



## GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

28 May 2015 – 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. EDT; 20:00 - 21:30 GMT/UTC

### ATTENDEES

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.

Apologies: Rev Elder Nancy Wilson, Moderator

### Consent Agenda

- **Minutes: 26 February 2015** SJ
- **Minutes: 23 April 2015**
- **Minutes: Electronic Voting (if applicable)**
  
- **Director of Operation’s Financial Reports** Barb
  - **March & April P & L, Balance Sheet, Budget Summary**
  
- **Moderator’s May Work Plan Report** (in meeting folder)

Motion: Minutes of Feb 2015, April 2015, Director of Operations Reports for March and April, and Moderator Work Plan.

Motion: Onetta. Second: Carol. Passes Unanimously

Deferring March Minutes to Governance Committee.

It was confirmed and noted that in April we had 2 electronic votes: to affirm the appointment of Dewayne Davis to the BOP as requested by the BOP, and to approve the restoration plan for MCC Austin.

### Discussion Agenda

- **Finance Committee: Pension Plans for current and former moderator**

Clinton: Move to Executive Session. Second: Onetta. Passes. (4:25 p.m. ET)

Clinton: End Executive Session: 4:35 p.m. ET

### Give/Get

The Finance Committee will empower Barb to add line item in Development, under Moderator Circle for GB. It will designate our giving and be aware of our asks. This is for tracking purposes.

- **Development Committee**

We hope to be able to hire a development director relatively soon.



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- **Assessment Report**

A meeting has been had with a church whose previous agreement has proven unsustainable. It will take them a while to prepare the numbers for a new proposal as we have highlighted that the focus needs to be on a realistic sustainable plan.

There are other churches in this position – where a previous plan may have been aspirational rather than realistic. These need to be revisited. It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

- **Governance (and Special General Conference)**

Special General Conference and affirmation of numbers. All seven candidates affirmed.

**Motion to affirm Record of Action from May Special General Conference: Onetta. Second: SJ. Passed**

Using eligibility criteria, and will ask for vote in June, for GC 2016, assessment payments through calendar 2016, and BOP payments through calendar year 2015. We know it's going to be busy in 2016, we'll ask for a vote a year ahead of time and let churches know what eligibility will be.

Proposed Bylaw changes:

BOP: Will propose an increase and will come from us. Will increase from \$0.75 USD to \$1.00 USD for clergy retirement.

Virtual Voting: We attempted at 2013. The cost and attendance is so small. At last conference, we had one person. At this point, given the magnitude, we will recommend no virtual voting. Only those present at General Conference.

MNC: They have invited nominees to apply.

GBNC: Mark Kornmann is onboard. First meeting will take place June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Bylaw Team is up and running.

BOP Conflict of interest: We want to look at what is Conflict of Interest. And what policies are needed in handbook to consider as making appointments and teams?

Original question: if we are, as GB, approving appointments of a person to the BOP, what is our role? Are we interested because we are a stakeholder? Or do we really have oversight? And is there a perceived conflict of interest.

**Onetta: Governance will refine action and pieces. We have to be clear about defining oversight role and overlap of teams.**

Last item Protocol: Governance is working on protocol for GB endorsements of Moderator and GB candidates. In meantime, has not been a matter of issue. Now Moderator election is in 2016, and so until Governance Committee comes back with protocol, refrain from public endorsement.

The GB members can discern what you choose to do with it. We are providing guidance because it's been asked for. Send us your guidance and we will take it into consideration.

- **Strategic Plan**

The SLT voted unanimously that the GB consider an update to the Strategic Plan. They saw that 60% of churches are experiencing a decline. The way Tony put it, if you compare to a franchise operation, it would show decline. We won't be able to do





other things called for in plan.

They want us to consider 3.3 and 4.5 [from the Strategic Plan], and want to pilot a strategy to reverse decline and strategy to resource leaders. This doesn't change the Strategic Plan but the focus.

**Carol: Move. Second: Robert. Passes. Onetta, abstention.**

- **Communications**

Set up Twitter. Need to set date for webinar.

- **March Meeting Follow-up**

Linda will circulate a poll regarding options for meeting times

- **Audit**

It is actively ongoing. We are answering questions with auditors for all three years. We have completed one. I've asked Tammy to collect RFP so we can begin with 2014. we will have preliminary report for GB to consider result of audits. That will be resolved in next few weeks and months. With 2014, it will depend on how quickly we get results.

- **Moderator Transition Team**

Moderator Transition Team has been meeting. We broke the document into four work groups: Ceremonial, Staffing, Office Location, and Onboarding of Moderator. The most important discussion today is office location.

We'd like to recommend to GB we go with approach that we retain an MCC business office in US to take deposits. And retain Sarasota office. We are researching costs about relocating. The Moderator Office becomes matter of personal preference. The Moderator and support could choose where to locate.

We need to raise, if person is out of US, We have potential costs for VISA (up to \$10k), and the cost to bring the Moderator to US, and/or to bring SLT/COE outside of US for meetings.

**Decision deferred to June.**

- **General Conference Updates**

Various matters regarding moderator transition were raised and referred to the moderator transition team

- **Face-to-Face meeting logistics**

- Inform Linda by email by 10 June if you will need a hotel
- Provide arrival/departure dates (to be used for hotel and flight)
- Coordinate flight with Linda

Clinton

5:30 Closing

Prayer



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