

MCC Governing Board Meeting Minutes
30 September 2019
5:00 pm EDT

Attended: Rev Elder Cecilia Eggleston, Chair; Mark Godette, Vice Chair; Chad Hobbs, Treasurer; Rev. Elder Diane Fisher, Clerk; Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey; Clare Coughlin; James Chavis; Rev. Alberto Nájera; Rev. Paul Whiting; COE, Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez; Jack Hutter, Staff.

Absent:

Established Quorum at 5:06 pm EDT.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez from the Council of Elders, who read a prayer written by Rev. Troy Perry.

There was a brief check-in and time for dreaming which included that we would have Oasis groups and other virtual groups in many languages around the world. That MCC denominationally and MCC congregations commit to doing what they can to decrease our carbon foot print and that we include Climate Change as one of our justice priorities.

Consent Agenda:

03September 2019 GB Meeting Minutes
Moderator's Report

Motion to accept the consent agenda as presented was made by Rev. Elder Diane Fisher.

Motion seconded by Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey

Aye: All members present

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries.

Discussion Agenda:

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee:

2019 August Financial Reports
Bank of America Check Signers
General Conference Financial Update

Chad Hobbs, Treasurer, presented the financial reports to the Board for discussion. He reviewed the Financial Dashboard Snapshots for August 2019 which summarized the Financial Reports. He also reviewed the notes from the Finance Committee meeting.

Motion to accept the 2019 August Financial Reports as presented was made by Rev. Elder Diane Fisher
Motion seconded by Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey
Aye: All members present
No: None
Abstain: None
Motion carries.

Chad gave an update on the status of getting the current board members listed as check signers on the Bank of America accounts. He expects to have all of the notarized forms within the next couple of day, after which he will go to the bank to finalize the process.

There was a brief discussion of the status of the finances from General Conference XVII. We are working with our attorney to resolve the final bill from the Orlando Hilton. There will be a meeting tomorrow, 1 October 2019, with the Conference Team to discuss the past conference in Orlando and the contract for Austin. The Board is looking at all of the possible options for 2022.

Mark gave an update on the possible sale of the Sarasota property. He has been in discussion with three realtors in the Sarasota area, and thinks that Michael Saunders & Co and Hembree & Associates would be possible firms to use. We will need to have our attorney review the documents before deciding on how to proceed.

Mark also discussed the possibility of receiving unclaimed funds from proceeds of the Sacramento, CA church. He has been in discussion with Sacramento County about the completion of the necessary forms.

Communications Committee:

Diane asked the Board members to please use the Correspondence Check-list if they respond to any email communications so that there is no duplication of effort or missed responses.

There is currently one unanswered email that was just received and that Diane will respond to in the next day or two.

Review of Committees:

Motion to approve Paul Whiting as chair of the Governance Committee was made by Rev. Elder Diane.
Motion seconded by Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey
Aye: All members present
No: None
Abstain: None
Motion carries.

Motion to establish a small team to develop definitions for and to draft a process for creating commissions, committees, and task forces, along with definitions of each term was made by Rev. Elder Diane Fisher.

Motion seconded by Rev. Paul Whiting

Aye: All members present

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries.

Motion to keep former Governing Board members on their respective committees, unless they have already stepped down, through 31 December 2019 was made by Rev. Elder Diane Fisher.

Motion seconded by Clare Coughlin

Aye: All members present

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries.

Old Business:

Deferred Motions from General Conference

Motion 1: Rev. Karen Thompson, MCC Austin, TX (USA Move to form a global Task Force to review the basis and structure of assessments including rates, equitableness, implications of compliance/non-compliance etc. and review the structure of operations for the Denomination for the purpose of recommending to the General Conference a simpler, sustainable, realistic, just, and equitable assessment structure. The task force shall be formed of Lay and Clergy members representing global churches of all sizes and two members of the Governing Board.

Rationale: Previous Commission was instructed that it should/could not take into account the structure of operations. Further, the financial situation in which the previous Commission began its work changed tremendously over the 15 months of its work. The final result of the commission work, changing the assessment rate from 11 ½ % to 10% only barely addressed the issue that needed to be addressed as proven here today.

GB Exec Recommendation:

Motion to table this motion until January 2020 was made by Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston.

Motion seconded by James Chavis.

Aye: All members present

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries.

Rationale: Given the Structural changes of staffing, we feel that to add applications for Task Force would be unrealistic.

Motion 2: Crys McDonald, Wichita Falls MCC, Wichita Falls, TX (USA) Move to establish a standard operating procedure which compels the Governing Board to release a schedule of regular meetings, including the regular review of financial reports, and provide virtual access for members of MCC to observe such meetings by virtual means concurrent with the meeting.

Rationale: To provide [an] opportunity for members of MCC greater access to observe the work of the Governing Board and the scope of work required to run a global denomination so we might stay both updated and may engage in transparency and be able to know better how to contribute through our local churches to the work's success.

Status: pending. It was decided to review this again in January 2020 and to do more research into technology to make the process easier.

Motion 3: Leo Rosetti, ICM Rio de Janeiro Move to create a commission that will look into procedures and processes of communication between the denominations with all local churches around the globe.

To ensure all the communication around processes and criteria [to] reach all local communities promptly.

Status: Motions carries. GB to review

Motion that the Governing Board create a process to select a diverse international team to consider these two motions prior to Christmas 2019 was made by Rev. Alberto Naverja.

Motion seconded by Rev. Elder Diane Fisher.

Aye: All members present

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries.

Deferred Motion 2: Committee to review Clergy House and Lay House by Governing Board- GB

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.

Deferred Motion 4: Commission on Conferences submitted by Lauren Bennett & Mike Haase

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.

Move to add Motion 2 to Motion 4 and defer implementation until 2019 conference finances closed was made by Rev. Elder Diane Fisher.

Motion seconded by Rev. Alberto Nájera.

Aye: All members present

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries.

Motion to have the Moderator to confer with conference staff about options for renegotiating Austin contract was made by James Chavis.

Motion seconded by Clare Coughlin.

Aye: All members present

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries.

Deferred Motion 5: Commission on MCC Sacraments and Rites submitted by Rev. Elder Dr. Mona West

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.

Motion to defer Deferred Motion 5 until January 2020 was made by Rev. Paul Whiting.

Motion seconded by Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey.

Aye: All members present

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries.

Quarterly Webinar Dates

Motion to have the Governing Board do a quarterly virtual meeting open to the denomination where questions are submitted prior to the meeting and answered during virtual meeting with the last 15 available for additional questions was made by Rev. Elder Diane Fisher.

Motion seconded by Rev. Paul Whiting

Aye: All members present

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries.

New Business:

Motion to acknowledge that that former Moderators no longer sit on the Council of Elders. Their position on the Council of Elders ends when the new Moderator takes office was made by Rev. Elder Diane Fisher.

Motion seconded by Clare Coughlin

Aye: All members present

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carries.

Move: MCC's total staffing costs do not exceed 63% of the total approved MCC budget for the remainder of 2019 and 2020.

Moved by Clare Coughlin

Motion seconded by Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey

Aye: All members present

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion carries

Motion: MCC's total staffing cost not to exceed 60% of the total approved MCC budget from 2021 onward.

Moved by Clare Coughlin.

Motion seconded by Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey

Aye: All members present

No: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carries.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Clare Coughlin

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 5 November 2019, 5:00 pm ET

Submitted by Rev. Elder Diane Fisher, Clerk