

Minutes of Governing Board Meeting – 5th April 2022

Attendees: Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey (joined at 5:20pm), James Chavis, Clare Coughlin, Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston, Rev. Elder Diane Fisher, Mark Godette, Chad Hobbs and Rev. Alberto Najera

Staff: Tammy Rabon-Noyce

Apologies: none

Establish Quorum: Meeting commenced at 5:03 pm US Eastern / 4:03pm US Central / and 10:03 pm UK BST

Opening Prayer: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

Brief Check In: Check in from all present

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of March Meeting
- Moderator's Report

Motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting and the Moderator's Report.

Moved: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Seconded: Chad Hobbs **Passed**

Motion to accept the minutes of the Moderator's Report.

Moved: Clare Coughlin

Seconded: Rev. Alberto Najera **Passed**

Discussion Agenda: New Business

Strategic Planning Vision Statement - A followup strategic planning session was held on 21st March 2022. A working group has been formed consisting of Governors, Elders and staff. Members of all three bodies have contributed to a strategic vision statement which will come to the Governing Board for approval.

Letter regarding copyright - Rev. Dr. Kharma provided an update to the Governing Board concerning the advice of the attorney regarding a resolution.

Request from Florida Network - Since the Florida Governor has signed CS/CS/HB 1557, an Act relating to Parental Rights in Education (often called the "Don't Say Gay" bill), the Florida Network continues its advocacy actions protecting Florida's youth. They have asked the

Governing Board to consider the possibility of signing an Amicus Brief or conjoining potential legal action challenging the law.

Rationale - As a social justice organization, MCC wants to be in solidarity with our churches in FLorida, USA, in campaigning against this legislation.

Motion - Move that UFMCC sign onto the Equality Florida Amicus Brief once their legal team begins forming the necessary challenges through the lower courts and it reaches an appellate process.

Moved - Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey

Seconded - Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Passed

COVID-19 Update: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

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

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

Staff are seeking trainers as part of the ongoing process for providing tools for local churches and denominational leadership to confront racism when it is encountered.

General Conference Update: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

Current registration - Communication has been shared regarding keynote speakers and early bird registration has been extended until the first of May.

Eligibility to Vote - We are pleased that there are so many churches in compliance and we are communicating with churches regarding their status. Chad Hobbs and Rev. Elder Diane Fisher will continue working with staff members Marina Laws and Tammy Erwin to support churches to be eligible to vote.

Role of Governing Board - the Governing Board is responsible for the Business meeting, with the Moderator, and there will need to be a report from the Moderator, from the Governing Board and one containing Financial Information. These reports will need to be presented to the 3rd May Governing Board meeting. Rev. Elder Diane Fisher will draft the Governing Board's report, the Moderator will draft the Moderator's report, and Chad Hobbs will draft the financial report.

Financial Report: Chad Hobbs

Finance Dashboards from February 2022

Chad Hobbs gave an update of the February finances via the dashboard, which is available on the MCC website after the meeting.

Motion to accept the February Dashboard as presented.

Moved: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Seconded: James Chavis

Passed

Accounting Manual Update: Chad Hobbs

Work is ongoing; due to some delays, there is new effort to bring this to completion.

Human Resources Update - Mark Godette

Recommendation regarding Payroll Provider - The HR team is seeking better benefits and lower costs. The HR Team has found a payroll administration provider with lower benefits costs.

Motion - Authorize the Human Resources Team to enter and complete contract negotiations to secure a different payroll provider

Motion - Mark Godette

Seconded - Chad Hobbs

Passed

Motion of appreciation to Mark Godette and Tammy Erwin for the time and effort spent securing cost effective yet robust solutions for employees.

Moved - Chad Hobbs

Seconded - Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Passed

HR Manual Update - Mark Godette

If we move to a new payroll provider, we want them to review that document to ensure alignment with any potentially new provisions.

Sick Leave Bank Policy - Mark Godette previewed an HR Team proposal for sick leave bank - he received feedback and questions and will review with the Human Resources Team.

Governance: Clare Coughlin

Bylaws Proposals - The GB reviewed addendum 1 (<https://www.mccchurch.org/bylaws/>). The current and immediate past Council of Elders have previously approved three bylaw amendment proposals. The Governing Board will write impact statements for all submitted bylaw proposals at its next meeting.

Business Meeting Planning Update -

The committee has begun meeting and will set the procedures for the General Conference 2022 online Business meeting and will bring forward for the Governing Board approval. Details are being addressed to provide the greatest clarity possible.

Church Updates, Closures and Disaffiliations: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston provided an update.

Staffing Update: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston provided a staffing update. Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos has tendered her resignation to accept a pulpit position in a UUA church in Maine. We bless her and Rev. Elder Diane Fisher in this new journey and we will review the various roles and responsibilities and enter a prayerful discernment period. The Governors will extend thanks individually, and complete a motion of appreciation as her term comes closer to an end.

Extend Term for Commission on Pathways of Healing and Reconciliation: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

Rationale: The Commission wants to use General Conference as an opportunity to hear more voices from around MCC

Motion to extend the term of the Commission on Pathways of Healing and Reconciliation to the end of 2022, to include its final report being submitted to the Governing Board no later than its 6th December meeting.

Moved: Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Seconded: Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey

Passed

Commissions: The Work of the Commissions is ongoing – all need to be thinking about reports for the 2022 General Conference, and there will need to be time for translations, so probably an end of April deadline so the reports are brought to the Governing Board for its May 2022 meeting.

- **Commission on Communication:** Governing Board Liaison Rev. Alberto Najera provided an update. Work is ongoing.
- **General Conference Commission:** will continue its work after 2022's General Conference and use this experience to inform future recommendations.
- **Assessments Commission:** Rev. Elder Diane Fisher as Governing Board Liaison. They will write up a status for this as it has been delayed.
- **Commission on Rites and Sacraments:** Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey as Governing Board Liaison; Rev. Dr. Axel Schwaigert will continue as Chair and Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston will work with him to find a Co-Chair.
- **Commission on Pathways of Healing and Reconciliation:** Clare Coughlin as Governing Board Liaison.

Judiciary Process Working Group: Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston indicated the work is ongoing, but the group has completed its review of the policy and will send it for review by the attorney.

Ongoing Items:

Governing Board Policy Manual – Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston, work is ongoing to ensure all of the policy changes authorized by this and prior boards are reflected in the policy document.

Future Agenda Items:

May -

Commission reports to Governing Board

Possible bylaw proposal regarding disaffiliation

And our own Governing Board report

Future Meeting Dates:

Tuesday 3rd May 2022

Tuesday 7th June 2022

Tuesday 5th July 2022 (?)

Close in Prayer: The meeting closed in prayer at 7:01pm US Eastern / 6:01pm Central / and 12:01 am UK BST.