there was no need for leaders to physically meet because the work was being done as blessed by the leaders. Nevertheless, as our ministry flourished together quickly within a month Charlie and I finally

physically met as he visited St. Paul. As we met and talked briefly, during that very busy work day, I began to understand why Ernie wanted us to physically meet. I truly believed he knew we had something in common and it was based on **1 Corinthians 9:14**—*“Even so the Lord has commanded those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.”* Plainly “Just don’t talk the talk, walk the talk.” Therefore Ernie, a doer of the Gospel, knew that there is no hypocrisy, deceitfulness, wickedness or heart-hardiness within both our hearts that would prevent us to do God’s will and strive to live according to His will. I believe Ernie knew that his spiritual leader possessed the love of God in his heart that looked beyond race, ethnicities, poorness, richness or such like. I believe Ernie knew that one day a greater work was going to be done as Charlie and I walk together. I did not know at this time I would call on Charlie to become a vessel of social justice in the sight of God and man.

Trayvon Martin murder lead Rev. Charlie Holt and Me to come together in a greater work but not in how much! Racial tensions were extremely high after the murder of Trayvon Martin. This senseless and evil killing opened the sores of injustice and discrimination that existed during the civil rights movement of the sixties, the segregated days of Jim Crow and the physical bondages of slavery within the Black culture of the past. As a Black Man the hurt and pain felt as I observed in pictures displayed to us of Trayvon’s lifeless body holding down the ground upon which he laid brought tears to my eyes. I have no words to express my inner thoughts. I was a part of the civil rights protests in the sixties and a product of Jim Crow. I was quite militant towards “White Folks” and extremely distrustful of them as well during a certain chapter in my life. And by His Grace and favour God continues to work with me until its completed. Living in obedience of the Gospel I preach and teach is my vow unto God and this shall I do.

I had an opportunity to view the video reflecting Rev. Charlie Holt’s candid comments about his experience at a Trayvon Martin rally. My wife and I smiled as he expressed with integrity his experience with me. I smiled because I truly believe the Holy Spirit guided me to ask him to participate in the rally and guided him to accept not knowing what he was going to face. Like Abraham in obedience to God and leaving his country not knowing what he was going to face, Charlie left his comfort zone in obedience to the call. God was with Charlie as he was used to help bring calmness and peace in a volatile situation. Charlie, that night and continues to be, was one of God’s vessels used to bring hope to the potential hopeless participant. I strongly believe that like myself Charlie obedience to the Gospel he preach and teach supersedes selfish thoughts of mind because of his love of God. His love of God evolves into his love for all mankind.

Please know that I can only speak from personal experiences of communicating not only with Rev. Holt but with other pastors, nationally and locally, at the time of Trayvon Martin's killing as the community was trying to grapple with this heart-wrenching crises. In that moment, the local spiritual community made many efforts to unite; nevertheless, there was no specific, sustaining and sorely-needed leadership that arose from this specific crisis, other than the persistence of remaining black leaders. There is and continues to be a historical, ongoing, and painful experience of racial strife in the City of Sanford and this country that requires fearless spiritual leaders across ethnic groups to speak to our pastoral calling to love everyone and to discard the cloak of comfort in our biases, stereotypes, and trepidations. Rev. Charlie Holt demonstrated that to me that night when I asked him to speak to thousands and I pray that he continue to possess these sustaining qualities aforementioned as he leads all God's children from this wilderness of hate and racial strife.

Because Rev. Charlie Holt has demonstrated to me to be a scholarly man and most important to me a man who possess a love of God, repentant spirit, remorseful spirit, forgiving spirit and humble spirit I have no hesitation as a Black clergyman to support his consideration for Bishop.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lowman J. Oliver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lowman" being more prominent and the last name "Oliver" following in a similar style.

Reverend Lowman J. Oliver
Pastor Emeritus St Paul Missionary Baptist Church
(407) 765-5585



The Quincy-Monticello District African Methodist Episcopal Church
4881 Cypress Woods Drive Unit #3112
Orlando, Florida 32811
Presiding Elder Valarie J. Walker
pevjworlandodist@aol.com

May 29, 2022

***Dear Bishops and Standing Committees of the Episcopal Church and
Diocese of Florida,***

Greetings in the powerful name of Jesus, our Savior.

Life affords us a wonderful, blessed opportunity to meet godly men and women. During the Trayvon Martin tragic incident, I was privileged to meet over 20 ministers of different races, denominations, religions, and nationalities. Out of the 20 ministers, my spirit genuinely bonded with Bishop Charlie Holt.

We attended several informative meetings, court sessions and fellowships. I was enlightened by the conversations Bishop Holt, and I shared after the meetings. His willingness to learn and understand my culture was amazing.

We communicated beyond the scheduled meetings by the Department of Justice and the Sanford Ministerial Alliance. Bishop Holt's passion for righteousness gave him a deeper and more compassionate level of understanding of the African American Community's need for justice. His presence and concern was a light in a dark and dismal situation. He is a man of God whose life expresses the Fruit of the Spirit. It is easy to see his love for God, his family, his congregations, and mankind.

Pastor Holt's involvement in our process to unite the ministers was engaging, yet at times, he was a silent observer gaining a thorough understanding of the situation at hand. This was a liberating and unifying experience for each of us.

I consider Bishop Holt an eternal friend and I am delighted and privileged to write this letter. Bishop Holt is God's Bishop because he has a beautiful heart for righteousness and love. He is God's ambassador and effectively and spiritually represents the kingdom of God, and I know he will effectively and spiritually represent the Episcopal Church.

Blessings and love,

PE Valarie J. Walker

Presiding Elder Valarie J. Walker

11th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Florida Conference ~ Quincy-Monticello District



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June 6, 2022

Bishops and Standing Committees
Of the Episcopal Church and Diocese of Florida

To Whom It May Concern:

It's my pleasure to recommend Bishop Charlie Holt for his new appointment as Bishop. Before the Trayvon Martin national incident that occurred 500 yards from my front door in Sanford, Florida, Rev. Charlie Holt and I had cultivated an authentic brotherhood and friendship in Christ.

It's because of our brotherly love and friendship we were asked to appear on the Fox Orlando TV program to Discuss Race Relations in our community and nation during the investigation of Trayvon's death.

We served the city side by side during that critical time. Rev. Charlie and I ministered to men to get them trained to become mentors to the fatherless youth in the region. He is truly one of the few compassionate Christlike leaders I have worked with during my 27 years in Central Florida. His works and books reflect his heart. As Jesus said in John 14:11, "...believe me for the very works' sake."

We worked together on various initiatives over the years and there is no bigotry (Racism) reflected in his heart or character. What you see is what you get, "a man who reflects the character of Christ."

During our time serving in Sanford and the Central Florida Region, he was diligent and showed exemplary insight into our various community outreach projects.

Bishop Charlie is remarkably will-suited for any task placed before him. He will bring the healing heart of Jesus to the Episcopal Diocese. He is also well organized and efficient at what he is tasked to accomplish.

I recommend him without reservations, he would be a stellar addition to any ministry endeavor that is deserving of his gifts and talent.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. I can be reached on my cell at: 407-416-4375.

Sincerely,

Paul Benjamin Sr.
President & Servant Leader

May 27, 2022

Dr. Sharon R. Patterson
116 Sterling Court
Sanford, Florida 32771

TO: Whom it May Concern:

I, Dr. Sharon R. Patterson recently learned that The Rev. Charlie Holt has been recommended for the position of Bishop of the diocese for Florida. It is my sincere belief, and I am confident that he will successfully meet the new challenges of this position. I had the privilege to interact with him for many days during the shooting and death of Trayvon Martin. We, along with the ministers of the Seminole County spent many long hours in discussions and prayers endeavoring to maintain peace in the city during this period .

I found Rev. Charlie Holt to be an upright man of the cross who unities with all mankind and is not inhibited by race, color, nor creed. His love for humanity and his community was demonstrated in his daily life style.

I am confident that he will successfully meet the new challenges of this position. He is a hard worker, thoughtful, honest, trustworthy, and professional in every way. Most importantly, Christ shines brightly in his life. I strongly recommend Rev. Charlie Holt for the Bishop of the Diocese of Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon R. Patterson", with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr. Sharon R. Patterson, Overseer
Getting Your House In Order Ministries, Inc