

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS**  
**7 July 2015**  
**Conference Call**

**Elders Present:**

Rev. Elder Pat Bumgardner	Rev. Elder Tony Freeman
Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez	Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson
Rev. Elder Nancy Maxwell	Rev. Elder Mona West
Rev. Elder Darlene Garner	Rev. Elder Ines-Paul Baumann

**Elders Excused:**

Rev. Elder Candace Shultis	Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson
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**Staff Present:**

Linda Brenner-Beckstead	Jack Hutter
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Opening prayer and spiritual reflection from the book “Spirituality of Fundraising” were offered by Rev. Elder Johnson.

**COE Vision Statement**

The Council of Elders unanimously approved a Statement of Vision for the ministry of the Council of Elders:

*As the Council of Elders of MCC, we seek to be:*

- ❖ *Pastoral leaders of the Church and God’s people*
- ❖ *Bearers of hope, rooted in the Gospel*
- ❖ *Followers of Jesus and the prophetic call to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God*
- ❖ *People who live spiritually authentic lives in a global and diverse movement*

**Mentoring/Working Groups**

The Council of Elders organized into three groups for mentoring and small-group work.

**Way of Work of the Elders**

The Council of Elders discussed ideas about how to support the strategic priorities regarding supporting lay and clergy leaders and reversing decline and promoting healthy growth in our churches. Conversation on this topic will continue at future meetings.

**Closing Prayer**

Rev. Elder West led the Council of Elders in prayer for our churches, leaders, and global movement.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Jack Hutter