

Governing Board Meeting Minutes
15 November 2018
6:00 pm EDT

Attended: Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown, Chair; Miak Siew, Vice-Chair; Dr. David Williams. Treasurer; Rev. Onetta Brooks; Rev. Victoria Burson; Bob Niehaus; Christy Temples, Marsha Warren
Staff: Jack Hutter

Absent: Rev. Joe Cobb

Quorum was established at 6.01 pm ET.

After a brief check-in, the meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Rachelle Brown.

Consent Agenda:

2018 10-25 GB Meeting Minutes
2018 November Moderator's Report

A motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Rev. Onetta Brooks. The motion was seconded by Bob Niehaus.

Aye: All voting members present

No: None

Motion carries.

Discussion Agenda:

General Conference Update:

Lauren Bennett, Staff, presented an update on General Conference. She thanked the Board for their participation, and suggested that they use the conference website as a resource. <https://celebrate.mccchurch.org/programschedule>

The goal is to create programming that people want. A survey has been completed, and we are keying programming on the results. We want to have practical programs that people can take back and share in their congregations. We will be opening with "Holy Conversations". This format is based on the document that has been used at Network Gatherings.

The Business Meeting will take place on Tuesday. There will be a Spiritual Retreat on Wednesday with Brian McLaren as the keynote speaker. Presbyterian Disaster Relief will do a presentation on Resistance and Resilience. This will bridge the needs of all who are participating. Thursday will include hands-on workshops. The people working with the Lilly Grant will present. There will be a diversity of programming. Friday will be a

“Resource Fair” where people will be able to gather a variety of materials. All of the details are not in place yet.

The Pre-Conference Institutes have been named and are available. There will not be a break on Wednesday afternoon. Rather, the conference will end on Friday around noon. A question was raised as to when the schedule will be filled in and Lauren said that the times should be available to post by mid-December.

There is concern about visas for the people from Iberoamerica based on the country’s current political climate. It was suggested that perhaps a second site outside of the U.S. could be arranged with live-streaming of worship and the business meeting. Costs for doing this will be considered.

Conference registration is behind. Currently it is around 600 with the goal being between 800-1,000. Hotel reservations are also lower than expected. The team is trying to spend based on what is being received, and are making choices based on what is actually revenue. There is a financial obligation to the hotel, and we need to achieve the minimum room block of 80%. There will be around \$70,000 of hotel expense for staff and key volunteers. The food and beverage minimum is \$40,000. Lauren will send an email with all of the numbers to the Board. General Conference sometimes breaks even, and is not considered a money maker.

A question was asked if we would be using the hotel’s in-house AV or an outside company? Lauren said it was less expensive to use an outside company. A company has not yet been chosen. More data will be shared with the Board for future meeting as it becomes available.

Committee Reports:

Governance Committee:

Victoria will be on sabbatical January 2 – April 2 2019 and her coverage will be as follows:

Miak will serve at the Interim Chair of the Governance Committee. MNC – Dorothea will be the liaison for the Committee. Onetta is the liaison for the GBNC.

The MNC wants to have a Face-to-Face meeting. Since there is no budget for this, they found someone who wants to sponsor and resource the meeting. The Board said they need the name of the person, and that they can remain anonymous to the General Conference. The Committee will advise Victoria when the slate has been completed. Since HR is a Board responsibility, they will have to initiate the background checks for the candidates. Miak can be used as a resource for them.

The GBNC will have a timeline shortly. Onetta will head up the Business Meeting Team, as having someone who has been involved before is important. The Bylaws Team will be headed by Lori.

Initial Discuss of Business Meeting Voting:

In person process – electronic with paper backup

Virtual voting process – considerations and limitations

Request to explore removing separation of Houses

We will be using electronic voting machines like the 2016 General Conference. Virtual voting has some limitations. Consideration has to be given as to how many rounds of voting will take place. Live streaming is being looked at to see how it can be used in this process.

Lay House and Clergy House were discussed. The Lay House consists of lay delegates, lay Elders, and lay Governing Board, IPL's (lay pastors). Discussion continues regarding the need or viability of having separate houses for voting.

GBNC – Request for applications is going out soon. The slate will be presented by the end of March. The Board will have the background checks completed before the slate is announced. Current Board members are eligible to apply. The Governing Board will not be a AAA ministry. If a lay member's status changes to clergy during their term, they will have to resign. Victoria believes that being on the Governing Board should be a AAA ministry because of the time required of board members. She will take this up with OFLD.

Qualifications to be eligible to vote include assessments are current, Board of Pension payments are current, if there is an assessments agreement in place, it is expected that the church will live into the agreement for a set period of time. A letter on eligibility will be sent out after Thanksgiving.

There was discussion about the appeal letter that went out. The Finance Committee felt they could make an appeal and have a positive response. The board reiterated the need for healthy communication of our realities while seeking support from potential donors.

Finance Committee:

David reported that we will be able to make the 20 November payroll, pay some back bills, and pay back some of the designated funds. The appeal received \$4,600 in the first day. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday in the U. S., the October closing will be on 4 December when the Committee meets.

Assessments Committee:

David reported that assessments agreements continue to be completed. The Board is being copied on the emails about completed agreements. It was asked what goes into an assessment agreement. The answer is that it's based on data from the church. The church's history, their income and their expenses are all looked at. They are asked to take a special collection twice a year to help with paying assessments. The agreement is

based on the church's ability to pay, and reviewed on a regular basis. We want the church to succeed, and want to treat them as part of the donor base. There will be specific letters for churches who are more than six months in arrears.

Communications Committee:

Meeting is scheduled for the end of November.

Development Committee:

**Creating new individual donor program
Creating new Legacy Giving program**

The committee had their first meeting and will have more things to discuss in their December meeting.

There was a brief discussion about Bylaws changes. It was suggested that perhaps a Special General Conference should be called when there is a need to fill multiple Governing Board positions. It was also discussed that perhaps the Governing Board term should be shortened to three years.

Business Meeting Planning Committee – Onetta said that the handbooks on Procedures and Lay Delegated need to be updated.

Bylaws changes can also be submitted by the Governing Board, Council of Elders, and the Strategic Leadership Team. The church deadline comes first. It was asked if a financial impact statement is still required, and the answer is yes it is. The first round will be in English, then Spanish, and then additional as they get translated. There will be webinars scheduled to let people know.

Committee Assignments:

Standing Committees

Finance Committee:

David Williams (Chair)
Doug Berger
Cathy Campbell-Heroux
Tammy Erwin
Marsha Warren

Governance Committee

Victoria Burson (Chair)
Onetta Brooks
Lori McPherson
Carolyn Mobley-Bowie
Miak Siew

Doretha Williams-Flournoy

Transitional Strategy Committee

Rachelle Brown (Chair)

Ad Hoc Committees

Communications Committee

Joe Cobb (Chair)
Linda Brenner
Bob Niehaus
Christy Temples
Marsha Warren
Onetta Brooks

Development Committee

Rachelle Brown (Chair)
Clinton Crawshaw
Bob Niehaus

David Williams

Bylaws Review Committee

Victoria Burson (Chair)
Lori McPherson
Joe Cobb
Miak Siew

Moderator Nominating Committee

Velma Garcia (Co-Chair)
Rev. Gavin Ward (Co-Chair)
Rev. Brendan Boone (Vice-Chair)
Kellie Taylor-White
Stan Kimer

Governing Board Nominating Committee

Rev. Tijuana Gray (Chair)
Leo Rosetti
Teresa White

Bylaws Review Committee

Victoria Burson (Chair)
Rachelle Brown
Joe Cobb
Lori McPherson
Miak Siew
Christy Temples
Onetta Brooks

Communications Committee:

Joe Cobb (Chair)
Linda Brenner
Bob Niehaus
Christy Temples
Marsha Warren

Business Meeting Planning Comm.

Onetta Brooks (Chair)

Development Committee

Rachelle Brown (Chair)
Clinton Crawshaw
Bob Niehaus
David Williams

Closing Prayer:

The meeting was closed in prayer at 7:44 pm ET by Rev. Miak Siew.