

Connectional Table Board Meeting
 Minutes
 April 27, 2023
 Attendance

Greg	Arnold	Dave	Nuckols
Giovanni	Arroyo	Harriett	Olson
Sandra Steiner	Ball	Benedita Glória	Penicela Nhambiu
Sarah	Belles	Lyssette	Perez
Ole	Birch	Karen	Prudente
Ashley	Boggan	Jessica	Rooks
Shareka R.	Brown	Jovito	Sermonia
Hector A.	Burgos-Nuñez	Kim	Simpson
Raggatha Rain	Calentine	Michael	Slaughter
Jeff	Campbell	Doug	Swanney
Emanuel	Cleaver	Monalisa	Tuitahi
Amy	Coles	Rick	Vance
Josephine	Deere	Guests:	
Jerome	DeVine	Gary	Graves
Jacob	Dharmaraj	Heather	Hahn
Sally	Dyck	Rick	King
Cashar	Evans	Sung-ok	Lee
Roland	Fernandes	Danny	Mai
Ciriaco	Francisco	Brian	Milford
Venus Mae	Gatdula	Rick	Vance
Dawn	Hare	Interpreters:	
Cynthia	Harvey	Adjo (Mireille)	Agbossoumonde
Andrew	Hendren	Naima	Lean
John	Hill	Staff:	
Sara	Hotchkiss	Grace	Killian
Theon	Johnson III	Judi	Kenaston
Beverly	Jones	Frances	Roberts
Markus	Jung		
Hee Soo	Jung		
Prosper	Kitete		
Dan	Krause		
Moses	Kumar		
Tracy S.	Malone		
William B	Meekins Jr		
Brian	Milford		
Cynthia	Moore-Koikoi		
Gary	Mueller		
Tonya	Murphy		
Mande	Muyombo		
Regina	Norwood		



Summary of Actions

- M1 - The agenda for today's meeting was approved
M2 - The minutes of October 27, 2022 and February 22-25, 2023 was approved.
M3 - Motion to reconsider the previously approved structure of the Connectional Table using input of today's discussion about agency presidents and caucuses outside of the US was approved to be revisited and brought back to the CT in the July 13, 2023CT meeting.
M4 - Motion to elect Ms. Shareka R. Brown as the CT Board Secretary was approved.
M5 - Motion to approve the sale of the United Methodist Men's property at 1000 17th Ave, South, Nashville, Tennessee was approved.
M6 – Motion to approve the World Service Contingency Fund request of \$80,000 made by the General Board of Church was approved.

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- I. Opening Devotions by Rev. Ole Birch on Ezekiel 34 and John 10
- II. Rev. Grace Killian reviewed Zoom instructions to rename members with your affiliation and with a “V” in front of your name for voting members and how to use the technology, to raise hands, take polls and vote.
- III. Bishop Muyombo Opening Business
- a. Verbal acknowledgement the meeting will be recorded
 - b. Establishment of quorum (29 voting members present)
 - c. Review & Approval of Agenda
Motion: To approve the agenda, it was seconded
Vote: Yes-100%, No-0, motion carried **(M1)**
 - d. Approval of Minutes
Motion: To approve the minutes of October 27 2022 and February 22-25, 2023; it was seconded.
Vote: Yes-100%, No-0, motion carried, **(M2)**
 - e. Welcome of Guests: Adjo (Mireille) Agbossoumonde (French Interpreter); Naima Lean (French Interpreter); Rick King (GCFA); Heather Hahn (UMCOM); Rick Vance (UMM); Sara Hotchkiss (CGC); Danny Mai (UMCOM)
- Regrets: Bishop Cynthia Fiero Harvey (GCAH); Greg Bergquist (GBHEM); Roland Fernandes (GBGM); Rev Ken Nelson (SEJ).
- IV. ICCMO Report and updates by Ms. Judi Kenaston
- a. Communications Plan – *partnering with UMCOM to provide communications services. Board members will be asked to participate in the Communications Audit.*

- b. Intern update – *we are investigating hiring an intern from Harvard Divinity or Boston University School of Theology.*
 - c. Regionalization Update – *the joint task force is meeting to determine the best step forward for regionalization legislation*
 - d. Agency Evaluations – *Executive Committee is discussing the best approach for agency evaluations.*
- V. General Conference Update by Ms. Kim Simpson
- General Conference will be held April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Judicial Council has made a decision about the election of delegates and a press statement will be released in the next few days. Judicial Council stated General Conference has to meet by 2027. The Commission on General Conference (CGC) will meet in May 2023 to consider the Judicial Council decisions. The disaffiliations that have happened do not impact the size of the postponed General Conference 2024. The delegate numbers are set by the Constitution.
- Discussion and Clarifications:
- VISA application timeliness – CGC will make sure delegates have time to process VISA applications.
 - Delegates are set by BOD formula and delegate numbers are set between 600 to 1000 people.
 - What are the rules for Global Methodist leadership continuing to be a delegate at General Conference (GC)? Lay members who disaffiliate (leave the UMC to join another denomination) will be replaced, clergy members who transfer to another church need to be replaced on delegations. You cannot be a member of two established denominations. Judicial council decision #696 – Clergy membership resides at the Annual Conference this needs to be noted with the annual conference secretary, the bishop, and the board of ordained ministries. BOD Section 241 allows clergy to remove members, integrity can be an issue for members serving in two denominations.
 - The UMC might have a 2026 General Conference. No size length or location of a 2026 General Conference is set as of now.
 - GC Credentials committee only functions during GC. It is up to each annual conference secretary to make sure the credentials are valid. Documents like VISAS and photo identifications will be checked on site against the credential card.
 - Legislation for the 2024 GC instructions (formatting and page length) and deadline date will be on the CGC website soon. Deadline to submit legislation is September 6, 2023.
 - Thank you to Kim Simpson and Gary Graves: we are praying for you.
- VI. Connectional Table Membership Makeup Task Force by Rev. Amy Coles
- a. Review of Legislation changes explained. (*See attached Board Makeup Task Force Legislation*)

Discussion and Clarifications:

- United Methodist Women is the legal name for United Women of Faith is a “doing business as” name.
 - Make sure we have a diverse pool from the annual conferences, the nominating process has guidelines. CT does not have at-large members to balance diversity.
 - USA jurisdictions is acceptable. The General Conference editorial committee will make all references to Jurisdictions that are part of the US consistent throughout the BOD. Some churches are not in the US proper, so we need to remember that when referring to the Jurisdictions.
 - Effective Bishop is the term used for an active Bishop per past BOD publications.
 - Agency presidents (mostly Bishops) as voting members were eliminated in order to move toward more of a worldwide focus. Challenge: removing the board presidents from voting is removing the agencies from the conversations of the worldwide mission of the church. The CT is to be a global body looking at the effectiveness and missional priorities of the church. The agencies other than CT elect their presidents, they are not all bishops. One bishop from each region was added to the legislation.
 - All the caucuses listed in membership are from the US. There are new caucuses in Africa - will they be considered?
 - We need to be inclusive and equitable with the membership of the CT. The purpose of the CT is the visioning body of the church and to steward the resources of the church.
 - The presidents of United Women of Faith (United Methodist Women), the Publishing House and Wespith are not members of the CT as they do not require World Service Funds.
- b. Motion to postpone the legislation: the task force will review and bring it back to the CT Board at the next meeting in July.

Motion: Rev. Lysette Perez moved to reconsider the previously approved structure of the Connectional Table using the input of today’s discussion about agency presidents and caucuses outside of the US.

2nd: Ms. Benedita Penicela Nhambiu

Vote: Yes-66%, No-33%, motion carried, **(M3)**

We want to have conversations with input from the board before voting on legislation in July. The Board Makeup Task Force has considered inclusivity and diversity while writing the draft legislation. The members of the Board Makeup Task Force were Bishop Swanson, Rev. Amy Coles, Ms. Benedita Penicela Nhambiu, Mr. John Hill (replacing Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe), Ms. Monalisa Tuitahi, Rev. Ole Birch and Mr. Mike Dio Jen. To replace retired Bishop Swanson, please find an active Bishop for this task force.

Bishop asked for a Layperson to lead us in Prayer:

Rev. Lysette Perez led us in prayer.

- VII. LDCL recommendation was brought by Rev. Amy Coles
- a. Motion: LDCL moves to elect Ms. Shareka R. Brown as the CT Board Secretary.
Vote: Yes- 100%, No-0, motion carried, **(M4)**
 - b. CCMO Search update. Judi will serve through General Conference 2024. GCFA will help CT in the search for a new CCMO.

VIII. Executive Committee Recommendations by Ms. Shareka R. Brown

- a. United Methodist Men-Sale of Property
Motion: The Executive Committee moves to approve the sale of the United Methodist Men's property at 1000 17th Ave, South, Nashville, Tennessee.
Vote: Yes-97%, No-0, motion carried, **(M5)**

Brief background from Mr. Greg Arnold: UMMEN General Secretary reported that the UMMEN board recommended this sale. The ready and willing real estate market in Nashville makes this move easy at this time. The space may become a restaurant. UMCOM has offered the UMM a space in their building, as a shared service with all the Nashville agencies.

- o Raggatha Raine requested that we consider land use when selling property.

- b. World Service Contingency Fund

Motion: Moves to approve the World Service Contingency Fund request of \$80,000 made by the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS).

Vote: Yes-97%, No-0, motion carried, **(M6)**

Brief background from Mr. John Hill, GBCS Interim General Secretary. The CT supported a similar request back in 2018 to support and engage United Methodist in the DRC, across all four Episcopal areas to engage in electoral education in support of peaceful transparent and credible elections in that country. This grant of \$80,000 will support a similar project for December of 2023 elections. GBCS, GBGM, GBHEM, and GCORR will provide a grant of \$10,000 each. This work will educate around 500 United Methodist members in the DRC for the upcoming elections. GCSROW will help in training without providing a \$10,000 grant.

Prayer for Democratic Republic of Congo by Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball.

IX. Quadrennial Budget Proposal Update by Mr. Dave Nuckols

The Budget Allocations Task Force continue to be in dialogue with GCFA's General Administration of Episcopal Matters (GAEM) committee. They met in person in March, and shared the proposal voted on overwhelmingly in February 2023. This vote had a critical impact; the disaffiliations and Judicial Council's recommendations for a GC in 2026 and 2028 also impacts the discussion. There has not been a written response yet. The conversations continue to seek a resolution for the good of the church.

X. Next Meetings announced by Ms. Judi Kenaston

May 17 and 18, 2023 – in person meeting for the CT Executive Committee and the Budget Allocation Team in Nashville, TN with GCFA’s GAEM committee.

Virtual Meetings:

July 13, 2023 - 8:00-10:00am CDT/ 9:00-11:00am EDT

September 26, 2023 - 8:00-10:00am CDT/ 9:00-11:00am EDT

XI. Closing Prayer by Bishop Muyombo

Minutes by Shareka Brown