

Governing Board Meeting
22 December 2016 – 4:30 pm (EST)

Quorum: Established

Attended: Rev. Rachelle Brown, Kimberly Brown, Rev. Dr. Stephanie Burns, Rev. Joe Cobb, Angel Collie, Mark Dalgleish, Sarah Jane Ramage

Staff: Barb Crabtree, Jack Hutter

Absent: Rev. Jakob Hero, Rev. Dr. William Knight

Consent Agenda:

- 2016 11-17 Meeting Minutes
- 2016 09-12 Meeting Minutes
- 2016 07-28 Meeting Minutes
- 2016 August P & L
- 2016 August Balance Sheet
- 2016 September P & L
- 2016 September Balance Sheet
- 2016 October P & L (Excluding Gen. Conf.)
- 2016 October P & L (Including Gen. Conf.)
- 2016 October Balance Sheet

Motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented was made by Kimberly Brown. Motion was seconded by Stephanie Burns. Motion was approved by all voting members present

Discussion Agenda:

Moderator's Report was given by Rev. Rachelle. The discerning aspects of her work are nearly complete. She has been working with the Priorities Committee to complete a statement to be released in early January outlining priorities for this season of transition in the denomination. Additionally, Rachelle has been assisting in development work to grow funding relationships, alliance building with external organizations, connecting with various MCC network gatherings, and exploring shared space options for the MCC offices in Sarasota.

Committee Updates:

Finance:

Kimberly reported that Finance has met twice, are doing good foundational work to strengthen long-term sustainability, and are set to meet on Tuesdays before the

Governing Board meetings. Kimberly and SJ will be at the SLT F2F meeting in January to work on the budget.

Governance:

Stephanie reported that the committee is working diligently to determine a best and regular meeting time, with plans to have a full meeting in January. Immediate priorities include the U.S. Board of Pensions (which will be meeting on April 27-28 in Omaha, NE). It was noted that U.S. churches will have to be revalidated to do a vote on the BOP, as there are an increasing number of churches who are not up to date on assessment payments. Additional priorities are the formation of a new Moderator Nominating Committee.

Assessment Task Force:

SJ reported that the invitation for an open call for members of the task force is being translated and set for release in early January.

Development:

Joe reported that the Governing Board is working with Emily to call and/or email Moderator's Circle members, thank them for their support of MCC and establish personal connections.

Executive Team:

SJ reported that the Executive Team including the Vice Chair, Clerk and Treasurer (SJ, Joe and Kimberly) are meeting to review various issues and to begin the process of Rachelle's review.

Priorities Working Group:

Rachelle reported that collaborative work is being done by this committee with members of the SLT, COE, and GB participating. A clear message is emerging around the direction of our transitional work as a denomination and the Governing Board spent some time reviewing the statement to be sent out to the denomination. (Document here:

[title] Affirming MCC Priorities during the Interim Period

Metropolitan Community Churches are compelled by an unfinished calling and a prophetic destiny. We are a global movement of spiritually, sexually and gender diverse people grounded in God's radically inclusive love. A time of leadership transition creates new opportunities to live into our vision, mission and core values as people of faith who support human rights.

Today, traditional paths of participation in church have shifted dramatically, impacting sustainability of our current model at every level. MCC leadership also recognizes that over the last six years, multiple task forces on global integration, diversity, and inclusion have established rationa

le for a vision of organizational change. The results of the Moderator election at 2016 General Conference signaled the need for an intentional interim time of transition and change.

The purpose of the Interim Period is to listen deeply and act boldly as we assess our present reality in order to:

1. Actively discover, discern, and decide our future.
2. Position MCC to respond to 21st century people.
3. Prepare to select the next Moderator.

Working together to create our future, we will transform the health of our global community and embrace the blessing of our diverse relationships.

Beginning in 2017, we will:

1. Heal and build healthy relationships among churches, ministries, lay and clergy leaders and with the denomination.
2. Expand and establish sustainable, culturally-appropriate systems and protocols for recruitment, development and support of leaders, churches, and ministries in each global area.
3. Develop realistic sustainable financial models that will serve to strengthen local churches, ministries, and the denomination.
4. Expand and strengthen a lived commitment to diversity and inclusion in a local and global context.

During this first year of the Interim Period, will you join us in dialogue as part of our active discovery and discernment? Prayers for MCC churches, leaders, and people are encouraged on these first steps in our journey together.

Executive Session:

The Governing Board convened in Executive Session to discuss some local church matters.

A reminder of our next Face to Face Meeting, March 31-April 2 was confirmed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Joe Cobb, Clerk
MCC Governing Board