Celebrate!
MCC GENERAL CONFERENCE | 1-5 JULY 2019
Orlando Florida USA
Indeed, “The joy of God is our strength”! (Nehemiah 8:10b) Join us for General Conference 2019 where we will culminate our 50th Anniversary celebration of Metropolitan Community Churches!

From 1-5 July 2019, MCCers from around the globe will come together to worship and celebrate God’s all-inclusive love. Come and experience the diversity and passion that makes MCC unique.

We use this time together to conduct our denominational business and provide training opportunities through workshops and plenary sessions. We come together spiritually in Bible studies, theological discussions, and daily morning and evening worship. After evening worship, we have concerts, receptions, comedians, and other entertainment so you can get to know others around the world.

All are welcome to attend MCC’s conference. As longtime MCC member Robert Pope says, “EVERYONE needs to experience the life-changing worship and workshops that only General Conference offers.”

We look forward to seeing you at General Conference!

Blessings!
Lauren Bennett & Mike Haase, Conference Chairs
Highlights of business meeting
Tuesday, July 2\textsuperscript{nd} – 10:15am – 5:30pm

• Vote For Bylaw Proposals
• Vote for Governing Board Election
• Vote for the Moderator

• Report from the Interim Moderator
• Report from the Governing Board
• Awards and Acknowledgements

Celebrate!
Voting for Eight Governing Board Members

- Electing four clergy positions and four lay positions
- Four (2 Clergy and 2 Lay) will be for six-year terms, and the remaining four (2 Clergy and 2 Lay) will be for three-year terms, but only if the Bylaw Amendment to change all GB terms of office to 3 years does not pass. If the amendment passes, then all GB terms will be for 3 years.
- The four highest vote totals (Clergy and Lay) will receive the full six-year terms and the remaining Four candidates will receive the three-year terms, but only if the Bylaw Amendment to change all GB terms of office to 3 years does not pass. If the amendment passes, then all GB terms will be for 3 years.
Governing Board Clergy Candidates

Rev. Alberto Nájera
Virginia Beach, Virginia (USA)

Rev. Elder Diane Fisher
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware (USA)
Governing Board Clergy Candidates

Rev. Kenny Callaghan
Richmond, Virginia (USA)

Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey
Hartford, Connecticut (USA)

Rev. Paul Whiting
Charlotte, North Carolina (USA)

Celebrate!
Governing Board Lay delegate Candidate

Chad Hobbs
Tampa Florida (USA)

Clare Coughlin
Redford Michigan (USA)

James Chavis
San Antonio Texas (USA)
Governing Board Lay delegate Candidate

Mark Godette
Raleigh, North Carolina (USA)

Stan Kimer
Raleigh, North Carolina (USA)

• To learn more about each candidate please follow this link:
  https://www.mccchurch.org/governing-board-candidates/

• Candidate videos are at:
  https://www.youtube.com/user/Church4All/videos

Celebrate!
We need a Moderator for our MCC congregation. Please consider running in the upcoming election. Thank you for your leadership and service.
Core Competencies of the Moderator

- Decision Making Skills
- Ego Strength
- Organizational Agility
- Process Management Skills
- Personal Resilience
- Public Presence

- Strategic Leadership Skills
- Preaching & Worship Leadership Skills
- Leadership Empowerment
- Cultural Competency & Embracing Diversity
- Supervision Skills
- Team Orientation

Celebrate!
Proposed Focus Areas for the Next Moderator of MCC
(Largest areas of the Pyramid received the highest number of votes on the Moderator Nominating Committee Survey)

Celebrate!
WORKS WITH THE GOVERNING BOARD TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR MCC

SERVES AS THE PRIMARY PASTORAL AND PROPHETIC LEADER OF THE MCC DENomination AND ITS GLOBAL MOVEMENT

SERVES AS THE PRIMARY SPOKESPERSON FOR MCC TO THE MEDIA, CHURCHES, AND OTHER LGBTQQA ORGANIZATIONS

ASSURES SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF MCC

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

SERVES AS COACH, PASTOR, & SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

MCC CEO

Celebrate!
The Search For The Next Moderator Of Metropolitan Community Churches

Elizabeth M. Bisordi  
https://vimeo.com/320713751

Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston  
https://vimeo.com/320714414

Rev. Elder Tony Freeman  
https://vimeo.com/320714449

Celebrate!
More information on Moderator Candidates

• We ask that you prayerfully consider who you want as our next MCC Moderator.

• Please take the time to listen to their videos (link under each candidates picture on previous slides) and go to the following link to learn more about each candidate:
  https://www.mccchurch.org/moderator-nominating-committee-final-report/
  
  • To view each candidate’s Town Hall Webinar see:
    https://www.youtube.com/user/Church4All/videos

• If you have any questions, please contact your Lay Delegate know and please share your thoughts with your Lay Delegate regarding the next moderator of MCC.

Celebrate!
Moderator’s Report

• **2016 Goals**

1. Actively discover, discern, and decide our future.
2. Position MCC to respond to 21st century people.
3. Prepare to select the next Moderator.

• **2017 Goals**

1. Heal and build healthy relationships among churches, ministries, lay and clergy leaders and with the denomination.
2. Expand and establish sustainable, culturally-appropriate systems and protocols for recruitment, development and support of leaders, churches and ministries in each global area.
3. Develop realistic sustainable financial models that will serve to strengthen local churches, ministries and the denomination.
4. Expand and strengthen a lived commitment to diversity and inclusion in a local and global context.

*Celebrate!*
Moderator’s Report

• Results

1. Closed Gap between Income and Expenses
   Back Assessments Caught Up

2. Organizational Structure

3. 21st Century Infrastructure
   • Continued Discernments

1. Leadership for Local Churches

2. New Revenue Stream through Formation of a Foundation

3. Address Denominational Structure

Celebrate!
GOVERNING BOARD REPORT

2016 Results

• a healthy transition between MCC’s retiring Moderator, Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson, and Interim Moderator, Rev. Rachelle Brown.
• a conversation on diversity and inclusion programs and work in the denomination
• the initiation of formational tasks to create a global Assessments Commission
• the creation of the 50th anniversary and 2019 General Conference committees
• a historic face-to-face gathering of MCC’s three leadership bodies (Governing Board, Senior Leadership Team, Council of Elders) in Washington, D.C.
• a blessing ceremony for the Interim Moderator’s appointment
• the development of priorities for the season of transition including:
  1. Healing and building healthy relationships between churches, networks and global denomination
  2. Expand and establish sustainable, culturally appropriate systems and protocols for recruitment, development and support of leaders
  3. Develop realistic sustainable financial models
  4. Expand and strengthen a lived commitment to diversity and inclusion

Celebrate!
GOVERNING BOARD REPORT

• 2017 Results

• creating the framework for a Listening Tour created by the Interim Moderator, including participation by representatives from the Governing Board, Council of Elders and Senior Leadership Team, as available

• forming the Assessment Commission

• working with the Board of Pensions, U.S.A. to establish a virtual Special General Conference to consider an increase in pension contribution rates

• receiving a report of extraordinary ministry taking place in the Brazil Network

• strengthening the relationships with churches by offering assessment agreement support to keep giving current

Celebrate!
GOVERNING BOARD REPORT

• 2017 Results cont’d

• creating the Collaborative Response Relationship Leadership Team as mechanism for collective leadership teams to consult and address denomination wide issues which remains a work in progress
• meeting Face to Face in July/August in conjunction with Senior Leadership Team and PAD Conference
• developing long-term strategies
• proposing sale of Sarasota property
• supporting renewal of MCC vision and mission statements
• receiving report of Multiple Pathways to Ministry plan from OFLD.

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GOVERNING BOARD REPORT

• 2018 Results

- Face to Face meeting in April with financial review, board training with Dan Hotchkiss, and Assessment Commission recommendations
- Moderator Nominating Committee selected
- Bylaw Proposal Team named
- Governing Board Nominating Committee selected
- Financial webinar to address financial realities and challenges
- Discussion of significant budget reductions in response to income shortfalls
- Scheduling and implementing a Special General Conference to consider recommendations of Assessments

Celebrate!
GOVERNING BOARD REPORT

• 2018 Results cont’d

● Budget reduction of $450,000 approved
● Discussion of designated funds and repayment plan
● Governing Board vacancies filled with combined executive and open call search
● Celebrated $425,000 Lilly Grant received through Office of Formation and Leadership Development for leadership development and mentoring
● Special General Conference vote affirming 10% assessment rate beginning in 2019
● Appointment of Marsha Warren, Bob Niehaus, Christy Temples and Rev. Onetta Brooks to fill Governing Board vacancies
● Orientation of new Governing Board members

Celebrate!
1. Commission on Pathway of Healing Motion for the incoming Moderator and Governing Board: to create a Commission to continue a pathway of healing and reconciliation in order to shine a light on elements that have fractured MCC relationships since General Conference 2016 and continues. The commission composition will include representatives from Governing Board, Council of Elders, Strategic Leadership Team, Intentional Transition Team, Laity, MCC churches, outside consultants, to name a few.

2. Committee to review Clergy House and Lay House Motion for the incoming Moderator and Governing Board: to form a committee to review and analyze the current Clergy House and Lay House delegate(s) structures; and make recommendations to the General Conference on viable alternatives for the 21st century MCC.

3. Assessment Rate for Emerging Churches Motion: to approve an assessment rate for Emerging Churches which is 50% of the approved Affiliated assessment.

Celebrate!
4. Commission on Conferences Motion: The incoming Governing Board and Moderator shall establish a Commission on Conferences to examine the General Conference purpose, structure, planning, frequency, location, implementation, costs, and realistic support between General Conferences. The Commission will make recommendations for innovation or adaption by engaging MCC members, research best practices within and outside of MCC. This commission should represent a wide array of MCC members, clergy and lay, and include MCC staff assigned to plan and execute General Conference. Commission recommendations will be presented to the Governing Board for review. Final recommendations from the Commission requires approval by 2/3 of the Clergy House and of the Lay House no later than General Conference 2022.
5. Commission on MCC Sacraments and Rites Motion: General Conference authorizes the incoming Moderator and Governing Board to appoint a special task force to review, renew, and update the MCC Sacraments and Rites in Article III. A and B of the UFMCC Bylaws. This Commission will include representatives from the Council of Elders and Theologies Team, alongside persons representing the theological, cultural, and global diversity of MCC. It will also seek consultation from resources inside and outside of MCC, including but not limited to UFMCC staff members. The document they bring forth requires approval by 2/3 of the Clergy House and of the Lay House of the General Conference of MCC, at the soonest, by General Conference 2022.
Proposed Bylaw Amendments

• At present there are a total of four (4) bylaw proposals as of May 12. There will be more Bylaw Amendment Proposals available on the GC Webpage by June 1.

• Follow along using the link below:
  https://celebrate.mccchurch.org/business-meeting/

GB PROPOSAL 01: LAY DELEGATE ELECTION AFTER GC – Article V.B.2.d. LAY DELEGATE

This amendment would remove language that would require the election of local church lay delegate(s) at the first congregational meeting following GC.

1. Rationale: There term of office remains the same. Since we host our General Conference every 3 years, to require a local church to elect new lay delegates at the first congregational meeting following the General Conference limits the church’s flexibility to elect lay delegates within the rhythm or timeliness of their congregation’s local bylaws and/or standing operation procedures. Oftentimes within a 3 year cycle, a church’s elected lay delegate may need resign for various reasons, death, and/or just leave the church before the General Conference. Hopefully this proposed change with provide options for the local church’s cycle.
GB PROPOSAL 02: GB TERM OF OFFICE TO 3 YEARS - V.E. 4. c. TERM OF OFFICE

This proposal would reduce the GB terms of office to 3 years.

1. Rationale: Proposed term of office for Governing Board members in the restructure at 2010 General Conference was three years. A bylaw amendment from the floor proposed to stagger half the Governing Board members so the term of office became six years. At General Conference 2016 seven vacant seats were filled and there will be [eight] vacant seats to be filled at General Conference 2019. For various reasons, a majority of Governing Board members elected have not sustained a six year term of office. Thus, we think it is prudent to reduce the term of office to three years for both the laity and clergy seats.
Proposed Bylaw Amendments

GB PROPOSAL 03: ADDENDUM 1: REDUCE SPONSOR - ADDENDUM 1: PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING BYLAW PROPOSALS

This Bylaw Amendment would reduce the number of international churches required to co-sponsor a Bylaw Amendment from 2 churches to one church.

1. Rationale: During the 2010 General Conference business meeting, an amendment from the floor was accepted to require two other countries to support a local church’s initial proposal. During the 2013 and 2016 General Conferences, no Clergy or Lay delegate bylaw amendment proposals were received. However, at our 2019 General Conference, one Clergy led bylaw amendment proposal was received with two other country supporters was received. We want to support Clergy and/or Lay Delegate sponsored bylaw proposals thus we propose keeping the spirit of connecting with other country’s Clergy and/or Lay Delegates to sponsor a bylaw amendment proposal but reduce it from two (2) to one (1) other country support.
Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Clergy Proposal 01
This amendment would remove the requirement of being a baptized Christian in order to become a member of an MCC church.

Rationale: 1. Some local church communities have already made this change by not asking about baptismal status before conferring the Rite of Membership. Some local churches have changed their bylaws to reflect this. It would be good for the denomination to have similarly inclusive bylaws.

2. For many churches, refusing membership to people who are not baptized amounts to outright rejection of people who want to be a part of the community. This is antithetical to MCC’s values.

3. This bylaw change does not preclude a local church group from making a baptism a prerequisite for membership if that is the will and desire of the particular church group.

4. Those who were baptized (or not) as infants did not do this by choice, faith or commitment- technical advantage/disadvantage by default.

5. A person who is denied membership due to baptismal status may feel wounded and leave. It would be far better for them to feel welcomed in the church and this could lead to a later desire for the sacrament of baptism.

Celebrate!
Reminder—These are the Bylaw Amendment Proposals as of May 12 and more Bylaw Amendments (from the Governing Board and the Council of Elders) will be made available by June 1 on the General Conference Website at: https://celebrate.mccchurch.org/business-meeting/

Celebrate!
More information re: General Conference

Business Meeting Documents:

1. General Conference Procedures Manual link

2. Business Meeting Forum Agenda:

3. Business Meeting Agenda:

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Additional information:

1. For more information on the Governing Board Nominees please go to the following links:

2. For more information on the Moderator Candidates:
   https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Moderator-Slate-Announced.html?soid=1101747410130&aid=Yt-5yS-Fcd0

3. For more information on the Bylaw editorial changes and new changes:
   https://celebrate.mccchurch.org/business-meeting/

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