

## **Governing Board Meeting Minutes 22 March 2018**

Attended: Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown; Kimberly Brown; Rev. Victoria Burson; Angel Collie; Dr. Mark Dalgleish; Rev. Miak Siew, Dr. David Williams; Barb Crabtree, Dir. Of Operations; Jared Vazquez, Associate Director of Diversity & Inclusion; Jack Hutter, Staff.

Absent: Rev. Joe Cobb, Rev. Jakob Hero-Shaw

### **Quorum Established**

After a brief check-in, the meeting was opened with prayer by Victoria.

Jared Vazquez, the new Associate Director of Diversity & Inclusion, joined the meeting to introduce himself to the Governing Board. After a brief introduction, Jared left the meeting.

### **Consent Agenda:**

2018 02-22 GB Meeting Minutes  
2018 02-26 thru 28 BOP Virtual Vote Minutes  
2018 Jan – Financial Reports

**Motion to accept the consent agenda as presented was made by Dr. David Williams**

**Motion was seconded by Rev. Victoria Burson.**

**Aye: All members present**

**No: none**

**Abstain: none**

**Motion carries.**

### **Discussion Agenda:**

Governance Committee Report – Victoria thanked the Governing Board members who agreed to be on the Governance Committee. The committee is meeting every two weeks. They are trying to understand the work before them. Rev. Onetta Brooks is acting as a consultant to the committee.

Governance Charter – Victoria asked if the members have had an opportunity to look at the Charter for the Governance Committee. It's the first time in history we have had one. It outlines the responsibilities. It is planned that the announcements to participate on the MNC will go out on 26<sup>th</sup> and then two weeks later the GBNC announcement will go out. Elise Vega-Burns who was MNC Chair for the last election is serving as a consultant for the MNC.

**Motion to approve as members of the Governance Committee was made by Kimberly Brown**

**Rev. Victoria Burson, Governing Board Member, Chair**

**Angel Collie, Governing Board member**

**Rev. Jakob Hero-Shaw, Governing Board Member**

**Rev. Mel Martinez, MCC Wichita Falls, Texas, USA**

**Rev. Lori McPherson, MCC Baltimore, Maryland, USA**

**Rev. Carolyn Mobley-Bowie, Divine Peace MCC, Michigan, USA**

**Rev. Miak Siew, Governing Board Member**

**Rev. Doretha Williams-Flourney, A Church for All MCC, California, USA**  
**Motion was seconded by Rev. Joe Cobb.**

**Aye: All members present**

**No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Motion carries.**

**Motion to approve the Governance Committee Charter as presented was made by Rev. Victoria Burson**

**Motion was seconded by Kimberly Brown.**

**Aye: All members present**

**No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Motion carries.**

MNC Charter and GBNC Charter – Victoria said that the teams are still making small changes but working on these are our next steps. They are also working on application process. They should be sent out before the next GB meeting and may be via a virtual vote.

Assessment Commission Report - David said that all the governors should have received the report, He recommended that the Finance Committee look at it to check the numbers to ensure viability as a double check. He stated that we need to get out of our short-term issues first.

Assessment Committee - Updating Agreements:

There was a lengthy discussion about assessment agreements with churches. There are several churches that are not meeting their obligation in regards to paying their assessment. This has contributed greatly to the financial situation that the denomination is currently in. There are some that have not paid in five or six years. When talking about owing money, people feel that they were blamed or shamed about it. The need for a Governing Board Assessment Committee was discussed. This is not a new topic and attempts have been made in the past to address the problem. Some churches have agreements and are honoring them. Some make agreements in order to vote at General Conference and then no longer honor their agreement.

We need to start going to people and communicating now. The Governing Board has to be conduits to help churches. A lot of the issues are around personality conflicts resulting in assessments being withheld. If this situation cannot be resolved, then the denomination will be in a crisis form which it won't be able to come back. We are in a sensitive place in the movement right now. We can't move forward without money. People are angry and upset because of our inability to follow through and be transparent. Much of the delay in being able to address this problem are a result of the conflict within the denomination and specifically the Governing Board.

Governors were asked who could participate in the Assessments Committee to help David with the crisis. Kimberly said she would be part of the committee. Mark said he would help with churches in Australia. Joe is willing to assist to the degree that his availability permits him. Victoria is also willing to help out.

Special Virtual General Conference - There was discussion about the need to hold a virtual Special General Conference regarding the findings of the Assessment Commission. The report has to be presented to the General Conference soon as we are approaching the timeframe that had been announced. People will need to receive notice of the virtual GC, so the timing will be mid-July. It will be on next month's agenda.

Arlene Ackerman's Service - It was decided that a resolution would be done to honor Rev. Arlene Ackerman. There was a question as to what a resolution was, and it was explained that it would be something that could be read during her service because it is happening during our GB meeting in NC. Kimberly volunteered to take the lead on making a statement from the GB to extend our sorrow of the loss of this saint and the appreciation of all her service.

Board of Pensions – David said that a discussion of the BOP and the two clergy candidates whose names were put forward should be voted on. We have to vote to affirm two members put forward. They were Re. Roland Stringfellow and Rev. Gina Durbin.

**Motion to have Rev. Roland Stringfellow and Rev. Gina Durbin fill the vacancies on the Board of Pensions was made by Kimberly Brown.**

**Motion was seconded by Rev. Victoria Burson**

**Aye: All members present except one.**

**No: None**

**Abstain: One**

**Motion Carries.**

GJI Discussion – There was a discussion regarding the GJI and Easter Offering. The GJI was made an Aligned Non-Governmental Organization with a relationship with MCC. The fact that the GJI was made a 501(c)(3) speaks that there was an expectation they would seek funds from grants and other organizations. There was no need to be incorporated separately if the intent was to continue to depend on funds from the conference. This is the same conversation that we have to have that the bylaws, processes, expectations are set forward and when they don't abide by them there are consequences. The Governing Board has fiduciary responsibilities about money coming in was right on point. We have no supervision. We were violating our roles. One of the things we have had problems with is we don't understand our bylaws and responsibilities and everyone is mixing up the roles. As a GB we have a fiduciary responsibility. We have legal ramifications for violating them. We need to learn our roles and responsibilities. It makes it hard for US folks to understand maintaining our US legal responsibilities.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Victoria.