



**MCC GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, 26 June 2014**  
**4:00-5:30pm EDT / 20:30 – 21:30 GMT/UTC**

**UFMCC FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2014-2018) Breakthrough Objectives:**

- 1. Global Growth:** Become a growing multi-cultural, international, spiritual community.
- 2. Justice:** Boldly claim our prophetic role as a justice movement for the 21st century.
- 3. Congregations and Ministries:** Expand the number of healthy, vibrant churches and ministries.
- 4. People:** Cultivate, nurture and deploy lay and clergy leaders that are equipped and empowered to carry out our global mission.
- 5. Finances:** Build a culture of generosity to achieve our vision and mission.

**OPEN QUESTIONS FOR 2014:**

*What will it mean to be MCC in 2023?*

*What is our vision of MCC as a culturally diverse, international movement?*

**ATTENDEES**

Rev. Onetta Brooks, Vice Chair; Kareem Murphy, Secretary; Gail Rissler, Treasurer; Raquel Benítez-Rojas; Sarah-Jane Ramage; Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin; Rev. Clinton Crawshaw; Barbara Crabtree, Director of Operations; Linda Brenner-Beckstead, Staff Support.

**ABSENT**

Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson, Moderator (attending World Pride, HRC Conference), Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell (Leave of absence: 25 June – 6 July 2014)

The meeting began at 4pm (EST) / 20:00 GMT with opening prayer by Onetta.

Prayers for:

- Nancy and World Pride
- MNC and their work and the blessings on the team
- Statement of Faith Commission for their work
- Rev. Brad Wishon and Phoenix community- on his passing
- Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell and son Nathaniel's surgery
- Rev. Renee DuBose for recovery from car accident, and congregation
- Governing Board for grace, appreciate and cherish gifts of each member
- Surveys work behind them
- Homeless, Neglected, to those who neglect, are unkind, cruel—commend them to Your care.



## 1. Consent Agenda

- Moderator's Report (on sabbatical)
- Minutes: 27 May 2014
- Director of Operation's Financial Reports
  - April 2014 P & L, Balance Sheet, Budget Summary
- Director of Operation's Audit Update
  - Started audits for calendar years: 2011, 2012, and 2013. R. Griffin, Audit chair signed engagement letter – auditors have started.
- Email votes
  - 5/29/14 Motion to AFFIRM the COE's approval of Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ as a recognized Aligned Organization.- M (Onetta)/S(Kareem) - Passed Unanimously
- Leave of absence
  - Carol Trissell requested leave of absence from Governing Board from Wednesday, June 25 through Sunday, July 6 for family related matters.

**GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 140626.1: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, made by SJ, seconded by Raquel. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

## 2. Discussion Agenda (Finances)

- Proposed MCC Investment Policy  
Gail said that the Finance Committee wants everyone to realize that Paid Time Off number has increased. Although this is time it's higher, it will decrease over time. Travel is expected to be minimal for rest of year. Regarding the PAD (People of African Descent) Conference, Barb said that all major income and expenses are in and it generated \$7500 profit at this time. Board also said that the audit is underway and we will report out preliminary results at the next meeting.

Referring to the proposed Investment Policy, Gail thanked everyone for the one-on-one talks and added that it was great input. Onetta noted that this would replace the current Policy 22.

**GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 140626.2: Motion to approve the new Investment Policy, made by Gail (on Behalf of the Finance Committee), seconded by Kareem. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

Gail thanked Carol for pulling this motion together.



Gail said that the Finance Committee deliberated on the subject of the past debt forgiveness from local churches. It would be best to apply a new policy to create a level of fairness. She is sharing this for informational purposes. They want to wait until Nancy's return to make sure she is in agreement. Might have something to propose at the July meeting. There is ongoing continuous evaluation of the budget deficit. We are significantly under running major donor income. We will discuss more at our August meeting because we need to make decisions about how to approach it in 2015. Need to have multi-year payback, or investment transfer. We will do that by October, or need to make decision sooner if Barb needs authority to use Operating Funds.

- **Development**

Robert said that the surveys are out there from Gil Gerald. There has been some concern about how long the survey is. Hopefully we'll get it posted in a couple of other places to get as much feedback as possible. Hopefully we'll be able to rollout end of year. Linda said that interviews with Governing Board members, the Senior Leadership Team, and major donors will be arranged through Gil's office. In response to Onetta's question about what the Governing Board can do, Robert said that we will have some training at the Governing Board August meeting. That still needs to wait for more feedback from the development consultants.

- **Strategic Plan**

Gail said that we need to update the mission and vision statements on the website. Among our 2014 priorities is a major action item on multi-year funding for the Strategic Plan. I know we have Development Consultant, but as a Governing Board, we have not spent much time. Onetta said that in the spreadsheet of work we developed in March, it included the priorities and we need to talk about it more. Gail said that those priority actions will get repeated.

- **Governance**

- **Moderator Nominating Committee/Statement of Faith Commission /Council of Elders surveys launched-feedback**

Onetta said that she is working on a draft for August meeting. We will have a chance for feedback. If you have a concern, send it to her. The first day of the face to face meeting will be spent on teambuilding.

The MNC website has been released. Many surveys are taking place. Onetta asked for feedback and our experience. The staff is doing their best to juggle it around. I know people are feeling overwhelmed. We have a lot of surveys and more are coming. Clinton said that we made sure all the surveys seem reasonable. He's heard complaints about how many surveys they are but he keeps emphasizing that they are important.



Kareem, noting the context, said that sequencing has to do with planning our year out. As we look to do other surveys, we should take a longer view, have a longer planning to address it (too many surveys in a short period of time). Gail said that it would behoove us to have an annual communication plan. Barb said that we actually do have a communication plan. It's been focused on what we know are coming up, we look at past history (Fellowship Sunday, Advent, COE, Synergy, HLN) and many of these things we would not have been able to project in advance. Barb agreed that having some conversation about planning and should include the Governing Board voice in 2015.

Onetta said that we added these volunteer committees: Statement of Faith, MNC, and Development Consultant. When they produced their work and want to get it out before summer, there are impacts. Heads up were given to Network Leaders and others. She thanked the staff for juggling those things. It gives the impression our staff is larger.

SJ asked if any of the surveys were translated? (Spanish, Portuguese, German). Barb said that yes for Spanish and Portuguese.

- **BOP Resolution regarding GC**

They just want time for face-to-face at General Conference.

- **COE – Concurrent Affiliation Policy (GB feedback due to Linda by 14 July)**

Those policies will be distributed and you can send Linda feedback.

Onetta shared information about how the Governing Board email address currently distributes to Barb, all Governing Board members, but that Linda has been left off list. All present members affirmed the need to add Linda to Governing Board listserve.

- **Communications (8 July Webinar)**

Kareem gave an overview of the planned webinar (topics include a Finance update, pitch to complete the surveys, and engaging the MCC community on Open Questions). SJ helped model the format after the UK show, "Any Question, Any Answers." He reviewed the adapted format and said more formal information will be issued shortly. Those who want to be on the morning or afternoon panel should notify the Communications Committee.

### 3. Open Questions



Kareem shared the topic: focus around finance and development.

### **Part I: Establishing a Foundation or Charity**

Robert: I'll add to that, this is opportunity to think outside the box for a financial model. The Presbyterians voted to remove the funding, but we're not close to that. How do we expand our financial base so it's exciting and sustainable?

Kareem: Private foundations in US are subject to IRS rules. And then Public Charities (501c3). Are you aware of parallels in UK or European context?

SJ: In UK, we only have one concept of a charity. The structural support is defined by whether meet criteria of charity. How they are structured is a matter of history. Foundations of Trust, Charities of Association.

Across the EU: Concept for recognizing others charitable foundations. In UK, can receive tax relief for charity (parity). Private Foundation and Charity doesn't translate well. Would not come out as Not for Profit.

Clinton: They sometimes transitions from one to another.

SJ: We have some medical charities that have global footprint. We have RoundTree Trust that is social-political.

Clinton: Once you go beyond European Union, you get down to each country needing a new start in each country. Hong Kong and China have different models. And Japan. They may have historical model of what is a charity. When I was chatting with Gail, like Salvation Army, who rely on external funding.

SJ: Some of most successful evangelical charities doing mission work, they've gone overseas and registered local branches. Projects like Comic Relief. They raise record money out of the British Public in a single night of comedy. They raised 15m pounds in one night.

Clinton: Any money not raised in churches, raised in UK, for every pound we are getting \$1.70 when it's repatriated.

SJ: I think you want it registered in US and in European. You can pick up countries not part of EU; you can take money out of Western Europe and put in Eastern Europe.

Kareem: I'm hearing parallels. As we pursue funders in different countries to do work in other countries, there are benefits with tax structures.



SJ: We have a conversation with someone in Australia as well. We need to think about where we will get money. To register the charity.

Kareem: SJ: You are speaking with UK in mind, but is it true in other parts of the world?

SJ: There are foundations in other parts of the world that are from the US. Charities give tax break. You as US citizen won't get tax break for donating to England. But if you go to a Jewish memorial, you will find, because there are donations that come from NY synagogue.

Kareem: One of the things that motivated me is a rudimentary understanding of US organizations, a lot of what they do. The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, they have a diverse funding stream. A lot of their resources come from the US. The relationship we have with them is mutual work and parallel vision.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have staff, double the size, but work for the (mission).

SJ: I think if you incorporate the Mission, it's the best way to draw private and corporate donation. If you want NGO grants, you can do it from anywhere if you have appropriate governance rules. If EU had roots in Belarus, if incorporated in country with appropriate Government structure, that the grant is available to that NGO wherever they are incorporated.

Gail: I don't know legalities about setting up charities. There is great merit in comment from Clinton in setting up funding streams from external streams.

Kareem: There are a lot of organizations that use member donations for staff salaries and then use external funding for (programming).

Clinton: I am looking at charities list. Largest is based in Sweden—IKEA guy.

Kareem: Many private foundations and trusts can be set up to shield it that way. A tax shelter for US donors. Allow us to benefit from interest. If they can park their money in MCC bank. In diversified portfolio.

## **Part II – Looking at our own Stewardship**

Robert: Quick ideas about what might be barriers to this work?

SJ: I don't understand.

Robert: From our own understanding of what we have or don't have, what are the barriers?

I have money for McDonalds, but don't want to spend it on the church. Refocus that generosity.



(Clinton left at 5:22 p.m.; Raquel left at 5:22 p.m.)

SJ: I think it will be very interested to hear from givers outside the US.

Kareem: I take it you have some ideas about that.

SJ: I'll use my contacts to get some information on that.

(Clinton returns: 5:25 p.m.)

#### **Closing Comments:**

Robert: We on GB, you are good example of what I means to do business approach. That is a model to look at—SJ and Raquel. To look at businesses around the globe (even though it's For Profit).

Onetta: Thank you everybody for your conversation.

#### **4. Review Action Items/Meeting Evaluation**

- Barb and Linda will make addition to Governing Board distribution address.
- Draft agenda for August. Send comments to Onetta.
- Attend July 8<sup>th</sup> webinar.
- Feedback on Dual Affiliation and Social Media Guidelines.
- Make final travel with Linda for August face-to-face meeting.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. EDT, and Clinton gave the closing prayer.**

#### **GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS**

Thursday, 31 July 2014

21-23 August 2014

Thursday, 25 Sept 2014

Thursday, 30 October 2014

Thursday, 20 November 2014

Thursday, 18 December 2014

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Finance** – Gail Rissler, Chair; Raquel Benítez-Rojas; Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell; Rev. Onetta Brooks; Liz Bisordi (consultant); Barb Crabtree, Director of Operations

**Development** – Rev. Clinton Crawshaw, S.J. Ramage, Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin

**Governance** - Rev. Onetta Brooks, Chair; Raquel Benítez-Rojas (Policy)

**Strategic Planning** – Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell, Chair; Gail Rissler, Kareem Murphy



**Communications** –Kareem Murphy, Chair; S.J. Ramage, Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin

**AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Audit** - Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, Chair; Kareem Murphy, Marvin Bagwell, Marsha Warren

**Task Force for Retirement for Clergy Outside the US:** (tabled)

**Assessment Ad Hoc** – SJ Ramage, Chair; Kareem Murphy, Gail Rissler and Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell





## **2014 Governing Board Meetings**

Thursday, 31 July 2014

### **August Face-to-Face Meeting**

**Governing Board Arrives**, Wednesday, 20 August

Governing Board meetings

**Thursday, 21 August – Saturday, 23 August - 9:00 - 5:00 pm**

Governing Board group dinner – Thursday, 21 August evening - 6:30 pm

Moderator Circle – Saturday, 23 August evening - KOPMCC - 6:30 pm

**Sunday, 24 August – JOINT GB/SLT - 9:00 -3:00 pm**

**Governing Board Departs**, 24 August evening

Thursday, 25 Sept 2014

Thursday, 30 October 2014

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Thursday, 18 December 2014



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**Finance** – Gail Rissler, **Chair**; Raquel Benítez-Rojas; Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell; Marsha Warren; Rev. Onetta Brooks (STAP); Barb Crabtree, Director of Operations

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