



MCC GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, 24 September 2013
16:00 - 20:30 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 2014:

- What will it mean to be MCC in 2023?
- What is our vision of MCC as a culturally diverse, international movement?

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

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Raquel Benítez-Rojas (family illness)

The meeting began at 4:00 pm. Nancy led in a short opening prayer.

A. Consent Agenda (Nancy)

- Minutes of 25 April 2013 meeting (Kareem)
- Director of Operations financial reports (Barb)
- Moderator's Report (Nancy)

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 132509.1: Motion to approve the consent agenda, made by Onetta, seconded by Robert. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Finance (Gail)

Gail said that she has been working with Nancy and Barb and developed a draft for write-off recommendations, an interest income policy, and plan to keep us in the black and for increasing the income. The proposed income investment policy would be applicable to 2012 and 2013, especially since there could be up to \$73,000 from 2012 alone. While most organizations use these funds for operating funds, we will use it to pay off the Governing Board Reserve Operating Fund first. The other issue is developing policy



around writing off assessment income we do not anticipate to receive. The goal is to establish good practices and a forecasting model. Gail also said that she would like the Governing Board to revisit the Reserve Operating Policy (Policy 19) because we might always be in violation of its provisions regarding quick repayment. Kareem thanked the Finance Team for that review.

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 132509.2: Motion to approve the proposed policy directing use of interest income for operations, made by Gail, seconded by Kareem. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Further discussion ensued around the proposed policy on assessment write offs. Nancy clarified that this is a procedural matter and did not require policy at this time. Gail added that the Finance Committee would come back with a proposal to modify the Reserve Operating Policy around repayment requirements.

Barb provided an overview recent income trends and projections. While income is not where we wish it to be, the gap between income and expenses is closing. We will have final financial reports for the October 2013 meeting. At that point, she will provide the Governing Board with yearend projections. They have made strategic cuts to align expenses with income.

Gail and Nancy discussed where we are on the final numbers for July. We ended July \$92,000 in red. Our models are being continually refined so we can better predict income swings. Nancy discussed the updated development plan to address this by increasing revenue rather than solely looking at expense reductions. The Moderator's Circle will be more closely followed. The major donor list is nearly complete and appeals will begin shortly and she will ask Governing Board members for help. The yearend appeals will begin sooner than they have in the past. Barb added that expense reductions have been made under travel, delaying the hiring of an Associate Director for the Office of Church Life and Health and staff positions to support the virtual church and the young adult ministry. Nancy and Barb noted that there has been a positive response to Barb's email to churches asking them to catch up on their assessment payments. Nancy said that the third quarter is always a challenge but it can be a particular challenge in a General Conference year.

C. Feedback from Visit to MCC Austin (Kareem/Gail/Barb)

Kareem gave an overview of the meeting including its main focus on relationship building. The three of them felt that it did help to strengthen the relationship. They committed to keeping them informed about goal setting, performance, and finance, as well as ministry opportunities and development. They left feeling confident that they would resume the commitment to the current denominational assessment rate. Gail praised Barb's work in the PowerPoint presentation, the detail of where we were, where we are, and a pitch on where MCC hopes to grow. She added that we have a real opportunity to engage pastors in advance on denominational fundraising efforts, especially to help manage messaging within their congregations. Gail also praised Rev. Karen's job at setting the tone of trust



and ensure that the environment was as open and affirming as possible, citing VISIONS guidelines. SJ shared that all of the information the group shared was in the public domain but that somehow it is still not readily accessible. Nancy said that we have an opportunity for a new marketing strategy and ways to increase financial literacy about and within MCC. There was a suggestion that the Communications Committee translate this information into something that could be disseminated throughout the denomination. Kareem joined Gail and Barb to thank the Governing Board for allowing them to participate in the meeting.

D. Strategic Planning (Carol)

Carol reminded the Governing Board that the Committee sought comments from them at the August meeting on the changes. No comments had been received. They did receive comments from the Joint Working Group (Large Church Pastors and MCC Senior Leadership Team). Nancy summarized the Joint Working Group's comments, mostly to strengthen and clarify the position of the local church in the Priority Actions. After some discussion, Carol said that we would move the larger roll out to January to allow for further input.

E. Statement of Faith Review and Global Covenant Team Status (Nancy)

Nancy shared that she is working with Rev. Elder Don Eastman on both of these and he is the process of completing his research. They would like to keep the teams small. We should expect to review and consider the Statement of Faith Task Force first. People are already expressing interest in serving, which is good. She will share with the Governing Board Committee members (Raquel and Carol) first and then present to the Governing Board for the October meeting.

F. Governance (Onetta)

- Governing Board Vacancy Appointment Process Status

Onetta noted that interviews are taking place now and that all forms and updates are in Google Docs. After interviews and reference checks are complete, next up is the conversation to make a final decision. The goal is to have the person ready to participate in the October meeting. There was general discussion about lessons learned from this process and experience, especially on real and perceived conflicts of interest.

- General Conference 2013 Bylaws, General Conference 2016 Bylaw Proposal Forms, and General Conference 2013 Record of Actions

Onetta noted that updated Bylaws from General Conference 2013 are now posted, as



are bylaws forms for 2016.

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 132509.3: Motion to approve the official Record of Actions from General Conference XX, made by Kareem, seconded by Robert. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

- Review of Standing Committees

Onetta noted that a change was needed on the Audit Team to comply with the Governing Board Policy Manual. Because Carol is on the Finance Committee, she cannot serve on the Audit Team. There is a proposal to have the updated Audit Team be chaired by Robert and include Kareem, Marvin Bagwell, and Marsha Warren.

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 132509.4: Motion to approve members of the Audit Team as follows: Robert Griffin (Chair), Kareem Murphy, Marvin Bagwell, and Marsha Warren, made by Carol, seconded by Gail . MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Robert offered a closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm EST.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Finance** – Gail Rissler, Chair; Raquel Benítez-Rojas; Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell; Rev. Onetta Brooks (STAP); Liz Bisordi (consultant); Barb Crabtree, Director of Operations
- **Development** - S.J. Ramage, Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin
- **Governance** - Rev. Onetta Brooks, Chair; Raquel Benítez-Rojas (Policy)
- **Strategic Planning** – Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell, Chair; Gail Rissler, Kareem Murphy
- **Communications** - Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, Chair; S.J. Ramage, Kareem Murphy

AD HOC GROUPS

- **Audit** - Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, Chair; Kareem Murphy, Marvin Bagwell, Marsha Warren
- **Moderator Nominating Committee Ad Hoc Shadow**- TBD by Nov. 2013
- **Task Force for Retirement for Clergy Outside the US:** (tabled)
- **HR Employee Manual Review Ad Hoc Committee:** Kareem Murphy, Onetta Brooks
- **Statement of Faith Commission** - Raquel Benítez-Rojas, Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell
- **Global Covenant Task Force** - Raquel Benítez-Rojas, Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell