

MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
April 19, 2011 – 5:00 pm EST
(Conference call)

Present: Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson (Moderator)(joined the meeting at 5:45 pm), Raquel Benitez-Rojas, Liz Bisordi (Treasurer), Rev. Onetta Brooks, Rev. Tony Freeman (Vice Chair), Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, John Hassell, Bryan Parker, Rev. Dr. Candace Shultis (Clerk), Connie Meadows (staff), Barb Crabtree (staff).

Absent: none

Tony Freeman presided over the meeting. Candace brought the opening prayer.

The Consent Agenda included:

Minutes of March 22, 2011 conference call meeting
The Moderators report
The Financial Report

MOTION 04.19.01 – Motion by Liz Bisordi, seconded by Robert Griffin to accept the reports on the Consent Agenda.

M/S APPROVED

Report on GB recent work and highlight of forthcoming projects for the GB homepage:
Bryan led this discussion. He and Mel Martinez worked together and she trained him to get into our webpage. Bryan now has the passwords to access and make updates and changes but we will still process our minutes through Mel for posting. We need to look at rotating the welcome message on the GB home page between members of the GB.

Note: Assignments for future reports of two to three paragraphs:
June 2011 – Candace; August 2011 – Raquel; October 2011 – Tony
December 2011 – John; February 2012 – Onetta; April 2012 - Robert

Investment Committee Report:

Candace led the discussion. The Investment Committee sent out an RFP (Request for Proposal) to four financial institutions to manage our investments. They need guidance from the Governing Board as to the level of risk the Board wishes to accept, and if there are limitations as to investments with only “socially responsible” companies or not.

During the ensuing discussion, the necessity of having cash readily available and if so, how much was considered as well as some recommendations from Tony as to the level of risk followed by the non-profit with which he is associated.

MOTION 04.19.02 – Motion by Candace Shultis, seconded by Bryan Parker to move forward with a medium risk investment changeable depending on market conditions and advice from the financial advisor.

M/S APPROVED with one opposed and no abstentions

Ensuing discussion regarding socially responsible investments resulted in the following points: Devon Avery (President of the MCC Pension Plan) had indicated that socially responsible investments underperform the market. Tony commented that his non-profit does not require this as they see their job as being the best stewards possible with their funds.

It was agreed that Bryan and Onetta would work on a policy based on non-discrimination of LGBT people and people with HIV/AIDS and which would fit into the other policies being written for our Policy Handbook. This will be considered at the May meeting.

Operating Reserve Policy:

Liz: The Finance Committee has proposed a draft based on discussions from the March meeting.

Bryan: Do we have a statement about reimbursing the fund?

Liz: Yes, it is on an annual basis and the repayment can go into the first quarter of the next year.

Tony: I see that we have clearly stated that it is Board managed and controlled so if there is anything out of the ordinary it would be a Board decision. Under the first #6 I would take out the word 'typically'.

MOTION 04.19.03 – Motion by Robert Griffin, seconded by Bryan Parker to approve the Operating Reserve Policy as amended.

M/S APPROVED

Other Pending Policies:

Onetta: We decided there will be a quarterly release of the Policy Manual. I will make this latest policy consistent with the others. I have sent a timeline for when policies will be discussed. There are some items in Policy 11 which might be broken into separate policies.

Liz: The Operating Reserve Policy is #6. This is not covered under Policy #19. There will be a separate Investment Policy.

Bylaws Team Update:

Onetta: We have had one meeting. The form we will be using has been included in my report as well as an outline of how things will work and I look forward to your comments and feedback.

Bryan: What has been discussed about the support for finding additional churches to sign on to bylaw proposals? What if there is a church in the UK that wants to make a proposal? What facilitation will be given to help them find other churches?

Onetta: It was left to the churches to work on their own. But we could still help if requested. Proposals would go first to the Moderators Office via Barb Crabtree and then to the Bylaw Team. There will be opportunities for people to connect through our webinar.

Nancy: We learned how network leaders help churches navigate this and they should be trained to help the local churches.

Update on the International Task Force (ITF):

Nancy: There are three teams that are functioning. The steering committee is meeting in Philadelphia PA, USA in three weeks at Imago Dei MCC. I will be on the phone with them. They are beginning to look for external consultants. One is Dr. Christopher Duraisingh and another is Dr. Juan Battle. Tony will be briefing them about the Structure Review Team's work and how the ITF came to be created. Raquel is doing a fabulous job and there is a great deal of excitement about this.

Strategy toward our Vision Goals:

(A document was uploaded to our Goggle docs)

Onetta: My process led me to consider our financial resources and vision and that led me to our core values. What is important to me, no matter what, is love, having people feel included in love in our ministry of "tearing down walls, building up hope". I want to see diverse people in our ministry including people from around the world. What are our resources to fund the movement? We need to think big! I have listed ways I could think of to raise money. If we look 5 to 10 years down the road, how do we get more people involved? What are the passions that would allow people other than ourselves to come and help us? Marketing and advertising are important. More communications staffing is important. We need a 5 to 10 year plan and assess performance on a quarterly or semi-quarterly basis.

Robert: Maybe we need to look at getting multiple irons in the fire. There were a lot of good ideas in Onetta's paper. Hopefully this will guide us into the future.

Nancy: The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is feeling more encouraged in thinking we have stopped the decline in attendance and giving. It feels fragile still, but I think it has turned around. I appreciate Onetta talking about people and people in leadership. We now have 12 new people on the ITF, new people on the Investment Committee and new people in the Leadership Mentoring Retreat. This begins to translate into commitment and we need to build our core this way. There are many people who have never been

involved at the denominational level, but there are thousands who would be involved and become monthly donors.

Onetta: We need to get more people involved. How do you manage those multiple networks? We need to find a way to manage this. It will take some time, but the structure is in place with technology. We need to think out of the box.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace R. Shultis