

Minutes of Governing Board Meeting

2nd March 2021

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

Establish quorum: Meeting commenced at 5:05 p.m. US Eastern/10:00 p.m. UK Time

Opening Prayer: Rev. Elder Carolyn Mobley-Bowie

Brief Check in: Check in from all present

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of February Meeting
- Moderator's Report

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

Moved: Chad Hobbs

Seconded: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Passed

Discussion Agenda:

New Business:

Draft Strategic Aims 2021-2025 Discussion about whether to include Inclusion along with Diversity. Note that Justice is indicated throughout but we might tie in a preamble and reference our Core Values.

Move to accept the five strategic aims for 2021-2025:

Spirituality

Clear articulation of our queer, inclusive theology with rites and sacraments that reflect our values

Presence

Global presence which is locally appropriate and globally robust

Diversity

Increased integration of diverse people in a holistic and measurable way

Leadership

Robust recruiting, training and mentoring plans to raise up a new generation of leaders

Resources

Abundant and appropriate resources that reflect and embody the generosity and creativity of our people

Moved: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Seconded: Mark Godette

Passed

Discussion Agenda:

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 and Mark Godette on working through the report from Rev. Elder Ines-Paul Baumann. A report will be presented at the April Governing Board meeting.

COVID-19 Update:

Variants are a concern. Staff is continuing to provide support to churches with resource materials (i.e. Maundy Thursday service) and guidance on offering hybrid services.

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

The financial dashboard for January will be reviewed at the next meeting. There is a further meeting to finalize the budget and it will be submitted to the Governing Board at the April meeting. There has been good progress on the development of an endowment fund. MCC has applied for a second PPP loan.

Motion regarding church mediation budget:

A request was received from MCC staff to provide a budget for mediation within MCC congregations.

Move to approve a budget of \$16,000 to fund mediation work with MCC Congregations.

Moved: Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey

Seconded: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Passed

Donation from MCC Portland:

MCC Portland received a bequest and have generously tithed on it to MCC.

Move to allocate the \$56,610.61 bequest tithe donation from MCC Portland as follows: \$40,000 to the endowment fund, \$16,610.61 to operating reserves.

Moved: Chad Hobbs

Seconded: Rev. Alberto Najera

Passed

We need to have the Finance Committee look into what to do with tithes on bequests such as this as there is currently no policy or established procedure for this.

Note: MCC has also received an endowment donation from Open Door MCC for \$50,000. This paired with the bequest allocation in the motion above will bring the endowment to \$190,000.

Update on Budgeting Process – Chad Hobbs (noted above under financial report)

Accounting Manual Update – Chad Hobbs: no update

Endowment Fund Update:

Move to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to accept the proposal from Henderson Financial Group to 1) consult on the development of an Investment Policy Statement and Investment Committee and provide ongoing consulting to the Investment Committee and 2) manage MCC's Investment portfolio with Vanguard.

Moved: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Seconded: Rev. Marie Alford –Harkey

Passed

Motion of thanks to Rev. Kharmos Amos and Doug Berger for work on the Request for proposal for the Endowment Advisors.

Moved: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

Seconded: Chad Hobbs

Passed

Property Update: Mark Godette

Sarasota Property – no update

Houston Tract of land – no update

Global Justice – Easter Offering Follow Up

Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston reported the Governing Board approval of the Global Justice Easter offering and the process for going forward was communicated to Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner. Notice is going out to both the MCC and GJI communication avenues.

Governance – Rev. Paul Whiting - nothing to report

Church Updates, Closures and Disaffiliations: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher and Rev. Paul Whiting

Rev. Elder Diane that she would re-send the update from the working group.

Staffing: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

HR Manual Update – Mark Godette and James Chavis – nothing to report

Staffing Update:

MCC Inclusion, Diversity & Laity Development Co-ordinator Position

Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston advised that they had short-listed two candidates and in the end decided to hire them both. The two will share the duties and the hours will be split between them with Camille Araullo working 15 hours and Rev. Stedney Phillips working 10 hours per week.

External Communications Position – need to include in budget money for PR/Media work.

Web Design Position – redesigning the MCC website. Will be funded when appropriate funds are available.

Commissions: The Work of the Commissions is ongoing

- Commission on Communication: Rev. Alberto Najera Governing Board Liaison
First meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021

- General Conference Commission: Rev. Paul Whiting in his role as Chair of the Governance Team as Governing Board Liaison. Nothing to report.
- Assessments Commission: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher as Governing Board Liaison Has talked with Karen Thompson and asked her to supply names of people who might serve on the Commission. Not sure if this commission is necessary so will be working toward that end.
- Commission on Rites and Sacraments: Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey as Governing Board Liaison

Motion to appoint Rev. Axel Schwaigert as Co-Chair of the Commission.

Moved: Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey

Seconded: Clare Coughlin

Passed

- Commission on Pathways of Healing and Reconciliation: Clare Coughlin as Governing Board Liaison. Had a meeting with representatives for the Unitarian Universalists to hear about their experience with similar process.

Work Ahead for the Year:

The Council of Elders has their first business meeting the second week of March. Need to schedule a date for a joint meeting with the Governing Board and new Council of Elders.

Review of Minutes

Governing Board Update Items

Dates of future meetings:

Tuesday 6th April 2021

- Needs to include Disaster Relief Policy

Tuesday 4th May 2021

Tuesday 1st June 2021

Tuesday 6th July 2021

Tuesday 3rd August 2021

Tuesday 7th September 2021

Tuesday 5th October 2021

Tuesday 2nd November 2021

Tuesday 7th December 2021

Close in Prayer: Rev. Alberto Najera closed the meeting in prayer at 7:15 p.m. US Eastern/12:15 a.m. UK time