

**Record of Actions
Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC)
General Conference XXVI Business Meeting
5 July 2016 Victoria, BC (Canada)**

The General Conference XXVI business meeting was convened by Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson, Moderator of MCC, at 10:15 a.m. (PST) on Tuesday, 5 July 2016.

Declaration of Quorum

The total number of active MCC clergy eligible to participate in General Conference was 389; the number required to achieve quorum (20%) was 78. The number of active MCC clergy present was 178. Sarah Jane Ramage, Vice-Chair, declared that a quorum was achieved in the Clergy House.

The total number of laity eligible to participate in General Conference was 214; the number required to achieve quorum (20%) was 43. The number of laity present was 148. The Vice-Chair declared that a quorum was achieved in the Lay House.

Declaration of full quorum was made by Vice-Chair Ramage.

Welcome

Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson welcomed lay delegates, clergy, observers and special guests. She also explained the structure of the business meeting.

Guidelines for Holy Conversation

Rev. Elder Margarita Sanchez de Leon presented Guidelines for Holy Conversation

Motion to adopt the Business Meeting Agenda

Motion 1:

Motion to adopt the Business Meeting Agenda was made and seconded. Motion passes by a simple majority in the Clergy House and in the Lay House.

Acknowledgements

Governing Board Member, Rev. Onetta Brooks honored the twenty-five MCC Clergy who had retired since General Conference XXV 2013.

Governing Board Member, Rev. Clinton Crawshaw acknowledged the nine MCC Clergy who had died since General Conference XXV 2013.
Rev. Elder Dr. Mona West welcomed MCC Clergy who had been ordained since General Conference XXV 2013.

Elder Nancy Maxwell welcomed the eleven graduates of Laity Empowered for Active Discipleship (L.E.A.D.), the one graduate of the Garner Institute, and the 33 graduates of Leadership Mentoring Retreat.

Rev. Elder Tony Freeman acknowledged and blessed our Network Leaders.

Rev. Elder Margarita Sanchez de Leon welcomed the six new churches who have affiliated since General Conference XXV 2013

Governing Board Vice-Chair, Sarah Jane Ramage welcomed the 46 Emerging Churches that have started since General Conference XXV 2013.

Governing Board Member, Rev. Clinton Crawshaw welcomed the nine Oasis Communities and the four Aligned Organizations that have joined since General Conference 2013.

Governing Board Member, Raquel Benitez Rojas acknowledged the eight new countries that have obtained an MCC presence since General Conference XXV 2013.

Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy acknowledged our Ecumenical guest, Michael Adee. Michael was not present at the business meeting but shared words later at the General conference.

Opening Prayer

Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson opened the Business Meeting in prayer.

Adoption of the General Conference Procedures Manual

Motion 2:

Motion was made by Rev. Onetta Brooks to adopt the proposed procedures for General Conference – Rev.0515 final 2 as posted on the Emerge Business Package document webpage.

Motion is seconded.

Motion passes by simple majority in Clergy House and in Lay House

Moderator's Address

Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson gave her final thoughts as moderator. She thanked the candidates, talked about globalism, and "Be MCC". She said we are all flawed leaders, and that MCC is reshaping itself.

Motion 3

Motion to receive the report of the Moderator

Motion was made and seconded.

Motion passes by simple majority in Clergy House and Lay House

Report of the Governing Board

Vice-Chair, Sarah Jane Ramage, presented the Report of the Governing Board. She reported the accomplishment of the board since 2013, the current financial climate, and the changes that had occurred with the Board.

Motion 4

Motion to receive the report of the Governing Board

Motion was made and seconded

Motion to accept the report passes by simple majority in Clergy House and Lay House.

Motions from the Governing Board

Motion #1

Move to form a global commission to review the basis of assessments and structure of operations for the Denomination with a view to creating a simpler and more sustainable base from which to grow into the next decade. The commission shall be formed of lay and clergy members representing churches of all sizes, the Senior Leadership Team and the

Governing Board. It shall report to a virtual general conference within 18 months of formation with a proposal for approval.

Motion was moved and seconded

Motion passes by a 2/3 majority in Clergy House and Lay House

Motion #2

Move UFMCC Bylaws Article IX.B1 to Governing Board Policy Handbook to sit alongside the assessment rate.

Bylaw amendment requires 2/3 vote of both houses.

GB PROPOSAL 07: FINANCE ARTICLE IX.B.1 MOVE TO GB POLICY HANDBOOK – GB FIN CMTE 0504

Motion was moved and seconded

Motion passes by a 2/3 majority in Clergy House and Lay House.

Motion #3:

Move to continue to follow the prescribed assessment rate reduction as scheduled in the Governing Board Policy Handbook.

Motion was moved and seconded

Motion passes by a 2/3 majority in Clergy House and Lay House

Introduction of Voting Judges and Tabulation Committee

Jude Litzenberger, Sherrill Parmley, Eliud Dimas were introduced as Voting Judges and Tabulation Committee

Practice Voting Using Electronic Voting Devices

The delegates practiced using the electronic voting devices.

Governing Board Election

Motion 5

Move to receive the Governing Board Nominating Committee Report.

Motion was made and seconded.

Motion passes by simple majority in Clergy House and in Lay House.

Mark Kornmann, Chair of the Governing Board Nominating Committee presented the candidates for consideration for election to the Governing Board:

Five Clergy Candidates:

- Rev. Onetta Brooks, California, USA
- Rev. Dr. Stephanie Burns, Florida, USA
- Rev. Joe Cobb, Virginia, USA
- Rev. Jakob Hero, Florida, USA
- Rev. Dr. William Hubbard Knight, Hawaii, USA

Three Lay Candidates:

- Kimberly Brown, Oregon, USA
- Angel Collie, North Carolina, USA
- Mark Dalglish, Wollstonecraft, Australia

Council of Elder Member Ines-Paul Baumann offered a prayer

Delegates vote for up to four Governors in the Clergy House and up to three Governors in the Lay House.

Clergy Election Results, including virtual votes

Total Voters	185 + 27 Virtual	211*	155 + 15 Virtual	170
CLERGY POSITIONS	Clergy House	%	Lay House	%
Rev. Onetta Brooks	113 + 18 = 131	62	96 + 9 = 105	62
Rev. Dr. Stephanie Burns	124 + 17 = 141	67	113 + 12 = 125	74
Rev. Joe Cobb	143 + 21 = 163	77	114 + 10 = 124	73
Rev. Jakob Hero	163 + 19 = 181	86	136 + 9 = 143	85
Rev. Dr. William Hubbard Knight	138 + 18 = 155	73	125 + 6 = 131	77
Abstain	2 + 0 = 2		2 + 2 = 4	

* Includes one Invalid vote

Elected to serve as CLERGY members of the Governing Board for six years, until General Conference 2022 are Rev. Joe Cobb and Rev. Jakob Hero.

Elected to serve as CLERGY members of the Governing Board for three years, until General Conference 2019 are Rev. Dr. Stephanie Burns and Rev. Dr. William Hubbard Knight.

Lay Election Results, including virtual votes

LAY POSITIONS	Clergy House		Lay House	
Total Voters	187 + 27 Virtual = 214		157 + 15 = 172	
		%		%
Kimberly Brown	163 + 18 = 181	85	132 + 11 = 143	83
Angel Collie	138 + 38 = 159	74	117 + 12 = 129	75
Mark Dalgleish	159 + 18 = 177	83	136 + 12 = 147	86
Abstain	1 + 3 = 4		4 + 2 = 6	

Elected to serve as LAY members of the Governing Board for six years, until General Conference 2022 are Kimberly Brown and Mark Dalgleish.

Elected to serve as LAY member of the Governing Board for three years, until General Conference 2019 is Angel Collie.

Commission on the Statement of Faith

Motion 6

Move to receive the report of the Commission on the Statement of Faith made by Rev. Elder Candace Shultis.

Motion was seconded.

Motion accepted by simple majority in Clergy House and in Lay House

Motion 7 – Step 1

Move to replace the current Statement of Faith (Article III.A), with the proposed language.

A. Statement of Faith

Preamble

Metropolitan Community Churches is one chapter in the story of the Church, the Body of Christ. We are people on a journey, learning to live into our spirituality, while affirming our bodies, our genders, our sexualities. We don't all believe exactly the same things. And yet in the midst of our diversity, we build community, rooted in God's radically inclusive love for all people. We are part of an ongoing conversation on matters of belief and faith, shaped by scripture and the historic creeds, building on those who have come before us. Our chapter begins when God says to us: "Come, taste and see."

Our Faith

"Come, taste, and see." Jesus Christ, You invite all people to Your open table. You make us your people, a beloved community. You restore the joy of our relationship with God, even in the midst of loneliness, despair, and degradation. We are each unique and

we all belong, a priesthood of all believers. Baptized and filled with Your Holy Spirit, You empower us to be Your healing presence in a hurting world.

We expect to see Your reign on earth as it is in heaven as we work toward a world where everyone has enough, wars cease, and all creation lives in harmony. We affirm Your charge to all of humanity to care for the land, sea, and air. Therefore, we will actively resist systems and structures which are destroying Your creation.

With all of creation we worship You—every tribe, every language, every people, every nation. We know You by many names, Triune God, beyond comprehension, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, who invites us to the feast.

Amen.

Motion was seconded.

Motion passes overwhelmingly in Clergy House and Lay House.

Motion 8 – Step 2

Move to create addendum 5 entitled “MCC Core Documents” which outlines the process for including and amending documents considered core to MCC’s faith and work.

Motion was seconded.

Motion passes overwhelmingly in Clergy House and Lay House.

Motion 9 – Step 3

Move to Move “Article III.A – Statement of Faith” from the Bylaws into the MCC Core Documents (as described in Step 2).

Motion was seconded.

Motion passes overwhelmingly in Clergy House and Lay House.

Motion 10- Step 4

Move to rename Article III - Sacraments and Rites

Motion was seconded.

Motion passes overwhelmingly in Clergy House and Lay House.

Receive the MNC Report and Election of the Moderator

Motion 11

Motion was made by Rev. Mel Martinez to suspend the election of a moderator and authorize the incoming Governing Board to utilize our established Transitional Ministry program and policies to appoint an Interim Moderator among candidates with specialized training in large organizational transition for a three-year term of service and carry forward

for election the current slate of candidates recommended by the Moderator's Nominating Committee to the 2019 General Conference.

Motion was seconded.

Delegates spoke both for and against the motion.

Motion was voted on and fails to pass.

Motion 12

Move to receive the report of the Moderator Nominating Committee.

Motion was made and seconded.

Motion passes by a simple majority in the Clergy House and the Lay House.

Presentation of the Moderator candidates

Elisa Vega-Burns, MNC Chair, presented the candidates for Moderator:

Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Rev. Elder Darlene Garner

Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez

Rev. Dr. Irene Laudeman

Rev. Onetta Brooks explained that to be elected a candidate must receive a simple majority; greater than 50% in both houses. It was explained that if a Moderator is not elected at General Conference, per Bylaws, the new Governing Board will appoint an Interim Moderator to serve until the next General Conference.

Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson offered prayer before the Moderator election.

Virtual Voting results will be added to Round 1 voting only.

Moderator Election Results, Round 1

	Clergy House		Lay House	
Total Voters	181 + 27 Virtual	208	155 + 15 Virtual	170
CANDIDATES		%		%
Rev. Elder Diane Fisher	55 + 4 = 59	28	47 + 5 = 52	31
Rev. Elder Darlene Garner	42 + 9 = 51	25	37 + 5 = 42	25
Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez	29 + 6 = 35	17	19 + 5 = 24	14
Rev. Dr. Irene Lauderman	33 + 5 = 38	18	37 + 0 = 37	22
Abstain	22 + 3 + 25	12	15 + 0 = 15	9

Moderator Election Results, Round 2

	Clergy House		Lay House	
Total Voters	181		151	
CANDIDATES		%		%
Rev. Elder Diane Fisher	59	32	59	39
Rev. Elder Darlene Garner	49	27	42	27
Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez	22	12	14	9
Rev. Dr. Irene Lauderman	31	17	23	15
Abstain	20	11	13	8

Moderator Election Results, Round 3

	Clergy House		Lay House	
Total Voters	181		155	
CANDIDATES		%		%
Rev. Elder Diane Fisher	70	38	69	44
Rev. Elder Darlene Garner	57	31	42	27
Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez	11	6	10	6
Rev. Dr. Irene Lauderman	19	10	19	12
Abstain	24	13	15	9

Moderator Election Results, Round 4

	Clergy House		Lay House	
Total Voters				
CANDIDATES		%		%
Rev. Elder Diane Fisher	81	44	87	56
Rev. Elder Darlene Garner	71	39	51	32
Abstain	29	16	17	10

Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson asked the General Conference for another round of voting. General Conference for a fifth round of voting. Motion seconded and PASSED by 2/3 of both clergy and lay house to proceed.

Moderator Election Results, Round 5

	Clergy House		Lay House	
Total Voters				
CANDIDATES		%		%
Rev. Elder Diane Fisher	78	42	94	60
Rev. Elder Darlene Garner	55	30	41	26
Abstain	49	26	20	12

After five rounds of voting no Moderator was elected.

Consideration of Bylaws Amendments

Four Editorials:

- I. GB PROPOSAL 01: EDITORIAL – ARTICLE IV.A MINISTRY – paragraph renumbering – GB
- II. GB PROPOSAL 02: EDITORIAL – ARTICLE IV.B. LOCAL CHURCH PARAGRAPH REORDER –COE-GARNER
- III. GB PROPOSAL 03: EDITORIAL – ARTICLE V.E.3 –ELDER – PARAGRAPH REMOVAL CLEANUP – GB
- IV. GB PROPOSAL 04: EDITORIAL – ARTICLE V.E.2 –MODERATOR – ADD PARAGRAPHS - REALIGN – GB

Motion 13

Rev. Onetta Brooks moved to approve the editorial bylaw change proposal 01, 02, 03, and 04. – Editorials.

Motion was seconded.

Motion passes overwhelmingly in Clergy House and Lay House.

- V. **GB PROPOSAL 05: MNC MEMBER INCREASE – ARTICLE V.E.2.a – GB-MNC**

Motion 14

Rev. Onetta Brooks moved to approve the bylaw change proposal 05, to increase the members on the MNC from 3 to 5.

Motion was seconded;

Motion passes overwhelmingly in Clergy House and Lay House.

Awards Presentation

Moderator Wilson presented the following awards:

Governing Board: Raquel Benitez-Rojas, 2010-2016; Rev. Onetta Brooks,

2010-2016; Rev. Clinton Crawshaw, 2013 – 2016; Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, 2010-2016; Kareem Murphy, 2013-2016; Gail Rissler, 2013-2016; Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell, 2013-2015.

Moderator Nominating Committee: Elisa Vega-Burns, Chair; Rev. Dr. Lea Brown; Rev. Kevin Downer; Rev. Beulah Durrheim; Stuart Sutherland.

Governing Board Nominating Committee: Mark Kornmann, Chair; Rev. Tijuana Gray; Kakay Pamaran.

Statement of Faith Commission: Rev. Elder Candace Shultis, Chair; Rev. Cathy Alexander; Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez; Rev. Karl Hand; Bryce Rich; Rev. Axel Schweigart.

Certificates of Appreciation: Bryan Parker – Alternate, Governing Board Nominating Committee; Elder Nancy Maxwell, Governing Board Nominating Committee; Rev. Karen Thompson, Governing Board, Bylaws Team - Rev. Mel Martinez, Joel Martinez, Sarah Jane Ramage.

Motions of Courtesy and Appreciation

Motion 15

1. Move that General Conference extend its gratitude to the members of the Governing Board Nominating Committee.
2. Move that General Conference extend its gratitude to the members of the Moderator Nominating Committee.
3. Move that General Conference extend its appreciation to MCC staff members, and all of the Team Leaders and volunteers for organizing the 2016 General Conference.
4. Move that General Conference extend its appreciation and gratitude to all workshop leaders, presenters, and speakers during the 2016 General Conference.
5. Motion of Appreciation for creation of the Lay Delegates PowerPoint Presentation by Jane Bennett-Bailey (MCC of Northern Virginia).
6. Motion of Appreciation for their time: Gail Bumala (MCC Portland), Jim Barr (MCC of the Coachella Valley), Steve Jones (MCC DC, Washington), David Wilson (MCC Richmond) to brainstorm about future lay delegates videos.
7. Motion of appreciation for all Translators - Rev Elder Margarita Sánchez De León, Rev Cristiano Valério Moreira, Rev Elder Héctor Gutiérrez, Rev Dr Axel Schwaigert, Haroldo André Garcia de Oliveira, and Enrique Juan Guadalupe Zenteno Lopez.

8. **Move to accept the motions of courtesy and appreciation was made by Rev. Onetta Brooks.**

Motion was seconded.

Motion passes overwhelmingly by Clergy House and Lay House.

Acknowledgement of Staff, Elders, and GC Staff

Moderator Wilson acknowledged and thanked the work of the denominational staff, the Elders, and all the General Conference Staff.

Save the Dates and Venue for 2019 General Conference

It was announced that the 2019 General Conference would be held in Orlando, Florida, USA. The dates are July 1 through July 5, 2019.

Adjournment

Motion 16

Motion to adjourn the General Conference XXVI was made by a General Conference delegate.

Motion is seconded.

Motion passes unanimously in Clergy House and Lay House.

Closing Song

The closing song – “I Need You to Survive” was sung.

Closing Prayer

Moderator Wilson gave the closing prayer.