

Minutes of Governing Board Meeting

2nd February 2021

Attendees: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston, Rev. Elder Diane Fisher, Mark Godette, Clare Coughlin, Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey, Chad Hobbs, Rev. Alberto Najera, Rev. Paul Whiting

Absent: James Chavis

Staff: Marina Laws

Establish Quorum Meeting commenced at 5:00pm US Eastern / 10:00pm UK Time

Opening Prayer: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Brief Check-In: Check in from all present

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of January Meeting
- Moderator's Report

Move to accept the minutes of the January meeting and the Moderator's Report:

Moved: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Seconded: Chad Hobbs

Passed

Discussion Agenda:

New Business:

- Special General Conference Results/Update

All the Elder Appointees were unanimously affirmed, at the Special General Conference; Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow decided not to take up his appointment at this time. We thank him for being willing to serve.

Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

- MCC Diversity and Inclusion Reports – Governing Board Actions (Working Group Members)

Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston & Clare Coughlin are serving on the sub group; Mark Godette has also agreed to be on the working group; a date will be set for the working group to meet.

- Race Equity Survey – Reminder to Complete

Governing Board will receive results of the survey

Metropolitan Communities

- Update: We consulted with the MCC attorney (Bob Brockman), to ensure that MCC is appropriately covered, in its support of Metropolitan Communities. He has advised that we take out some additional liability insurance. MCC can work with Metropolitan Communities to ensure that additional insurance is put in place; there are different laws in different countries. Metropolitan Communities are currently working in Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa & are looking to work in the Caribbean.

Next steps: At this time, no one from the GB is available to sit on their board, but the Governing Board is

happy to work collaboratively with them. Rev. Elder Diane Fisher would be happy to give her input on insurance and working in other countries.

COVID-19 Update

Homelessness is on the increase since COVID, along with the extreme financial hardship that is being placed on individuals. Rev. Elder Diane Fisher will write a recommendation to the new Council of Elders.

Financial Report: Chad Hobbs / Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey

Financial Discussion

Chad Hobbs gave an update on the December 2020 Financial Dashboard and the December 2020 Financials were approved. The Governing Board is extremely grateful for the generosity and faithfulness of our congregations and individuals, and the excellent stewardship of our staff.

As of December 31, 100% through the year, we are at 125% of budgeted yearly income and 96% of budgeted expenses. Again we are in a strong position – 25% over budget in income and 4% under budget in expenses. What a blessed place to be during a pandemic and a strong finish to the year!

Move to accept the financial updates, as presented

Moved: Rev. Paul Whiting

Seconded: Clare Coughlin

Passed

Endowment Fund Policies – Chad Hobbs

Request for proposal was sent out to 4 companies; to date 1 has responded, which is a Black owned company. They are very excited to talk to us about this opportunity; the endowment team has a meeting with the company next week, to review their proposal & will bring a recommendation to our March meeting.

Update on Budgeting Process – Chad Hobbs

Chad Hobbs gave an overview of the budgeting process. The General Conference Core Team will have an initial meeting this week & will hopefully present the budget at our March meeting; this is a new way of managing the General Conference Budget to ensure that everything is covered and nothing is forgotten

Accounting Manual Update – Chad Hobbs

Toby Bishop is going to work with Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos & Rev. Marsha Warren to work on the Accounting manual & hope to finish by June 2021; Treasurer's Manual will be tackled next.

Board of Pension Update – Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

Rev. Tom Emmett (Chair Board of Pensions) has sent an updated agreement of what the pension scheme will/will not do; this was laid out in a letter that was recently sent out to US Clergy.

Property Update: Mark Godette

Sarasota Property – Mark Godette gave an updated overview of the current situation with our property and our tenants who are renting.

Florida Registration with Sunbiz

As we still have the headquarters building in Florida, MCC needs to re-register MCC with the Florida Business Association; we are then recognized as a business in the State of Florida. We also need to file an update with the California Business Bureau. Chad Hobbs & Mark Godette will work together to update both business profiles.

Global Justice Institute – Easter Offering

Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston gave an update on the Easter Offering and working with the Global Justice Institute. Reference Below from Governing Board Meeting Minutes 25th January 2018:

GJI Official Status with MCC:

Motion to officially recognize the Global Justice Institute (GJI) as an Aligned Non-Governmental Organization with a relationship with MCC was made by Rev. Rachelle Brown.
Motion was seconded by Dr. Mark Dalgleish
Aye – All members present
No – None
Abstain – None
Motion carries.

The current Governing Board wishes to have further discussion to continue to develop a constructive working relationship with the Global Justice Institute as an aligned Organization with MCC; therefore we authorize the 2021 Easter Offering.

Motion: Move that MCC approves an Easter offering to Global Justice Institute for 2021, and that by 2022 we will work toward receiving such things as detailed financial reports, a list of current Board of Directors and proof that they are up to date on all forms to be settled with government re: Non-profit or 501 (c) 3 status.

Move: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher
Second: Clare Coughlin

For: 8 Against: 1 Abstain: 0
Passed

Closures & Disaffiliations: Rev. Paul Whiting & Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Rev Diane reported that the group had not met during January, due to other priorities

Governance Committees: Rev. Paul Whiting

- Report received from working group via Rev. Paul Whiting

The Working Group has started to think about the Nominations Committee for the Governing Board Members; should be able to present to the Governing Board for the April meeting

We also need to set up a Bylaw Committee for General Conference; hope to get this set up by June 2021.

Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston thanked Rev. Paul Whiting for his hard work on the webinars and Special General Conference.

- Update from River of Life MCC (USA)

The working group hopes to have an update next month.

Staffing: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

- HR Manual Update: Mark Godette / James Chavis

Hope to have an update very soon

- Staffing Update

MCC Inclusion, Diversity & Laity Dec Co-Ordinator Position:

We have interviewed excellent candidates and hope to appoint very soon.

External Communications Position – update on current contract

Contract has now ended; we will need to look at someone to take on this work, moving forward

Web Design Position – proposal has been presented to the SLT look at a year-long part time position; this will have budgetary implications.

The Governing Board HR team will need to review this proposal before any decision is made. The Governing Board will need to review the budget in terms of keeping within the 65% of budget on salaries

Commissions: The Work of the Commissions is ongoing

- Commission on Pathways of Healing and Reconciliation: Clare Coughlin as Governing Board Liaison
- General Conference Commission: Rev. Paul Whiting in his role as Chair of the Governance Team as Governing Board Liaison

Both commissions are continuing their work.

- Commission on Communication: Rev. Alberto Najera - Governing Board Liaison
Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston will no longer sit on this Commission
- Assessment Commission: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher as Governing Board Liaison
Rev. Elder Diane Fisher has been reaching out to someone and is waiting for a response

- Commission on Rites & Sacraments: Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey as Governing Board Liaison

The Governing Board needs to make appointments to the Commissions in the next couple of meetings

Review of Work Ahead for the Year:

- Set date for Governing Board to review strategy for creating a framework for a Denominational Strategic Planning Process - Ongoing
- Date for joint meeting with the new Council of Elders – suggested after Easter

Review of the Minutes

Governing Board Update Items

Dates of future meetings:

- Tuesday 2nd March 2021
- Tuesday 6th April 2021 Week After Easter (Potentially move to following Wednesday)
- Tuesday 4th May 2021
- Tuesday 1st June 2021
- Tuesday 6th July 2021
- Tuesday 3rd August 2021
- Tuesday 7th September 2021 Labor Day Public Holiday USA on day before
- Tuesday 5th October 2021
- Tuesday 2nd November 2021
- Tuesday 7th December 2021

Close in Prayer: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston closed the meeting in prayer at 7:04pm US Eastern / 12:04am UK time