

## GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

**April 17, 2012 – 5:00 to 6:30 PM EDT**

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### VISION GOALS FOR 2012:

- ❖ Build leadership development into all we do, particularly with young adults.
- ❖ Communicate to the world with passion and clarity who we are -- and that "we want to know you!"
- ❖ Give priority to churches that demonstrate signs of health and growth.

### OPEN QUESTIONS FOR 2012:

- ❖ What is our vision for funding ministry?
- ❖ How can our young adults help us to imagine and articulate a future for MCC? (Joel 2: 28 - "And that's just the beginning: After that— "I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters. Your old men will dream, your young men will see visions. I'll even pour out my Spirit on the servants, men and women both...)
- ❖ What is needed to enhance our global ministry and structure?

### ATTENDEES:

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, Moderator, Rev. Robert Griffin, Vice-Chair; Bryan Parker, Secretary; Liz Bisordi, Treasurer; Raquel Benitez (absent due to international travel), Rev. Onetta Brooks, Rev. Tony Freeman, Kareem Murphy, Bryan Parker, Rev. Candace Shultis, Barbara Crabtree, Director of Operations; Linda Beckstead (Staff support)

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| I.  | Welcome and Opening Prayer                        | Nancy |
|     | Nancy opened in prayer. Check in.                 |       |
| II. | Consent Agenda                                    | All   |
|     | o Minutes of March 8-10, 2012 Meeting             | Bryan |
|     | o Moderator's Report (Nancy)                      |       |
|     | o Director of Operations financial reports (Barb) |       |

- February P & L
- February 29 Balance Sheet
- Budget Summary at February 29
- Record of Actions for the Special GC Onetta
- ITF April Report ITF

MOTION 04.17.12.01: Move to accept Consent Agenda made by Onetta, seconded by Kareem 2 M/S: Approved

### III.

- Governance Committee Update Onetta
  - Special GC reflections
  - Feedback from Network Leaders re: Bylaw process
  - What's next?

Onetta: From the bylaw team perspective, briefed network leads about bylaw process and judiciary process.

GB committee, bios and pics will be in Headline News.

In May, orient the team and start work in fall.

Special General Conference: Lessons Learned and Benefits:

1. Updating of laity and clergy email address
2. Computers and voting on Survey Monkey. A workshop?
3. Interesting conversation: Proxy vs Virtual Voting  
This was virtual only, not proxy
4. How many people wasted their vote: didn't like process or derail using abstain or no to force hand to delay voting process.
5. Even though the bylaw say thirty days, wonder whether an addition two weeks may make a difference. Need to review on case-by-case basis.
6. Some time zone challenges.

Bryan: Volunteering to put together a survey of those who participated. Kareem & Onetta volunteered to assist.

Bryan: Had 18% decrease in Lay Delegate participation compared to General Conference. Had 9% clergy increase.

Onetta: Want to acknowledge five languages Vickey was able to get. Started with free languages and then moved to translations that cost. This was a good exercise for me.

### **Policy Handbook Discussion**

Tony: We were going to review it to make sure we are in compliance with our own policy.

Bryan: The latest version of the Handbook is on Google docs and will send the link to the GB. All GB members are to review the handbook and give feedback after which Bryan and Linda will conduct a policy compliance audit.

Onetta: Last but not least: Will focus on Moderator Nominating Committee: Goal is to be present to hear at GC. There will be a team and you'll hear more about that shortly.

Liz: Will review motion from March meeting, review what Finance Committee did, tried diversified approach, then talked through recommendations.

Liz: We're coming back with a proposal to address not just cut, but grow the top line. We have almost \$500,000 in receivables from churches.

Liz: Expense reduction, \$200,000. Deferring the hiring. Reduced benefit cost related to Florida (costs in Florida versus costs in Texas). Reduced face-to-face meetings for SLT and GB meetings.

Kareem: What do our monthly revenues need to be?

Barb: Tithes from U.S. churches. Monies outside U.S. have been relatively stable. It's been U.S. churches that have seen the decline. There's a lot of money that comes in above the \$90,000 (i.e. clergy fees).

Liz: One of the things we felt strongly was to address top line, open accounts receivables, or assessments. Nancy has done a yeoman's job to contact churches. But at end of last year, still had \$477,000 in open receivables. Due to our fiduciary responsibilities to the GC the Governing Board needs to address this.

We've seen money already: New Haven, MCCPB, MCCGSL, we are starting to recover. We need to make a recommendation as GB with SLT to make a relationship and communicate with churches in order to help churches come into compliance. With the plan the estimate is \$50,000 in recovered receivables.

Secondly, we also need to stress the importance of remitting on weekly basis. We think that will yield \$72,000, but \$50,000 is more likely.

Nancy: We need to invite conversation with Boards and pastors. There may be some resistance. There may be some transition. Some pastors need more support, they're in the middle. It can also be helpful to have elder play prime role. It's good to use a team approach.

Liz: The third piece is to enlist churches to increase tithes. Trinity (Nancy- 12.5%). It's about moving needle forward and to be consistent. San Antonio is great example. Challenges with building. They stepped out if faith to go to 14%. We got their first 14%. Try to move some other churches up.

Bryan: When I look at additional income approach. I wonder if we should approach this as a specific giving dollar amount. Part of the Generous in Faith, instead of a percent increase, do a dollar amount.

Liz: For some churches, this would play well.

Bryan: For some churches, this could be a fundraiser for the GIF.

Candace: If it's a dollar amount, then it's about when the denomination would get it versus a percent increase per month.

Liz: In 2013 the tithe rate is suppose to go to 12%. That's why it's important to build the culture of generosity now.

Kareem: Find churches to help us live into our mission? Not just financially but what else can they do to help MCC? It will be good to find other support for MCC.

Barb: That's one of the things we've tried to do at a summit. Come up with Generosity in Service.

### **Monthly Donor Program Discussion**

Nancy: This is one of our greatest potentials, to shift to a monthly donor program. We have 65-66 monthly donors, bringing in over \$5000. I don't see a reason we couldn't have 500 monthly donors. I've been working with Marina and Jim Birkett for campaign: "Moderator's Circle". By the end of year we could have 200 – 250 monthly donors. Between the Summits and our database information, social media, and have a youth component to work their network this is very reasonable. The campaign will be finished this week. We'd love your feedback. I feel especially energized about this piece. I felt for a while this is something we should focus on.

Nancy: I also have ideas about matching gift groups. I've asked Tony to coach me. I want to have the matching donors identified. Several staff feel good about seeking sponsoring for a program. Tony has already coached me to be sure to make the match. We have not asked people for this kind of gift recently. And we need to start doing it.

Liz: The FC recommends amending motion passed at the March Meeting.

Kareem: Where I am, I'd like to think we can do the fund development, my sense is that we left the face-to face that we'd have to make decisions. I don't think it would be wise to close that off. Our energy and creativity is on fund development side. But I don't want us to avoid confronting hard realities if we're forced to do that.

Candace: I think cutting staff is also cutting programs/ministry. We discussed at the Size Summits that if we want to move forward we have to start investing in our staff and programs. If we cut anymore, I would begin to worry about the future. We are still touching lives. If we look at cutting, we'll be in rough shape. So we make the decision, and commit to contacting churches to get back on track with tithes and participate in Generous in Faith. We may have to be prepared to go back to GC in 2013 with the case of brining tithe and assessments back up to 15%.

Tony: I'm fully supportive of efforts to increase income. I'll help as much as I can, donor program, and back tithes. Feel like I'm missing pieces. Cash flow for rest of year. Balanced budget this year is not really balanced if we need to subsidized from Operating Reserve.

Candace: We wanted to discuss the OR later in year when we have a better sense of cash flow. We don't want to make a decision, (\$50,000 could be another salary) leave it hanging for a little while, let's see what income production does.

Liz: The motion: Question on the motion. The motion may include incremental approach. Go forward? Not enough information? Need to come to some conclusion....

Kareem: I'm fine with calling the question.

Nancy: Tony, I heard you say you couldn't vote until you have a cash flow.

Barb: I will have the cash flow out before Friday.

Robert: We're not voting, are you asking for a vote on this plan?

Onetta: My understanding: Show a plan that have \$535,000 cuts. Rather than show, but increase the income side, it could be \$200,000 cut taken incrementally.

Robert: Amend \$535,000 to \$200,000?

Liz: No. We're saying to add sentence motion may include may include incremental approach by increasing revenue (paraphrased). Allows staff to do either or.

Bryan: We need to strike the one point about 1.6 m due to different ways to read it.

Candace: Need to rewrite.

MOTION 04.17.12.02 – Move to rescind MOTION 03.08 - 10.12.02: “In light of the current economic situation and due to increase of unpaid passed due tithe assessment from local churches we are reducing the 2012 budget by \$535,000 to a new budget of \$1,660,450, keep payables current, repay \$50,000 to operating reserve in 2012, and to live within the parameters of this budget.” Made by Onetta, seconded by Candace, M/S Approved

Nancy: Need new motion to be crafted and have cash flow sent out via e-mail by Friday. We will vote on the new motion via e-mail and record the actions in the May meeting. (see item VII for new Motion and voting results)

IV.

### **August Face-to-Face Meeting, options**

Nancy: Put off the GB Face-to-Face until May.

Kareem: I’m willing to pay my way fully. I have companion certificate. I don’t want to presume everyone can do that. There’s a lot of value.

Nancy: I promise to work with you and Barb.

V.

### **Review Action Items/Meeting Evaluation**

Nancy

Nancy: A lot of good work, hard work. Thank you everyone.

VI.

Bryan Closed the meeting in prayer

VII.

### **Revised Motion for the Governing Board as brought forward by the Finance Committee:**

The Governing Board conducted a virtual vote of the following motion on April 23/24, 2012:

MOTION 04.23.12.01 In light of the current economic situation and due to an increase of unpaid past due tithe assessments from local churches, we are adopting a plan of incrementally reducing the 2012 budget and at the same time intentionally increasing income revenue streams to a combined target amount of \$535,000. Our budget priorities are to keep payables current, repay \$50,000 to the operating reserve in 2012, and to live within the parameters of this budget.

Moved by Bryan, Seconded by Onetta

Aye votes: Bryan, Onetta, Liz, Candace, & Kareem; No votes: Robert; Abstained: Tony

No reply to virtual voting from Nancy or Raquel.

M/S Approved

### **2012 GB Meeting Dates**

- TUE 15 MAY 12 5:00 PM EDT
- MON 18 JUN 12 5:00 PM EDT\*

- TUE 17 JUL 12 5:00 PM EDT\*
- THUR 2 AUG – Sun 5 AUG 12 – 3 & 4 AUG WITH SLT\*\*
- TUE 21 AUG 12 3:00 PM EDT (IF NEEDED)\*
- TUE 18 SEP 12 5:00 PM EDT
- TUE 16 OCT 12 5:00 PM EDT
- TUE 20 NOV 12 5:00 PM EST
- TUE 18 DEC 12 5:00 PM EST

\* Note Time Change

\*\* TBD