RECORD OF ACTIONS
UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES (MCC)
GENERAL CONFERENCE XXV BUSINESS MEETING
02 July 2013 Chicago, Illinois (USA)

The General Conference XXV business meeting was convened by Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson, Moderator of MCC, at 11:10 a.m. (CDT) on Tuesday, 02 July 2013.

Welcome

Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson welcomed lay delegates, clergy, observers and special guests.

Acknowledgments

Governing Board Member Liz Bisordi honored MCC Clergy who had retired since General Conference XXIV 2010.

Governing Board Member Rev. Dr. Candace Shultis acknowledged MCC Clergy who had died since General Conference XXIV 2010.

Governing Board Member Rev. Tony Freeman welcomed MCC Clergy who had been ordained since General Conference XXIV 2010.

Governing Board Member Kareem Murphy acknowledged the five new countries that had gained an MCC presence since General Conference XXIV 2010.

Governing Board Member Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin welcomed five churches that had affiliated since General Conference XXIV 2010.

Governing Board Member Bryan Parker honored the fifty-five emerging ministries that had been created since General Conference XXIV 2010.

Governing Board Member Raquel Benitez-Rojas welcomed the following special guests to the Business Meeting:

- Mihaela (Leah) Ajder (Euro-Regional Centre for Policy Initiatives)
- Florin Buhuceanu (MCC staff and Executive Director of the Euro-Regional Centre for Policy Initiatives)
- Dr. Sharon Groves (Human Rights Campaign)
- Bob Johansen (Institute For The Future)
- Rev. Dennis and Rev. Christine Wiley, (Covenant Baptist UCC and 2013 recipients of the Edith Allen Perry Award)
• Ann Craig, Craig Media Strategy
• Debra Haffner, The Religious Institute
• Rev. Joseph Tolton, Rehoboth Temple Christ Conscious Church, Blur Advertising, and The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries

Declaration of Quorum
The total number of active MCC clergy eligible to participate in General Conference was 351; the number required to achieve quorum (20%) was 70. The number of active MCC Clergy present was 221. Rev. Onetta Brooks, Clerk, declared that a quorum was achieved in the Clergy House.
The total number of laity eligible to participate in General Conference was 246; the number required to achieve quorum (20%) was 49. The number of laity present was 225. The Clerk declared that a quorum was achieved in the Lay House.

Declaration of full quorum by Clerk Brooks.

Opening Prayer
Rev. Carol Chambers (Open Circle, The Villages, Florida, USA) opens the Business Meeting in prayer.

Adoption of General Conference Procedures Manual

Motion 1: Adoption of General Conference Procedures Manual, made by Clerk Brooks.

Move to amend the proposed General Conference Procedures Manual, Section C. Seating at General Conference, 3. Official Observers. C., to read as thus:

Programmers – Network Team Leaders, Network Facilitators, and Chairs of UFMCC Commissions, Committees, Boards, and Institutions who are not Clergy or Lay Delegates are seated behind the Lay House with VOICE BUT NO VOTE.

Motion is seconded.

MOTION PASSES BY SIMPLE MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND IN LAY HOUSE.

Motion 2: Adoption of Procedure for Elections for the Governing Board, made by Clerk Brooks.
Move to amend the proposed General Conference Procedures Manual, Section G. ELECTIONS FOR THE GOVERNING BOARD Seating at General Conference, 5. Votes Required for Election, to read as thus:

**Votes Required for Election** – In order to be elected to the position of Governing Board member, a nominee must receive more than 50% of all eligible votes from the Lay House and more than 50% votes from the Clergy House.

Motion is seconded.

**MOTION PASSES BY SIMPLE MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND IN LAY HOUSE.**

**Moderator’s Address**

Rev. Elder Dr. Wilson discusses the life, ministry, and accomplishments of the denomination since the 2010 General Conference and highlights some of the major issues facing our future.

**Network Leader Blessing**

Network Facilitators are introduced: Liz Bisordi, Jude Litzenberger, Bryan Parker. Clergy and Lay Delegates gathered around their specific Network Leaders (NL), made introductions, and participated in a blessing of the NLs.

**Acknowledgement of Volunteers**

There was a brief presentation of volunteers who offered service since the 2010 General Conference.

**Governing Board Election**

Rev. Cathy Alexander, Chair of the Governing Board Nominating Committee, presented the following candidates for consideration for election to the Governing Board:

- Adrian Buganey (Lay)
- Richard Henry (Lay)
- Kareem Murphy (Lay)
- Toni Smith (Lay)
- Sarah-Jane Ramage (Lay)
- Gail Rissler (Lay)
- Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin (clergy)
- Rev. Dr. Danny Spears (clergy)
• Rev. Peter Trabaris (clergy)
• Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell (clergy)

Delegates vote for three Governors in the Lay house, one of whom will fulfill the final three years of the unexpired term of John Hassell that was vacated due to his resignation, ending in 2016. Delegates vote for two Governors in the Clergy House, each for six-year terms.

Elections Results, including virtual votes

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<tr>
<td>Valid ballots cast</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>383</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required for election (&gt;50%)</td>
<td>96</td>
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Lay Positions

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<tr>
<td>Adrian Buganey</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Henry</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kareem Murphy</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>293</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toni Smith</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>89</td>
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<td>Sarah-Jane (SJ) Ramage</td>
<td>118</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gail Rissler</td>
<td>111</td>
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<td>211</td>
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Clergy Positions

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<td>Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin</td>
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<td>269</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Dr. Danny Spears</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Peter Trabaris</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>267</td>
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Elected to serve as LAY members of the Governing Board for six (6) years, until General Conference 2019, are Mr. Kareem Murphy and Ms. Sarah Jane (SJ) Ramage.

Elected to serve as a LAY member of the Governing Board for three (3) years, until General Conference 2016, is Ms. Gail Rissler.

Elected to serve as CLERGY members of the Governing Board for six (6) years, until General Conference 2019, are Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin and Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell.

LEAD Graduation

Barry Hundley, Rev. Elder Dr. Mona West, Nancy Maxwell and Phil Griffin facilitate a L.E.A.D. (Laity Empowered for Active Discipleship) presentation including a graduation of those who successfully completed the program.
• Liz Bisordi – Sun Coast Cathedral MCC, USA
• Bruce Brooks – New Light MCC, USA
• Robert Collins – MCC Brisbane, Australia
• Randy D’Angelo – MCC Lehigh, USA
• P.J. Dwyer – MCC Sydney, Australia
• Velma Garcia – MCC Austin, USA
• Jackie Gascho – First Coast MCC, USA
• Vickey Gibbs – Resurrection MCC, USA
• Phil Griffin – MCC of Topeka, USA
• RJ Hadley – Sunshine Cathedral, USA
• Richard Henry – Joy MCC, USA
• Kevin Highfield – MCCDC, USA
• Liz Jensen-Forbell – First Coast MCC, USA
• Deb Kassien – Spirit of Hope MCC, USA
• Barbara Mann – Wichita Falls MCC, USA
• Kevin Marik – MCC Omaha, USA
• Nancy Maxwell – MCC of Topeka, USA
• Joseph Schmidt – MCC Omaha, USA
• John Weyersmiller – Water of Life MCC, USA

Report of the Moderator

The Moderator gives presentation of the life and activities of MCC around the world since the previous General Conference and highlights some of the major issues facing the denomination’s future.

Motion 3: Motion to receive the report of the Moderator, made by Raquel Benitez-Rojas.

Move to receive the Report of the Moderator

Motion is seconded.

MOTION PASSES BY SIMPLE MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND IN LAY HOUSE.

Report of the Governing Board

The three Vice Chairs (Rev. Freeman, Rev. Dr. Griffin, Benitez-Rojas) give presentations about the work of the Governing Board since being established at the 2010 General Conference.

Record of Actions from
General Conference XXV
Chicago: 2013

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Motion 4: Motion to receive the report of the Governing Board, made by Raquel Benitez-Rojas.

Move to receive the report of the Governing Board

Motion is seconded.

MOTION PASSES BY SIMPLE MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND IN LAY HOUSE.

Presentation of Denominational Finances

Liz Bisordi Barbara Crabtree (MCC Director of Operations) make a presentation on denominational finances since the 2010 General Conference.

Motion 5: Motion to approve an assessment rate for the next six years, made by Liz Bisordi.

Move to approve the following church assessment rate from 2014 through General Conference year 2019 as follows: 2014 at 12%; 2015 at 12%; 2016 at 12%; 2017 at 11.5%; 2018; 11.5%; and 2019 at 11.0%)

Motion is seconded.

MOTION PASSES BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN LAY HOUSE.

Governance Summary

Rev. Brooks and Bryan Parker make a presentation on governance issues and work since the 2010 General Conference.

Communications Summary

Bryan Parker makes a presentation Governing Board communications since the 2010 General Conference.

Presentation of Five-Year Strategic Plan

Rev. Dr. Candace Shultis and Kareem Murphy make a presentation on the new five-year strategic plan (2014-2018) for the denomination.

Record of Actions from
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Chicago: 2013
Motion 6: Motion to affirm the Five-Year Strategic Plan, made by Rev. Dr. Candace Shultis.

Move to affirm the direction presented in the Five-Year Strategic Plan that will guide the denomination through 2018

Motion is seconded.

MOTION PASSES BY SIMPLE MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND IN LAY HOUSE.

Presentation of the Report of the International Task Force (ITF)

Motion 7: Motion to receive Report of the ITF and thank its members, made by Raquel Benitez-Rojas.

Move to receive the Final Report from the International Task Force with gratitude; and thanks the Steering Committee of the ITF: Dr. Mark Dalgleish (UK/Australia), Mr. Jochen Gewecke (Germany), and Dr. Carol Scherfenberg M.D. (USA); and all who participated over the last two years in this process: Rev. Ceejay Agbayani (Philippines), Rev. Tom Decker (Canada), Rev. Araceli Ezzatti (Uruguay), Rev. Paul Mokgethi-Heath (South Africa), Dr. Roger Nascimento (Brazil/UK), Mr. Henry Onzem (Australia), Ms. Sarah-Jane Ramage (UK), and Rev. Dr. Neil Thomas (USA/UK), in addition to MCC staff: Linda Brenner-Beckstead, Project Manager; and Marina Laws, Rev. Elder Héctor Gutiérrez, Connie Meadows, Leah Sloan.

Motion is seconded.

MOTION PASSES BY SIMPLE MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND IN LAY HOUSE.

Presentation of Awards to Members of the International Task Force (ITF)

The following received special awards for their service:

Steering Committee:
- Dr. Mark Dalgleish (UK/Australia)
- Mr. Jochen Gewecke (Germany)
- Dr. Carol Scherfenberg M.D. (USA)

Team Members:
- Rev. Tom Decker (Canada)
- Rev. Araceli Ezzatti (Uruguay)
- Mr. Henry Onzem (Australia)
- Ms. Sarah-Jane Ramage (UK)
- Rev. Dr. Neil Thomas (USA/UK)

**Motion 8: Motion to appoint a Global Covenant Team, made by Raquel Benitez-Rojas.**

Move to authorize the Moderator and Governing Board to appoint and fund a Global Covenant Team that will serve from late 2013 through the 2016 General Conference, whose purpose is to create a Global Covenant for MCC churches, as our identity, statement of values and theological commitments that will be our primary document of alignment, which will be ratified by the churches in preparation for General Conference XXVI in 2016, and approved by General Conference as we move towards our 50th anniversary. This Team will be accountable to the Governing Board and will reflect the diversity and global nature of our denomination.

Motion is seconded.

**MOTION PASSES BY SIMPLE MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND IN LAY HOUSE.**

**Motion 9: Motion to appoint a Task Force to Update the MCC Statement of Faith, made by Raquel Benitez-Rojas.**

Move to authorize the Moderator and Governing Board to appoint a special task force to review, renew, and update our MCC Statement of Faith. This task force will include representatives from the Council of Elders and from the Theologies Team, as well as those representing the theological, cultural, and global diversity of MCC. It will also seek consultation from resources inside and outside of MCC. The document they bring forth will need to be approved by two-thirds of the Clergy House and of the Lay House of the General Conference of MCC, at the soonest, by General Conference 2016

Motion is seconded.

**MOTION PASSES BY SIMPLE MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND IN LAY HOUSE.**

**Award Presentations**

**Moderator’s Award:** presented by Moderator Wilson to Rev. Bob Galloway and Rick Sawyer for their work at St. Ninian’s House in Knoxville, Tennessee (USA)

**Elder’s Award**: presented by Moderator Wilson to Rev. Elder Arlene Ackerman for a lifetime of service to the denomination.

**Elders’ Award**, presented by Moderator Wilson and Florin Buhuceanu as reprise to Rev. Elder Diane Fisher. The award was originally given at a Network Conference in 2012.

**Acknowledgment of members of the Bylaws Committee**

- Ms. Judy Dale
- Rev. Kevin Dudman
- Mr. Yuriy Kushnir
- Rev. Terri Echleberger
- Staff support by Linda Brenner-Beckstead and Leah Sloan

**Consideration of Proposed Changes to Bylaws**

*Motion 10: Motion to set aside bylaws for consideration of bylaw changes, made by Bob Pope.*

Move to set aside bylaws to consider proposed bylaw changes

Motion is seconded.

Moderator Wilson determines the issue is procedural and not subject to debate.

**MOTION RULED OUT OF ORDER.**

*Motion 11: Motion to approve proposed change to procedures for submitting bylaw proposals, made by Clerk Brooks*

Move to approve Proposal 1 - Procedures for Submitting Bylaw Proposals, clarifying the procedures for the Council of Elders and the Governing Board bylaw submission process

Motion is seconded.

Joan Bartlett, MCC Melbourne, Australia, proposes an amendment to the proposal

Motion is seconded.

**MOTION IS DEFEATED.**
Proceed to vote on Bylaw Proposal 1 as originally submitted.

**MOTION PASSES BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN LAY HOUSE.**

*Motion 12: Motion to approve proposed changes to clean up editorial errors on provisions regarding stewardship for emerging ministries, made by Clerk Brooks*

Move to approve Proposal 2 - Article IX – Church Finances A and B, cleaning up editorial errors as well as creates stewardship paths for emerging ministries, including use of the term “assessment” in place of “tithe.”

Motion is seconded.

**MOTION PASSES BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN LAY HOUSE.**

*Motion 13: Motion to approve proposal to provide virtual membership, made by Clerk Brooks*

Move to approve Proposal 3 - Article VI – Church Membership, providing a way for MCC to offer virtual membership and a path to membership for emerging churches.

Motion is seconded.

**MOTION PASSES BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN LAY HOUSE.**

*Motion 14: Motion to approve proposal to create status for partnering organizations and ministries, made by Clerk Brooks.*

Move to approve Proposal 4 - Article V. B. – Government, Organization, and Officers to create the status of “emerging churches,” “aligned organizations,” modify the status of “associated non- governmental organizations,” and to allow representation at General Conference, with voice and no vote, by emerging churches, aligned organizations, and associated organizations.

Motion is seconded.
MOTION PASSES BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN LAY HOUSE.

Awards Presentations

Distinguished Service Awards - Governing Board Nominating Committee
- Rev. Cathy Alexander
- Rev. Catherine Dearlove
- Mr. Rusty Hall

Moderator’s Circle

Moderator Wilson and Rev. Jim Birkit provided an overview for the Moderator’s Circle.

Moderator Nominating Committee

Rev. Brooks gave an overview of the process for selecting the Moderator Nominating Committee (MNC). Due to time constraints, MNC members were introduced during the Moderator’s Plenary on 04 July 2013.

- Rev. Dr. Lea Brown
- Rev. Kevin Downer
- Ms. Elisa Vega-Burns (virtually present via recorded video)

Branding and Marketing Presentation

Barb Crabtree and Rev. Joseph Tolton (Blur Advertising) gave an overview of the marketing and branding campaign “Be MCC.”

Announcements of Appreciation

Clerk Brooks and Rev. Shultis thanked Governing Board Nominating Committee.

Moderator Wilson thanked the new Governing Board members.

Rev. Freeman, Rev. Griffin, and Benitez-Rojas acknowledged retiring Governing Board members and present awards to Liz Bisordi, Bryan Parker, and Rev. Dr. Candace Shultis.
Motions of Courtesy and Appreciation

Motion 15: Motions of Courtesy and Appreciation, by Clerk Brooks

1. Move that General Conference extend its gratitude to the members of the Governing Board Nominating Committee.

2. Move that General Conference extend its appreciation to Carlos Chavez, Jennifer Justice, MCC staff members, and all of the Team Leaders and volunteers for organizing the 2013 General Conference.

3. Move that General Conference extend its appreciation and gratitude to all workshop leaders, presenters, and speakers during the 2013 General Conference.

4. Move that General Conference extend its appreciation to the hotel staff.

Motion is seconded.

MOTION PASSES BY SIMPLE MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND IN LAY HOUSE.

Acknowledgement of Staff and Elders and GC Staff

Moderator Wilson acknowledged and thanked the work of the denominational staff, the Elders, and all the General Conference staff.

Adjournment

Motion 16: Motion to adjourn, made by Rev. Dr. Candace Shultis

Motion to adjourn the General Conference XXV Business Meeting.

Motion is seconded.

MOTION PASSES BY SIMPLE MAJORITY IN CLERGY HOUSE AND IN LAY HOUSE.

Closing Prayer

Ms. Scottie Shelton gave the closing prayer.
**General Conference XXV Delegate Documents for Business Meeting**

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PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING BYLAW PROPOSALS

The Bylaw amendment process is managed by the Bylaws Team. The members of the Bylaws Team are appointed by and accountable to the Governing Board.

Criteria

In order for a Bylaw amendment proposal to be considered by the General Conference, the proposal must be sponsored by the Governing Board, Council of Elders, a member of the Lay House or of the Clergy House of General Conference.

a. Members of the Lay House are Lay Delegates; the Interim Pastoral Leader of each affiliated church when that Interim Pastoral Leader is a member of UFMCC; and the members of the Council of Elders and of the Governing Board who are not clergy or Lay Delegates and are members of UFMCC.

b. Members of the Clergy House are ordained with a License to Practice and honorably retired clergy.

Procedures for sponsorship by the Governing Board, Council of Elders, A Member of the Lay House or of the Clergy House of General Conference.

A. Whenever the Governing Board, the Council of Elders, member of Lay House or Clergy House propose a Bylaw amendment, the full text of the proposal is to be submitted to the Governing Board member responsible for managing governance processes.

B. Bylaw amendment proposals from the Governing Board, Council of Elders, Member of the Lay House or of the Clergy House of General Conference, are due to the Governing Board member responsible for managing governance process no later than one hundred twenty (120) days preceding General Conference.

C. Bylaw amendment proposed by the Governing Board, Council of Elders, Member of the Lay House or of the Clergy House of General Conference shall include an impact statement from the Governing Board.

D. Any Bylaw amendment proposal submitted by the Governing Board, by the Council of Elders, Member of the Lay House or of the Clergy House of General Conference accompanied by the impact statement, will be placed on the agenda of the next General Conference.