



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee approves mission site lease for The Helping Hands for Christ Baptist Ministry, Inc.

WINDOW ROCK – Last week, the Resources and Development Committee considered Legislation No. 0181-18, approving a mission site lease of approximately 1.5 acres for The Helping Hands for Christ Baptist Ministry, Inc. in Beclabito, located approximately 22-miles west of Shiprock, N.M.

The Helping Hands for Christ Baptist Ministry, Inc., founded in 1989, provides faith based services, social functions, and charity and volunteer services for the youth, adults, elders, and families of the community of Beclabito and surrounding communities.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'í'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz't'í'í), who sponsored the legislation, asked for the committee's support so the ministry can continue to provide services for community members and families.

"The Helping Hands for Christ Baptist Ministry is one of the most proactive faith based ministries within Northern Navajo Agency. For the past 29 years, the ministry has provided spiritual and community services, such as a bicycle repair shop, youth volunteer groups, and food donations. Most importantly, they volunteer at the Shiprock Northern Agency Fair and assist during community emergencies," said Delegate Crotty.

According to the legislation, the ministry would pay an annual rental fee of \$22.50 for 1.5 acres, which reflects the minimum annual fee of \$15 per acre.

During the discussion, Council Delegate Benjamin L. Bennett (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill) questioned why the ministry has not been recognized by the committee and has not paid a lease rental fee since 1989.

"The church never had a proper mission site lease approved by the committee. It is only fair if they pay the rental fee for the 29 years they have been operating on the Nation," said Delegate Bennett, who proposed an amendment to require the ministry to pay 29 years of land use rental fees.

The committee approved the amendment to require The Helping Hands for Christ Baptist Ministry, Inc. to pay \$652.50 for the use of land for 29 years, from 1989, assessed at \$22.50 for 1.5 acres.

At the end of the discussion, Council Delegate Jonathan Perry (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse'ii'ahi, Whiterock) commended the ministry for providing faith based and volunteers services for the community.

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0181-18 with a 3-0 vote and serves as the final authority for the bill.

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