



MCC GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, 27 May 2014
4:00-5:30pm EDT / 20:30 – 21:30 GMT/UTC

UFMCC FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2014-2018) Breakthrough Objectives:

1. **Global Growth:** Become a growing multi-cultural, international, spiritual community.
2. **Justice:** Boldly claim our prophetic role as a justice movement for the 21st century.
3. **Congregations and Ministries:** Expand the number of healthy, vibrant churches and ministries.
4. **People:** Cultivate, nurture and deploy lay and clergy leaders that are equipped and empowered to carry out our global mission.
5. **Finances:** Build a culture of generosity to achieve our vision and mission.

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?

The meeting began at 4pm (EST) / 20:00 GMT with opening prayer by Robert.

ATTENDEES

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

ABSENT

Sarah-Jane Ramage; Raquel Benítez-Rojas (excused absences)

The meeting began at 4:10 pm (EST) / 20:00 GMT with opening prayer by Nancy.

1. Consent Agenda

- Moderator's Report
- Minutes: 24 April 2014
- Director of Operation's Financial Reports Barb
 - March 2014 P & L, Balance Sheet, Budget Summary

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 140624.1: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, made by Carol, seconded by Kareem. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Discussion Agenda

- **Moderator's Corner**
 - **June absence (sabbatical p1)**

Nancy will be on sabbatical for three weeks in June. She will be writing some. There will be some travel. Several things are in place to be rolled out during her leave, including the Council of Elders expansion, Statement of Faith survey, updates from the REVM in Estonia,

Online Learning Center Training. Several trips just completed to visit churches. The first Size Summit in Monterrey. Kareem asked a question about the Elders announcement. Nancy said she would have it sent around to the Governing Board prior to release. Linda to provide.

Gail suggested that we ask the Development Committee to address the cost issue around hiring a consultant for that work. Hopefully we could check with MCC experts and secure someone at reduced cost. Barb said that there was more info to be shared—what's working, not working. It would be appropriate to share analysis to reframe that conversation. Staff to schedule website update as a deep dive.

3. Finances/Deep Dive

Barb reported out from the recent Finance Committee meeting. Regarding income, the focus is on three categories. Assessment Income is on plan. There are no red flags. Development Income is a bit below. We historically have our strongest performance in the third and fourth quarters. With Nancy's sabbatical, we need to accelerate this work. The Moderator's Circle is performing at 90% of budget. There have been some increases and new signups, but also attrition. Basically the gains have replaced losses. Major donor income is the biggest concern. The budget is \$165,000, averaging \$23,500 per month.

Gail said that management of expenses is on track. Assessments are on track. The big concern is the Major Donor amount. We have raised \$1,000 of the goal. There will come point when cannot manage it. We need to identify markers and triggers, to invest more, cut expenses, shift them to the next year. This cannot wait until the third quarter. We need a better update from the Development Committee so we know what our plans, strategy, and resources are. With that, the Finance Committee can make more informed recommendations during second quarter.

Barb shared that there are some additional sources of income arriving: \$5,000 from MCC Toronto for Statement of Faith Commission to meet face-to-face, and a donor who contributing to the Theologies Team for its face-to-face meeting. The Statement of Faith and Theologies Team is over budget but is offset by income. Barb also said that because of continued work in modeling our payroll expenses, we overcorrected and are underrunning by \$25,000. On paper, travel is \$20,000 over but that is not a red flag because expenses are weighted to the first and second quarters.

We have several new hires that were planned (Rev. Rachelle Brown for Global and US Church Starts, Rev. Alex Escoto for Hispanic US and Canada Church Starts, virtual church contractor, Office of Church Life and Health Training, clergy well-being coach, and the development consultant). Nancy said that the development consultant will be present at August meeting. Barb said that the database consultant is being deferred until the third quarter.

The loan on the Sarasota office is on track for third year of five-year payoff plan (denomination borrowed from its own investment fund to help finance the payoff of a previous commercial loan. We currently pay it off at a rate of \$1,800 a month. It will be fully repaid before the 2016 General Conference.

Cash flow is tight at moment. In January, we had one payroll cash flow cushion. That is now gone. This is an area of concern as we move into the third quarter when assessment income is predicted to be lower.

The Operating Reserve Fund is fully funded at \$220,000. We may need to use it next month (June) if Major Donor income is too low. Will likely use it for a one-time \$10,000 cost for the Theologies Team to meet in July. This will be offset by a major donor, whose \$10,000 gift will arrive at end of the year.

Gail thanked Carol for doing all kinds of work. Carol thanked SJ and Marvin Bagwell for their help as well.

Carol shared information on a new, US-church-wide program with Pacific Bank, which can make loans in all 50 states. They have a program to make loans for "special use" project that many banks do not. They do require a personal guarantor. Nancy talked about how to share information with local churches. They have competitive rates. Clinton said that he has had a positive experience with them, securing a loan for \$30-40,000. His church did not have a personal guarantor, but his church was in good shape, with good income to debt. "He's a good chap."

Gail thanked Barb for putting together Deep Dive when not feeling well. She also noted Barb's integrity. She reports all (even though already approved) so we understand the expense issues.

4. Development

Nancy said that they would keep the Board informed monthly. We are each asked to recruit three new Moderator's Circle members. Share your successes with the Development Committee. Nancy takes her materials to church and found pastors to be supportive. The new development consultants Gil Gerald and his partner Stan will interview each Governing Board member.

Nancy asked for prayer for her outreach and asks of larger givers in July.

Robert ask that we all be mindful to keep development moving forward.

Clinton said he was looking forward to working with the consultants.

5. Strategic Plan

Carol thanked Kareem for co-leading a workshop on the strategic plan at the Heartland Network Gathering. There was a lot of interest, and feedback face-to-face. We had one contact from Men's Conference. Gail shared the feedback about wording (Mission and Vision), we received and said the Committee would summarize and update the Board. Carol said it was exciting to see everything align with the plan. Gail said she was working with Tony and the Senior Leadership Team about the importance of annual planning.

6. Communications

Kareem shared that the first webinar had 20-25 folks, and there was a slight drop off for second one. Despite the numbers, there appears to be a hunger for messaging from us. The next webinar is scheduled for July 8th. Kareem said he ended up hosting the previous one because no one expressed interest. The subject for the July webinar will be a mid-year review. If you have ideas on it, let SJ, Robert, or him know. Nancy said that it takes time for people to get used to (that method of communication).

7. Governance

- **GB Approval of GC conference goals**

Nancy said that the goals are not written in stone and can be adjusted slightly.

GOVERNING BOARD MOTION 140624.2: Motion to approve the 2016 General Conference Goals, made by Onetta, seconded by Clinton. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Governing Board Nominating Committee (GBNC) selection process status**

Onetta summarized the previous work from Clinton, herself, and SJ. They sent out over 78 invitations to apply to the Leadership Mentoring Retreat, Laity Empowered for Active Discipleship and Young Adult Leadership Mentoring Retreat groups as well as past members who served on past GBNC. Because of those groups, the list was predominantly U.S. The selection team will invite others so there wider voice. The team will select a short list and interview them. They are open to suggestions. They will be prepared to recommend three persons at the August meeting.

Robert asked that they consider casting wider net. He said there is always someone who will say he/she did not know about it. Onetta noted that.

Kareem said that Nancy previously encouraged us to use Networks to help recruit. Citing process, he asked if they could submit names to them. Onetta said no. She said that back at the March face-to-face meeting that they would make every effort, if we are short for persons who have this particular experience, who can independently work, to expand the search. They tailored to this list because they have experience to the teachings of this community, the list include 75-80 persons. Rather than open invitations. There is no action on GB members other than the subcommittee to continue.

Nancy said that there is something important to valuing the programs to recruit people. There is a both/and. We should include Network Leaders—they have experience in these programs. How can you do both/and for people who have a higher level of understanding and appreciation of denomination?

Onetta said that because the list is US-centric, they will recruit for the global MCC.

Nancy said that we are asking Network leaders, the Governing Board, and the Senior Leadership Team to capture people who have not been attending programs. Robert added that spreading the net wide does not diminish these programs.

Onetta said that she heard them (Governing Board and Moderator). They will add people to make sure the three, and we will extend the net. As GB we have opportunity to do open call and to use a certain group.

Clinton said that they would appoint from a certain group as opposed to issuing an open call. It is going to require an effort to whittle the group down in a conscientious way.

Kareem said he was unclear. If we come across people who have the qualities we are seeking, what are we supposed to do? Onetta responded that we should send me the names. We have a full primary list. She will add it to the list. The subcommittee will review the person.

Nancy asked when would get appointments get made. Onetta said at the August meeting. They will give status reports at the June and July meetings.

- **Guidelines for submitting individual & committee motions**

Onetta said that what she was hearing is to not have other procedures. It seems like we need to add a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) draft. Lessons learned. It talks about how individual members can request action item. We have been doing around a committee you support. If you have thoughts, please send to me, I'll add it to the list.

Kareem said he did not understand the inspiration for this. Nancy said that they had a discussion about ways motion comes through the Governing Board: from a committee or individual. When in face-to-face meetings, it could be a little easier. It is to figure out a process. Each Governing Board iteration every three years.

Robert asked if this was in response to Raquel's motion (from the previous meeting)? Nancy said it was not only that, but (an example).

Gail said that she shared with Onetta some concerns. While there are things we can do, she was worried about our writing procedures restricting who can submit proposals. If we get these in advance, why not communicate in advance?

Nancy said that is what you have: what is process? How do we deal with this as it comes up?

Onetta said that she does not like details in process but prefers simple guidelines. It also says to be proactive than reactive. SOP will give guidance.

Nancy said that we should look at what Onetta put out.

Kareem said that he does not want to solve a problem that does not exist. Clinton said it that it does exist. Kareem said that Raquel is on the Governance Committee and her proposal came through that process. Onetta said that this is just guidance, an attempt to codify, location of where to go to find that. We do not have to use this. It is just an action item.

8. August Face to Face Meeting preparation

- **GB Arrives, Wednesday, 20 August**
- **GB meetings, Thursday, 21 August – Saturday, 23 August - 9:00 - 5:00 pm**
- **GB group dinner – Thursday, 21 August evening - 6:30 pm**
- **Moderator Circle – Saturday, 23 August evening - KOPMCC (time?)**
- **Sunday, 24 August – JOINT GB/SLT - 9:00 -3:00 pm**
- **GB Departs, 24 August evening**

Onetta said that this is a four-day meeting. Rather than having group dinner first night, it will take place the first night of meetings. So far I have not heard from anyone who has challenge. She asked if all Governing Board members could arrive and stay.

Nancy said that she would send items for the August meeting to Onetta and asked others to do the same.

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m. EDT, and Gail gave the closing prayer.

GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS

Thursday, 26 June 2014

Thursday, 31 July 2014

21-23 August 2014

Thursday, 25 Sept 2014

Thursday, 30 October 2014

Thursday, 20 November 2014

Thursday, 18 December 2014

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance – Gail Rissler, Chair; Raquel Benítez-Rojas; Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell; Rev. Onetta Brooks; Liz Bisordi (consultant); Barb Crabtree, Director of Operations

Development – Rev. Clinton Crawshaw, 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 –Kareem Murphy, Chair; S.J. Ramage, Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Audit - Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, Chair; Kareem Murphy, Marvin Bagwell, Marsha Warren

Task Force for Retirement for Clergy Outside the US: (tabled)

Assessment Ad Hoc – SJ Ramage, Chair; Kareem Murphy, Gail Rissler and Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell