



MCC GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
St. Petersburg, Florida; King of Peace MCC
Tuesday, 31 July – Sunday, 4 August 2013

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; Rev. Onetta Brooks,
Rev. Tony Freeman, Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, Kareem Murphy, secretary; Sarah-Jane Ramage,
Gail Rissler, Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell, Dan Hotchkiss, Consultant; Barbara Crabtree, Director of Operations; Linda Brenner-Beckstead, Staff Support.

The July 31 and August 1 meetings focused on team building and included exercises that were facilitated by Dan Hotchkiss, a Senior Consultant to the Alban Institute. The work helped this Governing Board with best practices around vision, oversight, strategy, and covenanting. The meeting had the seven following objectives:

1. Affirm the "new" Governing Board team.
2. Review and build relationships.
3. Board work: Evaluate Vision Goals; evaluate your work as GB for Open Questions.
4. Review Strategic Plan, and use it to generate new Vision Goals and new Open Questions for the Strategic Plan.
5. Regarding Vision Goals, have a conversation with head of staff about progress reports and monitoring work about those goals.
6. Develop and affirm new Open Questions
7. Elect committee chairs and officers.

There would be two work products: Vision Goals and Open Questions.

31 July

Action Item: Robert, SJ, Onetta will review Our Covenant on GB website and regroup list into common themes, and as needed reword or make other suggestions.

There was much discussion around the Open Questions. Regarding the one around capacity and sustainability, there was consideration of reworking it to ask what types of capacity will be most critical to us in the future? Regarding the one around communicating that we are stronger together, there was consideration of whether the audience was internal or external, how it related to the new slogans of “Be MCC” and “transforming ourselves as we transform the world.” Regarding the one around giving priority to churches/ministries that show signs of health, there was discussion about the impact of staff changes on living into that and how difficult it is to measure performance around this without good data. Regarding the one around building leadership development into all that MCC does, there was discussion about how well the ministry operations embraced and reflected this but also some of the tension between young adult experience and MCC leadership needs. Dan Hotchkiss encouraged us to do a performance audit here to discover if performance undermined the intention to help.

Action Item: Review the option of conducting a performance audit that would involve having a young adult critique Governing Board messages to see if they meet the vision goal. Celebrate any success here.

Possible topics for Vision Goals (posed as questions) for 2014:

1. What kinds of “capacity” will be most critical for us?
2. What is our vision of MCC as a global church? What are we willing to give up in order to be global?
3. How will MCC respond to the changing demographics of the world?

There was additional discussion around how to develop new Open Questions and create systems that facilitate the Governing Board’s focus on them as a core to the portfolio of work.

1 August

After a small-group exercise around gifts identification, there was large group discussion to elect officers and make committee assignments. When the discussion turned to the role of the Moderator in the work of the board, Tony and Robert left the room. When that part of the discussion was finished, Tony and Robert were invited back in. The following officers were elected:

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 130108.1: Motion to approve Rev. Onetta Brooks as Vice Chair, Gail Rissler as Treasurer, and Kareem Murphy as Secretary made by Robert, seconded by Carol. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 130108.2: Motion to approve the following Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Teams made by Kareem, seconded by Robert, and PASSED UNANIMOUSLY:

Standing Committees

Finance – Gail Rissler, Chair; Raquel Benítez-Rojas; Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell; Rev. Onetta Brooks; pending (Liz Bisordi for one year as former GB Treasurer and non-GB member)

Development - Rev. Tony Freeman, Chair; Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin; S.J. Ramage

Governance - Rev. Onetta Brooks, Chair; Raquel Benítez-Rojas-Policy; Rev. Tony Freeman

Strategic Planning – Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell, Chair; Gail Rissler; Kareem Murphy;

Communications - Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, Chair; S.J. Ramage; Kareem Murphy

Ad Hoc Teams

Audit - Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin; Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell; Marvin Bagwell, and additional non-Governing Board Member to-be-named

Statement of Faith Commission – members to-be-determined

Global Covenant Commission – members to-be-determined

The Moderator Nominating Committee Ad Hoc Support Team and the Task Force for the Retirement of Clergy Outside of the U.S. will be appointed at a later date.

Through several exercises and group discussion, the following Open Questions were adopted for 2014:

1. What will it mean to Be MCC in 2023?
2. What is our vision of MCC as a culturally diverse, international movement?

Methodologically, further consideration will be given to how to identify and expand the conversations partners we enlist to address the questions (roughly 80-150 people); and how the Governing Board gathers data, formats meetings for wider conversations, and manages expectations on the outcome of the exercise. For each open question, the following questions guide the conversation: what data to should be gathered? What meeting format is best for the discussion? What wider conversation is needed? The vision is for this to be a year-long conversation.

The following framework for time was identified for focus on the Open Questions and normal oversight and Governing Board business: November 2013, May 2014, and June 2014 for the in-depth review of MCC financial performance and October 2013, January 2014, April 2014, and July 2014 for Open Questions.

2 August

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 130208.1: Motion to approve a housing allowance, pursuant to Section 107 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, for Rev. Elder Don Eastman in the amount of \$4,000 for calendar year 2013, made by Onetta Brooks seconded by Carol Trissell. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Website Update (Barb)

Barb provided an update on where development of the new MCC website is and the process in place to position it for a launch. Via Skype, MCC project specialist Chris Baker walks the Governing Board through all the steps

Finance (Barb)

There was an in-depth review of financial performance and projections for the rest of 2013. See support slides for details. The review of General Conference financials showed that the modest profit target was exceeded (profit was \$60,900). We came very close to meeting the target goal for total membership in the Moderator's Circle. There was general discussion regarding how to improve the financial performance of General Conference and the organization as a whole in a General Conference year.

In the discussion around church assessment income, there were several questions around organizational performance and how to improve performance. Given how complex the issues are around reaching agreements with churches unable to pay the full assessment rate, Nancy asked for input to develop formal Governing Board policy on the matter. She committed to sending out a draft framework that identified core issues to be addressed and her experience in reaching and sustaining agreements with churches.

SJ questioned the appropriateness of carrying balances for unpaid church assessments. She cited how in the United Kingdom, carrying balances for unpaid revenue was only allowable if there was a reasonable expectation that an organization would receive it. That does not appear to always be the case with MCC. Carol, Barb, and Onetta agreed that this would be taken up in the Finance Committee for further deliberation.

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 130208.2: Motion to receive the Financial Report made by Onetta Brooks seconded by Tony Freeman. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Governance (Onetta)

There was a review of the Governing Board Nominating Committee process and outcomes. Nancy noted that because this was the first time MCC used such a Committee (per the Bylaws), the team created the process from scratch.

There was general discussion about the Business Forum and Business Meeting at General Conference. Discussion focused on how to improve/build on engagement and increase participation.

When the discussion focused on the Moderator Nominating Committee, Robert and Tony left the room. The discussion focused on the appointment of a Ad Hoc Moderator Nominating Committee Support Team. There was a consensus to make it a two-person team, that each would be prepared to serve on the full Committee should there be a vacancy before its work was completed, and that emphasis would be placed on appointing people from outside the US and Canada, especially lay members. The goal is

to make the appointment by the end of October. Further consideration will be given to whether to have an additional open application process or used a strict appointment system.

Development (Nancy and Tony)

Nancy shared the timeline for the remainder of 2013 including finalizing the year-end campaign, maintaining momentum with the Moderator's Circle, instituting a planned giving program and continuing the Generous in Faith program for churches. Once these are in place, attention will turn to a program for 2014.

BY CONSENSUS, THE GOVERNING BOARD UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO TABLE RECEIVING A REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF PENSIONS.

The Future of Elders (Nancy)

Nancy reviewed the plenary on the future of Elders and summarized the discussions taking place within the Council of Elders on what their needs are and how to best go about meeting them. The transitions with Rev. Elder Ken Martin and Rev. Elder Lillie Brock have impacted how those discussions take place (time and scope). They will be working with Rev. Elder Don Eastman on visioning work. Nancy will keep the Governing Board updated on those conversations and invite our input as appropriate. There was discussion about the impact of potentially have a system of full-time/paid Elders and volunteer Elders, how that worked in the past, and what that might look like in the future. The discussion expanded to include the retirement of the current Moderator (Nancy) and how the Governing Board would respond to that, citing the example of the package given to the founding Moderator (Rev. Elder Troy Perry).

Future Meeting Dates

The Board agreed on the following meeting dates.

Sept. 26	May 29
Oct 31	June 26
Nov 21	July 31 August 20- 24
Dec 18	Sept 25
Jan 30 2014	Oct 30
Feb 20	Nov 20
March 6-8	Dec 18
April 24	

VISIONS Training (Nancy)

There was agreement that the Governing Board would do another training with use of the VISIONS program to guide interpersonal relationships and the work of the Board. SJ, Robert, and Nancy will develop that program.

MCC Austin (Kareem)

There was discussion of how to respond to the letter from MCC Austin requesting an in-person meeting with a Governing Board representative and the Director of Operations (Barb Crabtree). There was discussion regarding the implications for their decision on assessment payments on the Governing Board's ability to remain consistent in reaching agreements with other churches. There was discussion on whether such a meeting is the Governing Board's responsibility. After there was consensus that the Governing Board would accept the invitation, there was discussion about who should go. The decision was for Kareem to go. Gail volunteered to go as well at her own expense. The final team was Gail, Kareem, and Barb, with an understanding that there was no expectation that they would negotiate an assessment agreement.

3 August

Governing Board Commission on Assessments (Kareem)

Kareem reviewed the latest draft of the Commission, having received input from others. After considerable discussion, it was decided that there were more effective ways to receive input on church assessments. Part of the method for addressing Open Questions would take care of this.

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 130308.1: Motion to rescind authorization for a Governing Board Commission on Assessments made by Onetta Brooks seconded by Carol Trissell. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Board of Pensions Report (Nancy)

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 130308.2: Motion to receive the report from the Board of Pensions made by Onetta Brooks seconded by Carol Trissell. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Parking Lot Issues, those set aside for further consideration (Nancy)

The following were issues to be addressed at a subsequent time with assignments on who would lead that:

- GB Presence – that can be reviewed by committee
- Conference worship offerings- Nancy, Linda, Barb
- Remove- rethink Europe giving
- Leverage seminary board positioning- Robert International Finance: Gail and Barb Schedule AR balance discussion – Gail and Finance
- Future Moderator's Pension – table, but don't lose it, but also GB perspective: committee on executive compensation.
- HR Review – Nancy, Kareem, and Onetta

Communication Regarding Meeting Outcomes (Nancy)

The Communications Committee would take the lead in this. Among the issues are:

- Focused on MCC constituencies (e.g., Lay Delegates, Clergy, Churches, Network

Leaders)

- Emphasized translation issues.
- Elected officers.
- Framed new Open Questions, with international focus
- Celebrated successful General Conference and sought to build on momentum
- Continued focus on Strategic Planning.
- Continued critical thinking about Moderator transition.
- Challenged ourselves around MCC development goals.

The meeting concluded at 10:00 am EST.

Following the Governing Board meeting, the Senior Leadership Team met jointly with the Governing Board to engage a series of exercises to finalize the Strategic Plan.