



ATTENDEES

Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson, Moderator; Rev. Clinton Crawshaw, Vice Chair; Sarah-Jane Ramage, Secretary; Gail Rissler, Treasurer; Raquel Benítez-Rojas, Rev. Onetta Brooks, Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, Kareem Murphy, Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell; Barbara Crabtree, Director of Operations; Linda Brenner-Beckstead, Staff Support.

GUESTS

Lauren Bennett, MCC Staff (5 March 2015); Rev. Elder Darlene, Garner (5 March 2015)

THURSDAY, 5 MARCH

General Conference presentation by Lauren Bennett

Consent Agenda

Director of Operations Financial Reports: January P&L, Balance Sheet (Barb)
December Meeting Minutes – Amended (SJ)
Moderator Report (Nancy)

Motion to Approve: Kareem. Second, Gail. Passes Unanimously

Governing Board Nominating Committee (GBNC) Replacement

12 strong applicants, we will interview 4. Thank you to Gail and Carol.
We aim to have affirmation in month of March.

GC Business Team

Nancy is Moderator
Onetta: current Governance chair
SJ: incoming Governance chair
Vickey: Ballots
Linda: Staff Support
There is a Bus Team Meeting to practice to have walk-through on Saturday prior to staff dinner.

GB Meet and Greet

Tuesday, July 5: Even after election, the (new GB members are) GB-elect until Saturday. Outgoing GB need to remain in position until close of worship Friday Night, this is procedural. There will be more procedures. We'll make sure GC knows how many rounds. We are constrained by time.

Special General Conference

List in red takes care of all the items to do for Special General Conference.
Since Elder training will take place in April, the Business Forum will be live.
Virtual voting May 6 & 7.

MNC

Robert left: 1:18 p.m. EST

MNC reports that their time line has altered slightly but they are progressing

Kareem: Move to adopt updated timeline. Carol. Second. Passes.

Lauren leaves and invites Robert to return. (approx 1:33 p.m. EST)

Oasis

Rev Elder Darlene Garner presented the proposal for MCC Oasis, an emerging church and Oasis communities which function as small groups rather than churches.

Assessments

FAQs are almost done. It is now time to form a team for Implementation and align with policy. Discussion was held regarding the specifics of a church's request for support under the assessments policy.

It was agreed that S-J would follow this up with the support of Kareem.

It was then agreed to form the Assessments implementation team: CFO(Barb), OCLH(Tony), Treasurer(Gail), one GB(S-J), (extra GB if both treasurer and other GB is Lay – Carol)

Strategic Plan

A presentation of the current status was presented by Kareem.

A discussion was had regarding the Diversity Plan. There were elements in Breakthrough Objectives. Where was the disconnect? Is that critique valid? It was concluded that further work is needed in many areas.

Finance

In advance of our meeting with Gil Gerard, Barb presented a detailed review of our finances in particular the various income streams and trends over the past 10 years.

2016 Investment Considerations

A schedule of new expenses for 2016 was presented by Gail: noting that we can't afford all of it.

Some costs were thought to be unnecessary – perhaps they could be covered through fundraising or would perhaps be incurred for 1 month instead of 3.

No decisions were made

Investment Policy Implementation

It was explained that we needed to look at this to ensure we are making our money work effectively for us.

Decisions were deferred pending discussions later over the meeting

Retirement and Founding Moderator

The way Founding Moderator's retirement was set up was explained and discussed. It is an annual cost to the operating budget and is not reflected in the accounts as a liability. We currently present significant assets in the form of investments, recognizing this liability is likely to reduce our reserves. It was acknowledged that this probably should have been done at the time of the Founding Moderator's retirement and revisited when the West Hollywood property was sold.

It was agreed that Barb would explore the value of the liability and the options we have regarding it. It was also recognized again that there is no pension provision recorded for the current Moderator ...

A further discussion was had regarding pension provision across the denomination, in particular acknowledging that contribution matches in Europe are mandated by law and are significantly higher than the standard practice in the US. The question was also raised for what is offered for staff in local churches.

FRIDAY, 6 March 2015

The day was spent in training with Gil Gerard regarding Development

Development Overview Ideas

- Development needs a budget
- Research which foundations might provide seed money, or which donors might provide financial support for development.
- Identify donors who do not attend church but may want to support MCC or at least retain an affiliation
- Create plan to transfer donor relationships from Nancy to new Moderator and/or member of GB
- Improve information available in database about donors (i.e. donor request to only be contacted in certain month each year).
- Development Committee (and Strategic Planning Committee) puts objectives under Goals. Vice-Chair monitors work flow.
- Determine how volunteers can support Development Director.
- Business Plan
- Status of Seed Money (and similar financial support) reported monthly by Moderator; added to Moderator Work Plan

SATURDAY, 7 March 2015

Development

- Nancy, Kareem, and Robert will integrate Development Plan into Strategic Plan.
- By Q2: Create a Work Plan for Development Director and a first 100 days set of goals and reasonable targets.
- New Director will see draft of Work Plan and provide input / revise as needed in Quarter 3 and being implementation.
- Nancy and Robert (as Development chair) will discuss formal Communication's Plan, and then share with Kareem and committee for Strategic Plan.
- In April meeting, revisit idea of "Give or Get" for Governing Board members.
- Development Committee will create Objectives based on the goals with help from Strategic Planning Committee.
- Include 50th Anniversary as part of Development Director's job description.

Funding Streams

(see pages 8-10 in 7 March 2015 meeting notes)

Put "Funding" as an agenda item each month to check in for new names of individuals and/or organizations.

Moderator's Circle

- Remember to thank Moderator's Circle members each time attend an activity or visit church as GB member.

Moderator's Retirement

- Gail, SJ, Barb are team. Research to continue.
- Update status of research at next meeting.

Communication

- Explore other methods of communication: Twitter- Carol will sign up for account. Linked-In, ask YAs about other social media options.

Future Face-to-Face Schedules

Begin first day at 10 a.m., and last day at 4 p.m.

Policy and Moderator Start Date

Create or expand policy to identify start date for a newly-elected Moderator to begin 1 October of year in which elected.

SATURDAY, 7 MARCH

9:00 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Development Wrap-up (Gil Gerald)

Various development ideas were proposed, these were passed to the development team for progression.

GB Covenant Commitments:

In materials Gil gave us, there is excellent example. Give or Get. "Building a Culture of Fundraising." At present we have an ambiguous requirement to give as GB members but there is no commitment and no specific. After some discussion it was agreed to be take up privately.

A further discussion was held regarding various sources of specific funding to support development – our 2015 budget does not have the capacity to fund a development director without some additional funding.

Nancy left at 11:40 a.m. Robert is absent.

Moderator's Retirement

The team reported that the process was ongoing to establish a basis for the pension and that a fuller report would be available after the next finance meeting. A detailed discussion was held to cover the various (non salary) benefits paid/ offered to current and former senior staff.

Moderator's Transition Team

Still 2 names to finalise before the team can be finalised

MCC 50th Anniversary

Ongoing but not finalised

Communications Plan

We discussed the principles of communication and the various levels of awareness and looked at options to improve this.

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August Face-to-Face Meeting

August meeting topics were proposed

Parking Lot

Meeting times – it was discussed whether meetings could start later (physical) or earlier (virtual) to allow flexibility for travel/ work.

SJ: Follow-up with church requesting 3-month tolerance in line with Assessment Policy. Carol.
Second. Passes. (Robert and Gail absent)

Several MCC churches will inconsistent assessment payments have been referred back to Nancy and SLT.

Church affiliation process with UCC was passed on to OEM and OCLH for followup.

Motion: Start date of new Moderator will be October 1, 2016. Moved: Onetta. Second: Carol.
Passes. Absent: Gail, Robert.

Exec Session: Nancy stepped out at 3:04 p.m.
Onetta moved to leave executive session at 3:26 pm
Second Clinton, Passed

Motions of Appreciation
Sherrill, Tammy, and Kop
Staff: Linda, Barb, Marina, Darlene, Gil

Motion to adjourn: Carol, Second Kareem. Passes