

Special Called Governing Board Meeting Minutes

21 February 2019

5:30 pm ET

Attended: Miak Siew, Vice-Chair; Dr. David Williams. Treasurer; Christy Temples, Clerk; Rev. Onetta Brooks; Rev. Joe Cobb; Bob Niehaus; Marsha Warren. Guests: Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, Rev. Candy Holmes
Staff: Jack Hutter

Absent: Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown (recused by request of visiting participants to have a space to present their said perceptive); Rev. Victoria Burson (LOA)

Quorum was established at 5:35 pm ET.

Onetta welcomed everyone to the meeting after which there was a brief check-in.

Onetta reviewed the ground rules for the meeting and stated the purpose is to discover whether it is possible for the Governing Board to create a pathway toward healing of the broken relationship between MCC and Darlene and Candy. The meeting was then opened with prayer by Marsha.

Miak and Marsha shared the intent of the Governing Board's year-end letter. Marsha said she needed to acknowledge what happened and apologize to Darlene for not contacting her before the letter went out. The intention was not to disrespect Darlene and Candy in any way. Miak said that Darlene was his mentor and that he was sorry for his silence and for any hurt or pain it may have caused.

The Governors then listened to Darlene and Candy share their own experiences from their perspective. They hoped for the Governing Board's understanding. Darlene gave her history in MCC and the impact on her of the events since August 2017. Candy said it was not easy to rehash all of this and spoke her truth of the events and the impact on her.

Marsha thanked them for the opportunity to hear their pain, hurt, frustration, and disappointment; no one should be treated so inhumanely. Bob said he was in great pain for and with them and hoped we can find a path forward. Miak expressed gratitude that Darlene and Candy had requested the meeting in the midst of their pain and for their sharing; it was an act of grace and a teaching moment. Joe shared that he witnessed Darlene and Candy at the PAD Conference in August 2017 when they provided extraordinary leadership. The vulnerability and grace they showed during this meeting was exceptional, expressing gratitude for entrusting the Governing Board with their truth, though it was risky; it is clear systems failed you and caused

you harm. Christy said that it takes courage to do what they had done and try again instead of just walking away, which is what real leadership looks like. Onetta expressed the need for the current members of the Governing Board to be accountable, though most were not here at the time. She expressed gratitude to Darlene and Candy and challenged the Governing Board. How can the Governing Board be of service?

There was then discussion about a decision on the question: Will the Governing Board create a pathway toward healing that has been requested by Darlene and Candy? We are not sure what that would look like or how to do it. Darlene and Candy were asked what healing looked like for them. They responded that they were hoping to leave the meeting with a decision for the Governing Board to do it or not. Taking on the commitment toward creating a pathway toward healing is not just about the two of them. Who will take the lead? What's healing for others? Consider accessing outside expertise in this area. Are we willing to come to the table and explore a path of healing? How does this get passed on to the next Governing Board? At this point we cannot know how long the journey will take, just that we need to come together again.

Motion to move forward for the Governing Board to create a pathway to healing for Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, Rev. Candy Holmes, MCC, its churches, and its people was made by Rev. Onetta Brooks.

Motion was seconded by Dr. David Williams

Aye: All Governing Board members in attendance

No: None

Recuse: None

Motion carries.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Miak Siew