

**Governing Board Meeting Minutes**  
**28 March 2019**  
**6:00 pm EDT**

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

**Absent:** Rev. Victoria Burson (LOA)

Quorum was established at 6.15 pm EDT.

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

**Consent Agenda:**

2018 02-28 GB Meeting Minutes  
2019 03-21 Virtual Vote to Receive the GBNC Slate  
2019 03-26 Virtual Vote to Sell 200 sq ft property HCAD in Texas  
2019 March Moderator's Report

**Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Rev. Onetta Brooks.**

**Motion seconded by Marsha Warren.**

**Aye: All members in attendance**

**No: None**

**Recuse: Rev. Victoria Burson (LOA)**

**Motion carries.**

**Discussion Agenda:**

Sale of property in Houston –

Marsha had visited the property while on a trip to Houston. There are two small parcels of land. The first one is 200 sq. ft. David has signed so that we can move forward with the disposition of this parcel. The tax lien on the property was paid by the buyer and the lien removed.

The second parcel is 1375 sq. ft. and has a tax-exempt status. The current homeowner whose property abuts wants to purchase this parcel as well. It has a current value of \$100. These parcels are in an alleyway adjacent to the homeowner's property line.

Marsha will check to ensure it's the right piece of property and do a check of the county records to verify its status. Then contact the homeowner and discuss selling it.

**Motion to authorize Marsha Warren to be the MCC representative to inquire about the parcel of property located in Houston was made by Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown.**

**Motion seconded by Dr. David Williams**

**Aye: All members in attendance**

**No: None**

**Recusal: Rev. Victoria Burson (LOA)**

**Motion to accept the 2019 03-26 Virtual Vote on Houston Property minutes as presented was made by Rev. Onetta Brooks.**

**Motion seconded by Marsha Warren**

**Aye: All members in attendance**

**No: None**

**Recuse: Rev Victoria Burson (LOA)**

**Motion carries.**

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Communications Committee:**

Christy reported that there wasn't anything at this time. David was asked about the letter regarding the churches in the UK. He said we were waiting for a response from the UK Commission before responding. Onetta said she will be contacting Rev. Mel Martinez regarding his email about a proposed bylaw that was submitted.

#### **Governance Committee:**

##### **1. General Conference**

**Virtual Voting at GC – discussion/motion to approve**

**Registration Update**

**Governing Board Report**

**Bylaw Amendment Proposals pending**

**Procedure Handbook Update**

**General Conference Schedule – expected GB appearances**

**Tentative: GC Business webinar, May – (tbd)**

##### **2. Follow-up on Pathway forward to Healing**

##### **3. ITT update**

Miak is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the MNC to discuss the MNC process and will follow up with them. The candidate webinars have been scheduled.

Onetta: The GBNC slate has been announced and there are ten candidates running. Each candidate will be creating a two minutes video to introduce themselves. The website will be updated with this information. If a candidate's partner was only referenced by first name, it will be standardized with their full name.

Recommendation: In this season of Jubilee, offer eligible clergy and lay house delegates who are unable to physically attend the opportunity to vote @ the one-day event rate for Moderator and Governing Board candidates on Tuesday, July 02, 2019. Their votes will be counted during the livestreamed event. The thought is that it would be open for registration at the day rate from 1 May 2019 thru 1 June 2019. This decision needs to be completed by 1 April to get docs out and can be updated later.

Registration update: 633 people registered for General Conference as of 25 March. We've been seeing several registrations a day as we approach the next rate increase.

161 Voting Clergy Delegates and  
130 Voting Lay Delegates

**Procedures Handbook Update** – needs to be posted by 1 April 2019; last update 15 April

Virtual voting when approved

Voting Process in reflected in handbook; some highlights

No blanks or abstentions or “none of the above”

Rationale: checked w/ other churches including UCC denomination

Simple majority; highest wins counting backwards to fill seats

Elimination – below 17% in both houses each round

Rounds: up to 3 rounds

Only votes cast are counted

**Bylaw Amendment Proposals pending**

4 additional GB recommendations (in review)

- Language of diversity/inclusion areas in Article IV - 2 proposals
- Language of Interim Moderator in Article V
- Description of Special General Conference Article VII

COE – pending;

Bylaw team discerning status of additional Clergy delegate proposals submitted (16). Process still pending.

Periodic review of local church bylaws from Rev Wanda Floyd, staff point person.

**General Conference**

Onetta posted draft copy of the onsite schedule for Governing Board. Still in the process of being finalized. Governors need to be aware of when/where they are expected to attend events. Rachelle and David will finalize arrival and departure dates. Rachelle will finalize GB schedule.

Sunday worship will be in the hotel with Rev. Terri Steed Pierce preaching. The Spiritual Retreat is Sunday afternoon. Governors are expected to buy tickets to Gayla on Sunday evening; it is a fundraiser.

### **ITT Update**

The ITT has created a final timeline. They are prepared for orientation of the new Governing Board.

Please review the updated ITT timeline dated 28 March 2019. Newly elected GB orientation proposal submitted by consultant at GC July 5 – 6 is pending.

### **Follow-up on Pathway forward to Healing**

Plans are being firmed up to hold a webinar that would be for listening/hearing before GC. GB will be present and this will not be the place to solve issues. It was suggested that some of the COE be available to speak with individuals who may need additional pastoral care. Currently looking at **21 May 2019 at 7:00 pm ET** as the tentative date.

### **Financials**

The COE proposal about Jubilee -

David has sent a letter to the COE regarding the amount of the assessments that would be lost should we be able to forgive some of the bad debts. This will be on the COE's agenda at their next meeting.

### **Assessments Committee:**

#### **Update on agreements with churches**

Another church agreement is now in place. David said that they were not treated any differently than any other church. He feels the outcome was a success.

David reported that over \$75,000 in back assessments has been received since August 2017. This has helped the financial outlook greatly. The deficit is currently down to \$153,000 as of now.

#### **Report of churches Ineligible to vote at GC update:**

BOP liability:

No report

No payment

We have just received the list of churches that still have a BOP liability. If a church is ineligible with the BOP then they are not eligible to vote at GC.

Churches must also send their reports in addition to payments to be eligible. The database can now identify BOP activity.

**merging Echurch assessment rate:**

There was a review of the motion to be presented during General Conference Business Meeting.

The proposed motion is around Policy 26. The motion is to approve an assessment rate for emerging churches which is 50% of the approved affiliated assessment.

Rationale: As UFMCC continues to outreach globally, Emerging Churches are expected to adhere to the assessment policy set forth in Bylaw Article IX part B. However, said bylaw does not provide for a set amount nor a percentage for the assessment. This motion considers Emerging churches are just beginning and is offered as a way for these churches to have a set rate to fulfill their obligation. The motion is written in way so that further adjustments are unnecessary when the affiliated church rate changes.

Bylaws do not show a rate.

Partnership Program to support emerging churches motion for Governing Board:

**Motion that the Governing Board affirms the Partnership Program between Affiliated and Emerging Churches that includes Affiliated Churches giving a flat rate donation directly to authorized Emerging Churches. This donation is not reduced from the monthly 10% assessment to UFMCC was made by Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown.**

**Motion seconded by Dr. David Williams**

**Aye: All members in attendance**

**No: None**

**Recuse: Rev. Victoria Burson (LOA)**

**Motion carries.**

We still need to take into account the ability of emerging churches to pay. This is especially true in places such as Africa. We need to encourage affiliated churches to partner with them. This is not "pass-thru" money on UFMCC books, and is paid directly from the affiliated church to the emerging church. They create a Covenant Agreement which is reviewed annually.

**Finance Committee:**

February 2019 P & L

February 2019 Balance Sheet

**Motion to accept the 2019 February Financial Reports was made by Rev. Miak Siew.**

**Motion seconded by Rev Onetta Brooks.**

**Aye: All members in attendance**  
**No: None**  
**Recuse: Rev. Victoria Burson (LOA)**  
**Motion carries**

The 2015 Audit has been completed. The auditors will not be able to finish the 2016 audit in time for General Conference. It was asked if we could do a review rather than a full-fledged audit. The Board felt that is necessary to do audits because this is a requirement when pursuing grants. It was also felt that in the interest of transparency that audits are necessary.

Once the letter is received from the auditors, there will be a virtual vote for approval to engage for audits of 2016 through 2018.

The Finance Committee is about to close out their appeal and do a report. The appeal was successful and they thank all that participated.

**Development Committee:**

Rachelle reported she was finishing up the Development Report for the General Conference Report and would have it to Onetta tomorrow morning.

Part of the unfinished committee business is to complete the shift in the Moderator's Circle.

Rachelle reported that the numbers for development were \$187,614 for 2017 and \$196,648 for 2018. The Finance Committee's appeal really helped to drive the increase.

There has been a shift in how and who uses Donor Perfect which has increased its accuracy and improved relationships with donors.

**Executive Session:**

The meeting moved into Executive Session at 7:58 pm ET.

The meeting exited Executive Session at 9:13 pm ET.

**Closing Prayer:**

The meeting was closed in prayer by Marsha Warren.

Addendum of Virtual E-mail Voting before the 28 March 2019 GB Meeting

**# 1: Governing Board Meeting Minutes Virtual Vote Via Email 21 March 2019**

**Motion to receive the Report of the Governing Board Nominating Committee's slate of candidates standing for election at General Conference 2019 in Orlando, FL (USA) to fill eight (8) vacant seats (4 clergy persons; 4 lay persons) on MCC's Governing Board was made by Rev. Onetta Brooks.**

Motion seconded by Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown

Aye: Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown, Rev. Miak Siew, Dr. David Williams, Christy Temples, Rev. Onetta Brooks, Bob Niehaus, Marsha Warren

No: None

Recused: Victoria (LOA)

Motion carries.

**#2: Governing Board Meeting Minutes Virtual Vote Via Email 26 March 2019**

**MOTION: Move TO Sale the 200 sq ft property HCAD number 118-997-001-0003 in Houston, Texas to currently held in escrow to the named buyer.**

Motion made by Rev. Onetta Brooks

Motion was seconded by Bob Niehaus Motion seconded by Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown

Aye: Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown, Rev. Miak Siew, Dr. David Williams, Christy Temples, Rev. Onetta Brooks, Bob Niehaus, Marsha Warren

No: None

Recused: Victoria (LOA)

Motion passes unanimously.