

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

20 June 2013

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. EST; 22:00 - 23:30 GMT/UTC

VISION GOALS FOR 2013:

- ❖ Build sustainability and capacity into all we do.
- ❖ Communicate to the world with passion and clarity that we are stronger together.
- ❖ Give priority to churches and new ministries that demonstrate signs of health and growth.
- ❖ Continue to build leadership development into all we do, particularly with Young Adults.

OPEN QUESTIONS FOR 2013:

- ❖ 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 Dr. Nancy Wilson, Moderator; Raquel Benítez-Rojas, Vice Chair; Kareem Murphy, Secretary; Liz Bisordi, Treasurer; Rev. Onetta Brooks, Rev. Tony Freeman, Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, Bryan Parker, Barbara Crabtree, Director of Operations, Linda Brenner-Beckstead, Staff Support.

ABSENT:

Rev. Dr. Candace Shultis

The meeting began at 5:01 pm. Raquel opened the meeting in Nancy's absence, and Bryan led in a short opening prayer.

AGENDA

A. Consent Agenda (Nancy)

- Minutes of 23 May 2013 meeting (Kareem)
- Moderator's Report (Nancy)

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 132006.1: Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Onetta, seconded by Liz. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Nancy joined the meeting at 5:05pm EST.

B. Finances (Finance Committee/Barb)

Liz noted that the financial picture is great and that we have lots of detail. The Finance Committee does want to move forward with a commission or task force to deal with church assessment and tithes. Tony wanted to know if we were expecting to approve the proposal at this meeting. There was discussion about detailed financial performance related to real estate and reserve accounts. Barb noted that staff levels are down by 34% compared to 2009 and that we have no external debt. Outstanding debt is internal to MCC.

Raquel asked for a quick summary of the past two years and where we are now. Barb answered that we had to make difficult decisions to change operating habits of the organization. The key three takeaways are: 1) Financial stability is incredible stronger; 2) we are dedicated to align performance with vision and goals; and 3) we have reduced the assessment rate. Tony added that we have done all this while still having \$400,000 owed in Accounts Receivable. Liz added pondered about what we could have done with that support, how much more programming we could have had.

Liz asked that we stop using the word “tithe” and find another word like “assessments” because there is a biblical definition of tithes that does not apply to our financial relationship with our churches. Kareem noted that this is something we could ask the Task Force or Commission to do.

Tony noted that if we did not have anticipated surplus, we would not be in a good place. He asked what that says to us about effort on other development pieces. Barb responded that we have a plan to increase our margins through an aggressive push to expand the Moderator’s Circle at General Conference. Nancy noted plans for cultivating more major donors and a planned giving program. Tony noted that if we currently did not have a surplus from our development work, we would running in a deficit. There was broad agreement from everyone on that last point.

Barb reviewed top line expenses. She accounted for the staffing model and how having staff outside of the U.S. affects cash flow and financial structures. Staff is working to better those approaches. We also will be delaying onboarding of planned hires. In addition, there were more church interventions (requiring travel) and consulting with the Large Church Pastors group than anticipated. There were donations that helped offset some of those costs, however. Responding to a question from Kareem about year-end projections, Barb noted that these costs can be managed through controlled expenses in other areas.

Liz and Barb reviewed the assessment income from outside the U.S. and noted that there were two churches in Europe for which we had not reports or assessments. Liz reviewed some of the programs offered in Europe in 2012 and 2013, and Barb detailed how those expenses are born, coded, and paid for.

Barb disaggregated the assessment income by church size (based on the categories of church size theory). The data showed that the majority of income came from Pastor-sized churches, regardless of whether they were in the U.S. or not.

There was general discussion about the proposal from the Finance Committee to have the Governing Board establish a Financial Commission. Tony asked for more time to consider the proposal. Tony asked to change the name from “commission” to something else. Robert said he was ready to approve regardless of the name of the group. Raquel said she shared Tony’s concerns. Liz amended the proposal to refer to the group as a “Task Force” and Raquel said she supported that.

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 132006.2: Motion to approve the Finance Committee’s proposal to create a Task Force on Assessments made by Onetta, seconded by Kareem. MOTION PASSES 7 YES AND ONE NO.

C. Webinars- Feedback (Raquel)

Overall, we had over 60 people participate in the bylaws Governing Board webinars and roughly 30-40 for the other ones. Raquel noted that people were very engaged and many on behalf of churches. We need to do more. They are important.

D. Strategic Plan (Kareem)

We are on track and it is up to date. We will be asking for feedback at the Business Meeting Forum and the Moderator's Circle breakfast.

Nancy leaves the meeting due to an urgent matter at 6:20pm EST.

E. MCC Austin Proposal (Raquel)

Raquel asked where things stand on that. Kareem said that Nancy was going to provide some background leadership on this discussion and he noted that they were clear in wanting a face-to-face meeting. Tony and Robert said that they did not want to leave this issue unresolved but had concerns with the precedent that this might set for the Governing Board and churches. They said that if there were an information exchange, using Adobe Connect or electronic means may be more appropriate. Onetta expressed concern that we may lack adequate information and that should be tabled for the next Governing Board to address. Raquel agreed to talk about this further with Nancy when she had her Moderator-Vice Chair call. Kareem asked if we could simply have a phone call with their Board and determine the bottom line issues and that anyone on this Board should be equipped to do that. There was discussion about how many times the MCC Austin Board and the Governing Board went back and forth on finding a date to meet.

F. Governance (Onetta)

- Review Business Meeting Script

Onetta reviewed the script we will use for the Business Meeting and noted there would be last minute inserts and time constraints. She also needs final powerpoint slides immediately. Onetta noted that there would be four by-laws proposals to be discussed.

- Moderator's Nominating Committee:

Onetta shared that she and Nancy met with them. There will be the introduction of them after Moderator's Plenary. They will be in several locations soliciting input into the process.

- Governing Board Transitions

Bryan asked if there was a decision on the transition between Governing Boards. Onetta said that the policy going forward would be that those newly elected would be Governors-elect, and effective Saturday morning, the newly elected ones would officially be Governing Board members. Bryan said that the policy says at people take office at the close of the business meeting, to which Onetta disagreed. Bryan said that how long people serve is then open to interpretation and that this could be a big problem if there is high turnover; we lacked authority to determine when elections take effect. Onetta noted that the bylaws are silent on this matter and if we follow the standard procedures of the local church, we would follow a transition period between the election and the taking of office of newly-elected members. Local churches typically wait until the end of the year to

transition. She suggested that the process would involve the newly elected ones shadowing the current Governors.

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 132006.3: Motion to establish a policy wherein current members of the Governing Board remain in office until the close of General Conference when the General Conference includes a Business Meeting for the purposes of electing members of the Governing Board made by Onetta. FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 132006.4: Motion to establish a policy wherein current members of the Governing Board remain in office until the close of the General Conference Business Meeting when the Business Meeting includes the election of members of the Governing Board made by Bryan. FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

During discussion of this motion, Kareem left the meeting, at 6:50pm EST.

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 132006.4: Motion to establish a policy wherein current members of the Governing Board remain in office until the close of General Conference when the General Conference includes a Business Meeting for the purposes of electing members of the Governing Board, made by Raquel, seconded by Robert. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Meeting Review (Raquel)

Raquel noted that this would be the last conference call monthly meeting for some members. We have all been working together for three years, and there have been plenty of good times. On behalf of Nancy, she thanked everyone for their work and energy. She said she looked forward to working with everyone in other positions.

Liz closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53pm EDT.

2013 GB Meeting Dates

- SAT 29 JUNE (details provided in Governing Board Master Schedule)
- SAT 6 JULY – 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. GB Meeting- ALL members: returning, retiring, newly elected
- **JULY – General Conference – No July Call**
- 30 JULY – 4 AUG 13 (Details below; Overlap with SLT Saturday, 3 August)

For your calendar: August Face-to-Face Meeting

Arrive July 30 – dinner with Dan Hotchkiss

Meeting July 31-August 3

Depart August 4 – if possible, stay for worship

Standing Committees

Finance - Liz Bisordi, Chair; Marsha Warren, Rev. Onetta Brooks; Bryan Parker

Development - Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson, Lead; Rev. Tony Freeman,
Raquel Benítez - Rojas

Governance - Rev. Onetta Brooks, Chair; Bryan Parker

Strategic Planning - Rev. Dr. Candace Shultis, Chair; Kareem Murphy

Ad Hoc Committees

Audit - Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin; Rev. Dr. Candace Shultis; Marvin Bagwell

International Task Force - Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, Chair; Raquel Benítez-Rojas,
Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson, Linda Brenner-Beckstead, ITF Consultant to the GB

Communications - Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, Chair; Bryan Parker, Kareem Murphy