

Minutes of Governing Board Meeting – 2nd November, 2021

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

Staff: Tammy Rabon-Noyce

Apologies: none

Establish Quorum: Meeting commenced at 5:03 pm US Eastern / 9:03 pm UK GMT / 4:03 pm US Central

Opening Prayer: Elder Velma Garcia

Brief Check In: Check in from all present

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of October Meeting
- Moderator's Report

Move to accept the minutes of the October meeting and the Moderator's Report.

Moved: Rev. Diane Fisher

Seconded: Clare Coughlin

Passed

Discussion Agenda:

New Business:

Motion of Appreciation:

Move to thank Jim East for his many years of service leading the Disability Access Team and offering guidance to local churches and the denomination on best practice. We particularly thank Jim for his contribution in helping to make General Conference more accessible.

Move to accept the motion of appreciation.

Moved: Rev. Diane Fisher

Seconded: Rev. Alberto Najera

Passed

Partners In Hope Presentation: Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos, Resource Development Team Lead, joined at 5:18pm -

Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos presented an overview of Partners in Hope, which is the MCC donations based program that provides myriad opportunities. Just last year, our Partners in Hope (above and beyond what they donate to their local churches) supported New emerging churches and communities around the world; Nourishment and support of ministry leaders through programs, one-on-one consultations, and peer learning groups; Media engagement; Global work that could not otherwise be funded (i.e. technology assistance, disaster relief, translations, etc.); and Staff to develop and provide innovative new programming

She is encouraged by the overall trend of increased giving and anticipates arrival at 2016 levels. She shared best practices and also requested various forms of Governing Board

Support. Individual Members of the Governing Board, Council Of Elders and MCC Staff are all Partners in Hope.

Ongoing Business:

COVID-19 Update:

We continue navigating the impacts of Covid-19 and monitor its global impact.

General Conference Update: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

Agree Eligibility for Voting

The Financial Committee recommends the following for Governing Board approval: Assessment payments should be up-to-date (or have an agreement in place) by December 31, 2021. Payments must be received/caught up for year-end by March 31, 2022.

Move to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation of deadlines for assessment payments to be up-to-date by December 31st, 2021 as a requirement for eligibility of voice and vote at General Conference 2022.

Moved: Chad Hobbs

Seconded: Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey

Passed

The Governing Board Treasurer (Chad Hobbs) will communicate with the Board of Pension to determine their criteria for Board of Pension payments. Pension payments cannot be forgiven.

Process for notifying churches of eligibility - Diane will write the letter to be used and Treasurer (Chad) will send out notifications to churches regarding their eligibility to vote.

Publishing Bylaws Timeline & Process (Rev. Paul Whiting) - Per the Bylaws Addendum located at this url, (https://mccchurch.org/files/2016/11/UFMCC-Bylaws-as-of-July-2013_Addendum-1-Procedures-for-Submitting-Bylaw-Proposals.pdf), the Governance Committee needs to publish the process and timeline for submission of revisions to the Bylaws as soon as possible to be in compliance. "While Bylaw amendment proposals from the Governing Board or Council of Elders are due to the Governing Board member responsible for managing governance processes no later than sixty (60) days preceding General Conference," those arising from a "member of the Lay House or of the Clergy House should submit the Bylaw amendment proposal in writing to the Office of the Moderator by no later than six (6) months prior to the next General Conference."

The Moderator confirmed that there will be registration for both online and in-person General Conference attendees. In-person registration will include access to online content as well.

Moderator is reviewing Business meeting minutes from GC 2019 - to see if there is a change to how we vote in lay or clergy house.

Financial Report: Chad Hobbs

Chad Hobbs gave an update of the September finances via the dashboards, which will be available on the MCC website after the meeting.

Move to accept the September 2021 Dashboard

Moved: Rev. Diane Fisher

Seconded: James Chavis

Passed

Budget 2022:

The draft budget is being prepared with an upcoming special budget meeting on 16th November with the goal of publishing the budget in January 2022. The Moderator is interested in setting a benevolent fund as a designated fund type.

Update on Meeting with Henderson Financial Group (Endowment Fund): Chad Hobbs

Chad Hobbs gave an update on progress with the monthly meetings with the Henderson Financial Group (HFG).

The MCC Endowment Fund is now up and running, already earning money for MCC. The HFG is a wonderful group to be working with; every meeting begins in prayer. The current amount in the fund is: US\$194,063.11.

Accounting Manual Update: Chad Hobbs

Work is ongoing; goal is for completion by the end of 2021.

Staffing Update: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston welcomed Tammy Rabon-Noyce as her confidential executive assistant.

HR Manual Update: Mark Godette

Work is ongoing. By December, a finalized first version should have been reviewed by staff and legal counsel with the goal of a published version available in January 2022.

Other policies within the current draft manual, such as sexual misconduct and social media policy, need to be reviewed separately. The HR Team will discuss how best to do this.

PTO Policy: Mark Godette

Policy was presented to staff and the HR Team is reviewing questions raised by the staff.

Governance: Rev. Paul Whiting

Governing Board Nominating Committee Update - The GBNC has received training from the Governance Committee and they will be sending out their first announcement near December 1st, 2021.

Clare Coughlin has begun working with Rev. Paul Whiting on the Governance Committee and there are now monthly meetings to discuss the Business Meeting at General Conference.

Rev. Paul Whiting will work with the Governance Committee to oversee the Bylaws submission process while Clare Coughlin oversees the group that works on the procedures for the Business Meeting. Identified individuals will be invited to join the procedures committee.

Church Updates, Closures and Disaffiliations: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher provided an update.

Commissions: The Work of the Commissions is ongoing.

- **Commission on Communication:** Rev. Alberto Najera Governing Board Liaison
- **General Conference Commission:** Rev. Paul Whiting in his role as Chair of the Governance Team as Governing Board Liaison.
- **Assessments Commission:** Rev. Elder Diane Fisher as Governing Board Liaison.
- **Commission on Rites and Sacraments:** Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey as Governing Board Liaison & Rev. Dr. Axel Schwaigert – Commission Co-Chair
- **Commission on Pathways of Healing and Reconciliation:** Clare Coughlin as Governing Board Liaison.

Feedback from Judiciary Process Working Group: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston indicated the work is ongoing.

Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston
MCC Diversity & Inclusion Reports – Governing Board Actions (Working Group Members)
Work is ongoing.

Future Agenda Items:

HR Manual December or January

Budget - January 2022

Ongoing Items:

Governing Board Policy Manual – Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

Dates of future meetings:

Tuesday 7th December 2021

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Tuesday 1st February 2022

Tuesday 1st March 2022

Tuesday 5th April 2022

Tuesday 3rd May 2022

Tuesday 7th June 2022

Tuesday 5th July 2022

Tuesday 2nd August 2022

Tuesday 13th September 2022 (changed from 6th due to World Council of Churches)

Tuesday 4th October 2022

Tuesday 1st November 2022

Tuesday 6th December 2022

Close in Prayer: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston closed the meeting in prayer at 6:50pm US Eastern / 10:50 pm UK GMT / 5:50 pm US Central.