

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**RADISSON HOTEL CLEVELAND-GATEWAY
OCTOBER 16-18, 2014**

Members Present: Ms. Sue Artt, Ms. Brittni Badger, Ms. Pat Barnes-McConnell, Ms. Joyce Bathke, Ms. Caroline Belsom, Ms. Lynda Bigler, Mr. Geoffrey Black, Mr. Frank Bolden, Ms. Dale Bonds, Mr. Geoffrey Brace, Ms. Faith Burgess, Mr. Robbie Carlson, Mr. Tom Croner, Ms. Sheldon Culver, Mr. Edward Davis, Mr. Mike Denton, Mr. Michael Downs, Mr. Robert (Bob) Frieberg, Mr. David Gaewski, Mr. Gilberto Garcia-Rodriguez, Mr. J. Bennett Guess, Mr. Don Hart, Ms. Emily Heath, Mr. Brian Holeman, Ms. M. Linda Jaramillo, Mr. Noah Jensen Tabor, Mr. Nesa Joseph, Ms. DeEtte (Dee) Lundberg, Ms. Thea Mateu, Mr. Jim Moos, Mr. Kevin Omi, Mr. Ron Patterson, Mr. Kevin Peterson, Ms. Christina Phillips, Mr. Rich Pleva, Mr. Ernesto (Ernie) Reyes, Mr. Dwayne Royster, Mr. Gary Schulte, Ms. Carol Shipley, Mr. Bryan Sickbert, Mr. William Tanner, Ms. Jeanne Tyler, Mr. Dean Wakuzawa, Ms. Elizabeth Walker, Mr. Bernard Wilson, Ms. Kimberly Wood

Members Not Present: Ms. Maritza Angulo de Gonzalez, Mr. William Edwards, Mr. Kevin Finley, Ms. Kira Geary, Ms. Julia LeBrell

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2014

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

Mr. Wilson, Chair of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors (UCCB), acting on the advice of the Registrar, Ms. Denise Shimell, declared a quorum present and called to order the First Business Session of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors meeting, the time being 2:31 PM Eastern Time.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Wilson invited the membership to approve the printed agenda. It was moved and seconded, and;

**It was VOTED:
14-10-UCCB-01**

to approve the recommended Agenda. (Agenda request items that do not meet standing rules will be addressed by the Executive Committee outside of the meeting.)

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Wilson called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

It was VOTED:

14-10-UCCB-02 to approve the Consent Agenda.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER-BRITTNI BADGER

Mr. Wilson introduced and asked the Board to join him in welcoming Ms. Brittni Badger, a new Board member, elected this past July to fill a term due to a resignation on the Board roster. She will be eligible for nomination and election to a full term at next summer's General Synod. Ms. Badger will also serve on the Governance Committee.

REMARKS BY THE BOARD CHAIR

Mr. Wilson acknowledged and gave recognition to October as Breast Cancer Awareness and Disabilities Awareness month. He then encouraged members to contact their congressional representatives to demand that the United States ratify the rights of persons with disabilities.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the agenda for the. He thanked the Officers of the Church and senior staff for the difficult decisions that were made to accommodate the new fiscal realities that they have been called and asked to live within. He also expressed deep appreciation to the members of the Board by acknowledging their work as a Unified Board in living out the realities during those challenging days, coming through those times serving as a better model and leadership for the Church.

Mr. Wilson lifted up the work that has been done since General Synod 2013 relating to changes in staffing, and North Carolina's work on the same sex marriage ban that was struck down due to the work of this Board and General Counsel.

Mr. Wilson spoke on the celebration and appreciation of the service and ministry of the current General Minister and President, Rev. Geoffrey A. Black.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

Mr. Black began his report by thanking Mr. Wilson for his words of encouragement. He then gave commendation to the Board that was honored by the Human Rights Gala in Cleveland, and Board member Edward Davis' eloquent speech on behalf of the United Church of Christ. He talked about the book "Leaders Make the Future," by Mr. Bob Johansson." The book's concepts are referenced by the Mission Planning Council as a resource to set the context for their work.

Mr. Black talked about retirement and how he came into the ministry of his office with a sense of enjoyment that was met at times with stressful situations. Overall it has and is still fulfilling as he gives witness to significant and meaningful changes. Along with the help of the other executive ministers, there has been significant transformation and change over the last five years. It is important to move forward with the same momentum while in the periods of uncertainty. The Church is on the verge of the "new" that requires a different approach with change, new vision and leadership. By the time he reaches retirement in his position, the new will be achieved. A new stage has been set and there have be some things that will be challenging to the new General Minister and President and some that won't need to address. Mr. Black hopes to take a sabbatical to find creative and appropriate ways to be active in the Church and to pursue his dreams.

Mr. Black's words to the Board are, "There is work to do and God has work to do with and among you."

Mr. Black moved on to the topic of the state of Christian and Jewish relationships. This topic has implications for the Board and Conference work. These relationships are strained because of the challenge of Israel in the Middle East. Concerns have been shared by many in both faith communities. The National Council of Churches is the conduit in coordinating interfaith relationships with the Jewish community and major Jewish organizations in the United States.

Mr. Black named major points of concern in the religious community, and information relating to the National Offices.

1. Letter to Congress urging them to look carefully at expenditure of U.S. funds in Palestine, to assure that they are used for their intended allocation. He is a signatory to this letter. The letter was viewed as an offense to the majority of the Jewish organizations and there was a break in relationship and the Jewish leadership wouldn't meet with the UCC. Then dialogue was resumed with a higher level of communication that included other Heads of Communion and major heads of Jewish organizations. Then the Presbyterian leadership held there General Synod and voted a

divestment resolution about Israel. This called into question the relationships again. The relationship with the Jewish leaders is very fragile.

2. Issues around Ferguson Missouri and national violence particular to African American men. Around the country there is concern about the global issue that is being witnessed. The NCC Board meeting will be in St. Louis bringing together heads of all the communions of the NCC community and invite the St. Louis community to give leadership. There is an inside strategy planned by Mr. Black and Ms. Jaramillo to hold a conference call with African American leadership on October 23rd. The purpose of the call is to develop a national strategy and partnership so that the momentum surrounding this doesn't die.
3. Good news about the Collegiate Churches of New York, the original church of the Dutch settlers of Manhattan, New York. They are the founding churches of the Reformed Church in America which is a bit conservative and the collegiate churches are more progressive. Mr. Bob Chase, Director of the Intersections Program, brokered a conversation with the UCC and the Collegiate Churches. New York Conference Minister, Mr. David Gaewski, participated in that conversation. The Collegiate Churches have decided that they want a dual alignment with the Reformed Church of America and the UCC. They will bring 5000 members and support for OCWM and other church offerings. By next spring they will come into the Metropolitan Association and will be lifted up at General Synod.
4. The Minister for Conference Relations position, presently held by Ms. Susan Towner-Larsen, has been eliminated. Ms. Towner-Larsen will be on staff until the end of the year. More information will be shared later.
5. There is a new director in The Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship, Ms. Cheryl Joseph Williams. She began her service early in May. Ms. Joseph William was present to address the Board.

Mr. Black concluded his report by opening the floor to questions.

OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Moos began the report by commenting on the spirit filled and transformation year. One of the transformations has been with the budget. At the first meeting of the Board last year, the Collegium presented a proposal that included the goal to cut \$2.4 million from the budget deficit by the end of 2014. The initial goal to cut \$1 million by the end of 2013 was met and exceeded. There was a \$1.4 million cut. There subsequently has been a \$3 million cut from the budget to

reach the 5% benchmark. This is a historical milestone. Unified structure is a part of this success. The goal of financial sustainability hasn't been reached to date, but that which has been accomplished thus far should be celebrated.

The Core mission is engaging in God's mission. What impact do financials have on core vision? One of the varying cuts made in Wider Church Ministries (WCM) has been \$400,000 in mission personnel, which impacts mission partners. The global ministry partners along with the Christian Church Disciples of Christ are exploring other pathways to fund mission personnel. This won't be easy and will take time. This is part of Gods core mission.

There are areas of significant momentum in WCM, including the area of finance. Mr. Moos met with partner bodies in Italy, the Waldensian Church, a pre-reformation protestant body which is interested in doing work globally and has access to significant funding dollars. They plan to fund WCM \$500,000 a year for the next three years. This is program funding and very significant. They are interested in doing justice work globally and human migration, particularly North Africa and the Middle East. There are plans to visit the Waldensian Church next spring.

Another core mission and area of momentum was identified as leadership development. Over the past several years WCM has programs in young adults in communities of service. These programs take young adults and engage them with various agencies and local church communities to help them with spiritual formation and their call to vocation. The program is now looking at recent seminary grads that haven't received their call.

The core mission of the Church is for the National Setting of the Church to have a bold public and prophetic voice. That voice is increasingly being heard across the world. Some of the examples that Mr. Moos referenced was the work done by mission partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo regarding fair elections, the historic partnership in the Middle East that has a justice focus. In early December, Mr. Moos will be traveling to Japan to deal with property issues and to participate in an international interfaith conference sponsored by the National Council of Churches in Japan on article 9 of the Japanese constitution, the Peace Article. A plan to eliminate article 9 to remilitarize is supported by the U.S. Mr. Moos has been invited to a private University, to speak on the subject of human rights.

Ms. Jaramillo began her report by speaking about the intersection of work by the various Covenanted Ministries. She lifted up the crisis of children such as those fleeing violence, which is the same all over the world. The fleeing of children from Palestine into Syria, from Iraq into Jordan, is similar to those fleeing to our borders. The wall in Jerusalem looks similar to the wall in Tijuana. There is a need to acknowledge participation in the building of these walls.

The call has come from the Southeast Conference and others asking what is being done around these issues surrounding children. In response, a special disaster relief offering was created. The generosity of churches has also enabled placement of an Immigrant Care Coordinator in the Southwest Conference, under the supervision of Conference Minister, Mr. John Dorhauer.

Ms. Jaramillo included the courageous witness of women around the world. She has joined the Global Ministries delegation to the Middle East. She praised the women of Palestine and their courage and tenacity shared with the whole world how they are calling everyone into accountability, along with the church universal. This is another instance of global and national advocacy being tied together.

Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) staff met with the Ministerial Excellence Support and Authorization (MESA) Team and talked about faithful ministry and preparation for leadership as it relates to incorporation into worship and justice.

JWM has been involved in the Church Building and Loan program, through their Partners in Vision Program and the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship that have stepped up to assist with the work of this program that will benefit the ministry of Franklinton Center.

There will be a justice revival held in early November in Vancouver, Washington. It will be held and hosted by the Southwest Conference and the Central Pacific Conference in conjunction with JWM.

There is the need to address issues here in the U.S. such as the dismantling of Democracy with the disenfranchisement of voters. The mass incarceration, the new Jim Crow is alive and well and certainly needs interruption, and following Ferguson there will be continued conversation.

Mr. Guess addressed the reality of the disconnect from the Wider Church as staff is dwindling at the National Setting. Staffing has dwindled to 65% of what it was a decade ago. Now is the time to be intentional and address the relationship deficit as a result of the dwindling staff. Relationships in the past almost happened without any forethought through strategic planning and a larger staff and almost by accident. The work is now happening more strategically. With the smaller staff, there is more intentionality around connecting with communities, networks and constituencies.

The focus in Local Church Ministries (LCM) around what is called LCM 38\6. The only way to permeate and make real change in the life of this denomination is by working as closely as possible with the 38 conferences and 6 seminaries. In response to this, the MESA Team has conducted interviews with all 38 conferences about their practices and needs in ministerial authorization and their search and call processes. MESA has also conducted training in

ministerial search and call on all seminary campuses. MESA has also taken the lead by being present in over 83 association training sessions in the past two years in all 38 Conferences.

Evidence of this great collaboration is the new Ministerial Profile System. This reduces the timing from 90 days to two weeks for a candidate to complete a ministerial profile.

A brand new ministerial opportunities job listing site has moved from paper to an online search tool to find work.

The Center for Analytical and Research Data (CARD) works to create accurate data for the life of the Church. A brand new data hub was launched, allowing information to be entered, shared in one place, and downloaded in report form on all 5,100 congregations and authorized ministers. CARD has also conducted training in all 38 conferences.

The new Beginnings Assessment Program is working with nine conferences to empower stuck congregations to make bold decisions about their congregation. This year's goal was to work with 30 congregations.

Relationship clarity is also being done with the Historically Underrepresented Groups (HUGS) to hammer out covenants of mutual agreements and relationship building to build clarity of what expectations and needs are to and from one another.

INVESTMENT AND ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Ms. Belsom gave the report of the Investment and Endowment Committee. She asked those serving on that committee to stand. The committee is comprised of board members, including Collegium members, financial experts, Michael Downs, Don Clark, and national financial staff.

Ms. Belsom focused on the work of the committee. Especially the work coming before the Board that requires a decision. She then presented the 4 issues that the Board will be reviewing.

Ms. Belsom gave background information of the "Fund Free Fossil Fuel Companies" created by United Church Funds (UCF) in response to the Twenty-ninth General Synod Resolution urging divestment from fossil fuel companies to address climate change. UCF needed a minimum of \$10 million, with an enhanced strategy of \$20 million. The committee recommendation was voted at the previous board meeting, and after some research was withdrawn for a vote.

After background information was reviewed related to the annual draw rate for 2015, the recommendation from the Investment and Endowment Committee was, pursuant to Bylaws 227A and 243E, for the Board to approve the draw rate on investment and endowed funds for the 2015 budget be no more than 5%.

Mr. Wilson stated that this motion comes from committee and doesn't require a second. He then called for discussion.

There was a concern expressed relating to the constant discussion on draw rates and sustainability in the midst of staff cuts and the anxiety that follows. There was reference to the approximate \$250 million UCC endowment and the need for the use of the funds now. The Church needs to apply the funding to the top priorities and not operate from a spirit of fear.

There was agreement expressed that priorities need to guide allocation of resources, but the national office is operating out of a vacuum of priorities. Therefore, in this type of situation, those resources should be conserved. When critical thinking is done around identifying and establishing priorities for the future, that would be the time to move and allocate resources.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-03 to approve the draw rate on investment and endowed funds for 2015 to no more than 5%. (4 abstentions)

It was suggested that the Board hold both concerns that were expressed prior to the vote.

The UCC received a bequest from the estate of Marjorie Likins in the amount of \$103,771.98. The will stipulates that funds be used to establish a fund to supplement pensions of widows and ministers and is restricted to those purposes. Therefore, The Investment and Endowment Committee recommends that the Board authorize the Chief Financial Officer to transfer the bequest in the amount of \$103,771.98 and any additional amounts received to the UCC Pension Boards to comply with Article 4c, which requires that the funds be required to establish a fund to supplement pensions of widows or ministers.

Mr. Wilson stated that this recommended action comes from committee and needs no second. He then called for discussion.

A Board Member recalled that the UCC has no significant presence as a denomination in that community. This woman is represented in the room in every Board Member. If each Board Member hasn't made an estate plan, they should do so to affect the lives of others in the future.

There was a question raised on the flexibility of the fund to include widowers, since it wasn't written as surviving spouse. Legal Counsel, Mr. Clark, responded that if this motion passes, that decision would be at the discretion of the Pension Board.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-04 that the Board authorize the Chief Financial Officer to transfer the Marjorie Likins bequest in the amount of \$103,771.98, and any additional amounts received, to the UCC Pension Boards to comply with Article 4c of said bequest, which requires that the funds be required to establish a fund to supplement pensions of widows or ministers.

There was a moment of silence taken in honor of Ms. Marjorie Lykens.

The committee is recommending that the future draw rate on invested and endowed funds be reduced to 4% pursuant to Bylaws 227a and 243e by year 2019.

Mr. Wilson stated the recommendation is coming out of committee and needs no second.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-05 that the draw rate on invested and endowed funds be reduced to 4% pursuant to Bylaws 227a and 243e by year 2019.

There was a member statement that there should be a separation of endowed funds from investment funds and again that the priorities be established first.

The memorandum report from the Collegium outlining how to establish the 4% draw rate is available on BoardMax, and input from the Board is welcomed. Input from the Priorities Task Force, consultants, Conference Ministers, and senior staff was considered to establish this report.

There was a motion to table this motion until the spring meeting for further investigation of priorities. It was seconded.

Mr. Wilson called a 10 minute recess at 4:10 PM to discuss proper protocol for this motion with legal counsel.

Mr. Wilson reconvened the meeting at 4:25 PM, and under advisement of legal counsel who read the procedures as outlined according to Bylaws 227 and 243, declared the motion to table the recommendation out of order.

Ms. Belsom clarified the reporting out on items 2 and 4, and the withdrawal of recommendation number 1, which was voted in the previous Board Meeting. The Board has approved item number 3.

Mr. Wilson called upon Ms. Bathke to give the report of the Finance and Budget Committee.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Ms. Bathke asked the members of the Finance and Budget Committee to stand and be recognized. She began the report by noting the commentary in the packet for every line item in the budget.

The Finance and Budget Committee of the United Church of Christ recommends that the United Church of Christ Board approve the National Basic Support allocation base of \$6,190,000 in 2015, and the funding of the Office of the General Minister and President, the Covenanted Ministries and the Pension Board allocation.

Mr. Wilson stated that this motion is coming from committee and needs no second.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-06 that the Board approve The Finance and Budget Committee's recommendation to approve the National Basic Support allocation base of \$6,190,000 in 2015, and the funding of the Office of the General Minister and President, the Covenanted Ministries and the Pension Board allocation as follows: OGMP \$4,201,467 (67.88%), JWM \$811,623 (13.11%), LCM \$354,129 (5.72%), WCM \$474,846 (7.67%) and PB \$347,935 (5.62%).

The Finance and Budget Committee of the United Church of Christ recommends the United Church of Christ Board approve the proposed 2015 Budget totaling \$22,297,967. This does meet the 5% draw rate.

Mr. Wilson stated that this motion is coming from committee and needs no second.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-07 that the United Church of Christ Board approves the proposed 2015 budget totaling \$22,297,967, as recommended by the Finance and Budget Committee.

Mr. Wilson thanked both committees for their report.

Ms. Jaramillo made a quick announcement regarding the location of the Collegium memo that is posted on BoardMax under the Investment and Endowment Committee number IE-05.

Mr. Wilson called the order of the day, the time being 4:35 PM. The second business session will convene at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Moos and other Collegium members reviewed and commented on the Collegium report relating to the budget and visioning, by request.

Mr. Wilson called the meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM, and Mr. Denton gave the evening meal blessings

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

Mr. Wilson called the second business session of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors to order, the time being 6:30 PM.

CONTINUING EDUCATION-TELECONFERENCING ETIQUETTE

Mr. Wilson introduced Mr. Omi to the Board. Mr. Omi gave a presentation on teleconferencing etiquette. The reason Mr. Omi decided to do this presentation was to share with members how to increase the odds of having a successful conference call. He began with a short video clip showing a comedic view of actors participating on a conference call with various distractions that can sabotage a call.

Following the clip Mr. Omi talked about how a conference call should be a good experience where the participants learn from each other. He suggested that there be an informal communications covenant. He suggested that time spent together should be sacred.

Mr. Omi reviewed suggested guidelines and practices for successful teleconferences for both staff and members. He shared suggestions for preparing oneself prior to a teleconference. The presentation as well received.

Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Omi and invited Ms. Tigner to share information about “Robert’s Rules” and meeting process.

ROBERT'S RULES

Ms. Tigner referenced two meeting practices that will be used to facilitate the Board's time together:

First, motion to table, is not debatable. This is most effectively used to interrupt what is presently going on to move on to something else. Once the task is completed, there must be a vote to take off the table and return to the original task.

Second, motion to postpone, is debatable. It is for a definite amount of time and is a little more friendly, is commonly used to have time to research or get clarification. It would just be on the agenda when resumed and there wouldn't need to be a vote to take it up again.

Sometimes a distinction with the Bylaws may determine the difference as well.

FIRST YEAR ASSESSMENT

Mr. Wilson noted that it has been over a year since there has been a "Unified Board." Some things have been done well and should be celebrated, and there are some things that can be done better. He felt that there should be some time to talk about ways to move forward. He invited Ms. Jacqueline McLemore forward to facilitate the remainder of the evening's session. Ms. McLemore has been serving the National Setting for some time as a facilitator of unified governance and search committees.

She stated the purpose of her time for the remainder of this session is to hear from all members about their experiences and reflections relating to this past 18 months of being a board. She plans this to be an open conversation to hear the breath of experiences around the room.

She encouraged members to be clear and candid about what worked and what they felt to be challenges. She then moved on to encourage a brief reflection, by instructing members to go back to the very first meeting of the unified board and remember where they were seated, who they were seated with, and possibly the nature of the conversation. She instructed them to hold that thought for a few seconds and then fast forward from then to the present, to encompass that entire span of time and experience as a board member.

The first account of experiences was to recall whatever meeting was the best meeting, experience or process. The time where there was a feeling of accomplishment, and include those times where the thought was just getting through the moment. In doing this, she was asking that members think longitudinally, relationally and personally.

Ms. McLemore then opened the floor with the question of what has been most memorable or significant about the work of the Board this past 18 months.

Memorable, positive thoughts were shared by members of the Board.

Mr. McLemore then opened the floor with the question of what are some concerns.

Concerns were lifted up by Board members and discussion ensued.

Ms. McLemore then gave a summary of what she heard, and invited additional comments. She asked members to share what their understanding is of what is the culture of this group.

Members shared their thoughts and understandings with the group.

In closing Ms. McLemore offered support and encouraged honest communication, hearing and holding as many voices as possible , as the Board moves forward over the next few days. A strategy for each member is to assess what worked and what didn't, what input you've had as well as those places you felt that you were not adequately a part of the input.

Ms. McLemore then called on members to assess what it takes to dial down defensiveness, protectiveness, shame and loss to create one's self.

Mr. Omi offered the closing prayer, and Mr. Wilson called the order of the evening and adjourned the session, the time being 8:09 PM.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2014

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

The third business session of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors was called to order by Board Chair, Mr. Wilson, the time being 8:30 AM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Wilson called the meeting into Executive Session to meet with the Wider Church Ministries (WCM) Executive Minister Search Committee, at which time Mr. Moos and staff were excused.

OPEN SESSION

Following Executive Session, Mr. Wilson reconvened the meeting, the time being 8:45 AM. Mr. Wilson announced that Mr. Moos was confirmed for re-nomination.

Mr. Moos graciously accepted what he termed as the privilege of re-nomination and shared his commitment to be better. He gave recognition to staff and Wider Church partners for their help and noted that without their leadership and assistance, he wouldn't be able to do his ministry effectively. He shared that the past three years have been the best that he has to offer, and he is deeply committed to the ministry that he is doing. Everything hasn't always been the way he has hoped it to be, but pledged to do his best going forward.

Following Mr. Moos' remarks, Mr. Wilson called Mr. Holeman to give the General Synod Program and Planning report.

GENERAL SYNOD PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mr. Holeman gave thanks to committee members and invited them to stand and be recognized. He noted that the Committee and staff met the previous day. He then thanked them for their work and commitment.

Mr. Holeman reviewed General Synod planning and provided updates on the progress of the exhibit hall, fundraising initiatives, registration, housing, speaker, educational intensives, the youth program, news and promotions, optional dining events, accommodations, and the Saturday program.

He went on to talk about the next steps relating to General Synod business, resolutions and deadlines, and provided an overview of the General Synod schedule.

Mr. Holeman also talked about worship, theological reflectors and main stage presentations during General Synod.

In response to a member's question, the answer was yes that the United Church of Christ Board does sit as the Business Committee for General Synod. The Board will convene on Thursday, June 25th at 1:00 PM as the Business Committee prior to General Synod.

A question was raised as to an arts and crafts area where local churches could participate at a level not as expensive as normal vendors, suggesting that this could be a way of cultivating local church involvement. Mr. Holeman responded by saying that this hasn't been discussed. Mr.

Foley added that these are the same items that some of the vendors do sell and this could undercut them. The vendors are looked at as a revenue source for General Synod.

One member shared that the educational intensives would be missed. The dialogue enables participants to encounter alternative views. Mr. Holeman responded by assuring that this type of interaction is why scheduling the educational intensives is being explored and how technology can facilitate that interaction. Attendance is something else to consider.

Mr. Wilson announced appointments to the Committee on Disposition. Mr. Brace has been appointed as the Chair, and Noah Jenson Tabor, Ernie Reyes and Carol Shipley as members. They are scheduled to begin their work shortly after the deadline for submission of resolutions, and report next March.

Before adjourning into committees Ms. Tyler requested time to make a statement to the Board.

Ms. Tyler stated that the UCC has four resolutions calling for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life, mission and work of the United Church of Christ. She then read the following: “Be it resolved that the UCCB and the Collegium include persons with disabilities in the same category as others in the beloved community as people of color and the LGBT.” She then clarified that she wanted the Board to vote on this. Ms. Tigner then responded by stating the process for submitting resolutions. Ms. Tyler then agreed that she will submit this as a motion upon advisement and completion of the process to do so.

Mr. Wilson declared the session in adjournment, the time being 9:28 AM, until after lunch unless serving on a committee.

FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION

Ms. Bonds called the Fourth Business Session to order, the time being 2:31 PM. She called Ms. Tyler to come forward.

A MOTION FOR THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD ON BEHALF OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Ms. Tyler read and submitted her motion on behalf of persons with disabilities.

The motion was moved and seconded.

**It was VOTED:
14-10-UCCB-08**

“As members of the United Church of Christ Board, we recognize and affirm the vital matters of justice with which our Collegium of Officers and national staff so ably deal. We are excited to learn of the work around literacy, racism, immigration, marriage equality and other pressing issues of the day.

We would also like to remind the United Church of Christ Board and the Collegium of Officers that persons with disabilities make up 20% of the population. This number may be a surprise, because many of us have so-called “hidden” disabilities. Regardless, we are here, we are part of you. We are a named Historically Underrepresented Group of the United Church of Christ.

We, therefore, respectfully request that the reports of the Collegium to the United Church of Christ Board and to the Wider Church routinely and regularly lift up the work that is being done to forward the cause of justice and inclusion for persons with disabilities.”

There was a question directed to Ms. Tyler on whether the motion should be amended to add that materials can be prepared so that they can be used by people respective of disability? Ms. Tyler’s response was yes and accepted the suggestion of a friendly amendment.

She suggested that the amendment could read, “and we request that the appropriate staff be requested to make materials accessible to people prior to the Board meeting.”

The amendment was restated to “we request that materials be provided to the Board in formats accessible to all.”

It was moved and seconded to amend the first motion.

**It was VOTED
14-10-UCCB-09**

To amend the motion “and we request that the appropriate staff be requested to make materials accessible to people prior to the Board meeting,” to “We further request that materials be provided to the Board in formats accessible to all.”

Ms. Bonds called on Mr. Downs to give the report of the Pension Boards.

REPORT OF THE PENSION BOARDS EXECUTIVE

Mr. Downs began his report by bringing greeting from the Pension Boards and giving an overview of the information included in the paperwork made available to the Board.

He lifted up the Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) launched five years ago after five years of study. A focus group that includes Mr. Black. There are now 75 NLI participants that are local church clergy. The program provides ten years of training, two weeks a year. This program empowers clergy 25-35 to become better clergy and leaders in the life of their congregations and the Wider Church. There will be 90 of these pastors at Synod that have participated in this program.

For five years the Pension Boards has done an every member comprehensive survey. The 20 page report goes to their Board and the executive summary informs what some of their strategies are with service to members. The survey shows satisfaction response ratings for health care and benefit plans, enhancements that are being made to the UCC Medical and Dental Benefits Plan, such as care for Autism, gender identity services, and the benefit allowance increase to the Vision Benefit Plan. The summary report on social responsibility claims that have been filed, and the Pension Boards is at the forefront of social justice witness on behalf of the UCC, and investments that support the financing of climate change initiatives worldwide. In response to the General Synod vote in 2005 relating to Israel and Palestine, there are investments in Sirag (Arabic for Lamp or light) which fund 19 countries.

Following Mr. Down's report, a short video clip was shown in Palestine, which also highlighted a factory in Jericho managed by women which processes date fruit.

Ms. Bonds called upon Ms. Mateu to give the report of the Justice and Witness Ministries Committee.

REPORT OF THE JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Ms. Mateu thanked committee members for their work. She then gave updates on Justice and Witness Ministries.

After meetings and many conversations, the covenant with Centro Romero has been terminated. There will be some ministry development, but it is no longer under the leadership of JWM. There is a full time position budgeted for the environmental justice position. Immigration and border ministry was affected by the break in covenant with Centro Romero. A partnership has been provided with Church Wide World Services partner, Mr. Noel Anderson, who will share some of his time as an immigration organizer with the UCC. Mr. Anderson is also UCC clergy.

JWM was able to bring on a staff person for immigrant care in the Southwest Conference, partly supported by One Great Hour of Sharing and Neighbors in Need. Grant funding to has been made available to congregations to supply significant models of ministry in important areas such as voter rights and student education and mobilization efforts.

During the committee meeting there was conversation and excitement around the possible creation of a response team for community and human disaster relief, to respond nationally to community crisis such as in Ferguson, Missouri.

Ms. Bonds then called upon Mr. Joseph to give the report of the Local Church Ministries Committee.

REPORT OF THE LOCAL CHURH MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Mr. Joseph began the report by inviting Mr. Guess to assist in reporting about the six arms and sub divisions of Local Church Ministries. (LCM)

Mr. Guess lifted up six LCM teams and the work that they do: Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization (MESA), Congregational Assessment, Support and Advancement (CASA), Faith Formation Ministry Team, Church Building and Loan Fund, Center for Progressive Renewal (CPR) and Center for Analytics, Research, and Data (CARD)

Ms. Bonds called upon Ms. Lundberg to give the Wider Church Ministry Committee report.

WIDER CHURCH MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Ms. Lundberg acknowledged committee members. She went on to describe global ministries as a vital instrumentality of the United Church of Christ, serving God's children all over the world through justice, reconciliation and peace in over 85 cultures.

There are 16 countries that are served on the continent of Africa. At this particular time, the focus is on the Democrat of Congo. The Congo has \$24 trillion in mineral resources and yet is the poorest country on the continent, producing slavery and increasing poverty and conflict. The per capita of gross income is \$220.00 and yet this country is so rich in resources. Literacy ranks 186 of 187 and mutilation of children is practiced. Western powers in the past and present, inflict their influence by helping to assassinate leaders and support brutal dictators. Conflict has taken 5.4 million people since 1998, and 50% of those lost are children under the age of five.

Rape is an instrument of war and 48 women are raped per hour. The Congo is a forgotten crisis needing the UCC's focus. On behalf of the committee, we encouraged prayer and advocacy for the Congo.

The Twenty-eighth General Synod of the UCC encouraged its members, congregations and various settings, to pray, reflect and advocate on behalf of those in the Democratic Congo.

A clip was shown regarding Global Ministries' mission service around the world in partnership with the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.

In closing Ms. Lundberg lifted up Mr. Moos and Wider Church Ministry staff for their work.

Ms. Bonds called upon Ms. Walker to give the report of the Governance Committee.

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Ms. Walker extended thanks to the Committee and asked that they stand and be recognized. Ms. Walker started by referencing resolutions from Wider Church Ministries that are coming before the Board, out of the covenanted ministries:

Commemorating 100 years since the Armenian genocide: Mr. Peter Makari reported that the year 2015 will mark 100 years since the Armenian genocide that began in April of 1915. The UCC, through its Mission Board and going back to the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, has a long history of taking action and forming relationships with the Armenian community. Mr. Makari shared history going back to the early 1800's. The UCC was connected then and is connected today with the union of the Armenian and Evangelical Churches in the near east and the Armenian Association of America.

The resolution is brought as a gesture of solidarity and support and to bolster advocacy on the issue and speak out against violence based on race, ethnicity, creed or any other aspect. The resolution is brought with support by the Armenian Community and leadership.

Ms. Walker shared that the standing rules were changed for General Synod in terms of the format. This resolution is an example of the new format. She then explained the process of submitting resolutions before and requesting time for members to review the resolution and express any questions.

Ms. Bonds stated that the resolution is coming from committee and doesn't need a second.

It was VOTED**14-10-UCCB-10** to support the resolution on the Armenian Genocide.

Calling for Peace Justice and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula: Mr. Derek Duncan, Associate for Global Advocacy, gave the report. The year 2015 happens to be the 70th anniversary of Korea's independence from Japanese occupation. The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and other international ecumenical partners are calling for the rededication of the UCC's work for peace, justice and rededication to the Peninsula. This was highlighted at the General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 2013. A final peace treaty has become the main focus.

Ms. Bond's gave members time to discuss the resolution and the opportunity to come back with questions.

There was a question as to what the resolution will affect relating to U.S. policy and tax status. Mr. Duncan responded by saying that talking about peace and justice doesn't affect tax status, but it does to a great degree oppose U.S. policy. There has remained unresolved hostility since the Korean war, and there has never been a final peace treaty. There has been conversation within the U.S. government on how to use the peace treaty as a point of strategy. It would become the Church's position that the peace treaty is more strategic. Mr. Moos added that it is important to understand that this resolution and issue connects with other initiatives, not only Korea, but regionally.

Further conversation ensued relating to the process and whether submission by Wider Church Ministries is a proper reflection of the submission of the resolution. There was also some concern with the language used relating to local congregations and their participation in these efforts

A question followed on whether the content or worthiness of the resolution is the debate. In response, it was noted that this is a recommendation, but it is General Synod that will determine whether the resolution is adopted.

To further clarify the process, Mr. Foley added points about resolution submission. Mr. Clark also added that the resolution is coming from the Wider Church Ministries Corporation. While all the Ministry Boards have become unified, the corporations are separate and distinct. So the proposed amendment should accurately reflect that the resolution is coming from the particular corporation.

There was then a suggested motion to strike “United Church of Christ Board” from the title, it would also affect changes throughout the resolution. It was seconded, but not voted due to further conversation.

Following the discussion, Mr. Wilson took a point of privilege and made a motion to postpone further discussion until the evening session. It was moved and seconded.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-11 to postpone discussion on the resolution “A Call for Peace Justice and Re-unification in the Korean Peninsula,” until the evening session.

Mr. Wilson then called Mr. Patterson forward to deliver the report of the Development Committee.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Patterson began the report by asking the Committee to stand and be recognized. He said that this committee includes non-Board members in its numbers due to its task for development. He stated that funding is on target with three quarters of the year gone:

OCWM is at \$3,101,504 and Special Offerings are at \$3.7 million. The Annual Campaign, however, is somewhat down. The fundraising staff has scheduled a special appeal during the Thanksgiving season. Also, over \$50,000 was raised to support the work in North Carolina,

Mr. Patterson talked about the job description that was included in the Board packet. Although the committee isn’t asking for approval of the description, the description will guide them in their future work.

Mr. Patterson noted that the opening worship raised over \$3,000 in offerings. There is 77% participation in the Board’s commitment, and over \$28,000 in response to the annual appeal to the Directors. He reminded the Board that they are creating a new culture of service. This is a Church board that recognizes the variety of gifts and diversity of abilities. Everyone should feel good about what they are able to do. The committee is pleased with the Board’s commitment.

There was a document included in the Board packet of documents and information, the gift acceptance policy which is standard for most boards. The gift acceptance policy is being referred in its present state to the Investment and Endowment Committee for their review. Once reviewed, the Development Committee will take another look and bring this back for the Board’s adoption at the Spring meeting.

Mr. Patterson brought forth a motion on behalf of the Special Committee on Development about the member job description.

Ms. Bonds stated that the motion comes from a committee and doesn't need a second.

A comment was made that for some members of the Board, just coming to the Board meetings is a financial commitment and there should be some way to recognize those members. In response to that comment Mr. Patterson shared that there has been a way of showing that participation of giving as an "in kind" contribution. He also suggested that those members that are capable of paying their expenses should do as another means of support.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-12

"That the United Church of Christ Board member job description include the expectation that Board members will make a financial commitment annually to the UCC," and in italics under this and not part of the motion *"The Development Committee is making a commitment with this motion to make information readily available to the Board members about the great variety of ways to give."*

Mr. Patterson shared that the next motion comes with a great deal of background. The last serious look at the covenant of giving was back in the 70's. The Committee would like to move that an examination of the covenant of giving across the life of the UCC be in order.

Ms. Bonds stated the motion comes from committee and doesn't need a second.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-13

to approve the motion that the General Minister and President lead a taskforce to examine the covenant of giving across the life of the United Church of Christ in order to ensure the discovery, implementation and utilization of a more effective and efficient development program . We further recommend that taskforce participants represent the local Associations, Conferences, and National audiences that constitute the United Church of Christ. And that this taskforce present its findings and make recommendations to the Development Committee by October 1, 2015 for review, and report back to the United Church of Christ Board, and ultimately for presentation to General Synod in 2017.

In response to the use of the term "National audiences" and the suggestion that the term should be defined, the term is defined in the Bylaws.

Mr. Patterson then introduced Ms. Cheryl Joseph Williams as the Director of the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship.

Ms. Williams stated the focus of her goals for 2014 were in the areas of building the essential pieces needed for a healthy, vibrant and robust development program. The team has also worked to reach out and get to know the people, churches, Conference, Associations and organizations that make up the vast donor base. She then introduced and gave brief background information on the new team members that make up the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship. (OPS)

Ms. Bonds called on Mr. Hart to give the report of the United Church Funds.

REPORT OF THE UNITED CHURCH FUNDS EXECUTIVE

Mr. Hart reported on the plan that the United Church Funds (UCF) has discussed with the Collegium to move the responsibility of promotion and administration of planned giving from the Office of Philanthropy to United Church Funds.

UCF is working with Local Church Ministries and the Church Building and Loan Fund to create and provide resources to churches who have entered into conversation or contemplating whether to close. This work, called Living Legacy, would be a resource for pastors and church leaders when considering various pastoral, legal, financial and administrative issues that need to be dealt with in a church closing, as it seeks to become a legacy church.

The United Church Funds is also in the development stages to open a donor advice line for 2015. Details will be forthcoming as they are available.

UCF has been working in response to General Synod actions in prior years with Beyond Fossil Fuel Fund and Impact Investment Funds.

Although the United Church of Christ Board approved an allocation of \$10 million to the Beyond Fossil Fuel Fund, this represents less than 4% of the investment of the national segment of the Church. Had the UCC Board of Directors initially allocated the \$20 million, the fund would be open. The October 1st deadline of reaching the \$20 million commitment wasn't met. However, today at 4:00 PM there was a press release stating that UCF reached the \$20 million commitment mark, and the Beyond Fossil Fuel Fund will open on December 1st. Other investors have expressed interest in investing in the fund.

The Impact Investment Fund includes investments that provide both financial return and have either social or environmental impact.

There are several General Synod resolutions that call on the Church to invest in organizations that provide development loans or micro financed loans both domestically and abroad. The hope is to put together a fund that has a diversified portfolio of these types of investors with different degrees of impact. Once there is more information, UCF staff will make a presentation to the Investment and Endowment Committee of the Board, to determine the level of commitment from the Board.

On November 8th in Long Beach, California, UCF will host a Western Region Endowment Conference. Information is available on Conference@ucfunds.org.

Ms. Bonds called the order of the day, noting that the evening session will be an Executive Session and is scheduled to begin at 6:15 PM. Mr. Carlson offered the closing prayer. Ms. Bonds declared the session adjourned, the time being 4:45 PM.

FIFTH BUSINESS SESSION

Mr. Wilson called the fifth business session to order, the time being 6:17 PM. He began the session by duly noting that this Board is called to order as one entity representing the board of Local Church Ministries, the board of Wider Church Ministries, and the board of Justice and Witness Ministries. He suggested that if it would be helpful to differentiate between each one, the term covenanted ministries can be used.

There was a motion to reconsider the resolution “A Call for Peace, Justice and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula,” and remove “United Church of Christ Board,” from the title “A Resolution of Witness submitted by Wider Church Ministries/United Church of Christ Board. It was moved and seconded.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-14 to reconsider the resolution “A call for Peace, Justice and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula, and remove “United Church of Christ Board,” from the title “A Resolution of Witness submitted by Wider Church Ministries/United Church of Christ Board.

There was a motion to remove from postponement consideration of the resolution “A call for Peace, Justice and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula. It was moved and seconded.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-15 to remove from postponement consideration of the resolution “A call for Peace, Justice and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula.”

There was one more amendment request to the title for clarity. Currently the title reads, “A Resolution of Witness submitted by Wider Church Ministries”. The request was to further read, “A Resolution of Witness submitted by Wider Church Ministries, a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ.” It was seconded.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-16 to amend the title to read “A Resolution of Witness submitted by Wider Church Ministries, a covenanted ministry of the United Church of Christ.”

There was a request to add an amendment to the last “Finally, be it resolved,” paragraph. To read after bridge-building trips “, in partnership with Global Ministries and their ecumenical partners,” It was moved and seconded.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-17 to amend the “Finally, be it resolved,” paragraph. To read after bridge-building trips “, in partnership with Global Ministries and their ecumenical partners,”

There was a motion to approve the original motion as amended. It was moved and seconded.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-18 to approve the original motion as amended. To add to the “Finally, be it resolved,” paragraph. To read after bridge-building trips “, in partnership with Global Ministries and their ecumenical partners,” (1 Abstention)

**JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRY REPORT ON DISMANTLING
THE SYSTEM OF MASS INCARCERATION**

Ms. Jaramillo gave the report on Dismantling Discriminatory Systems of Mass Incarceration in the United States. The essence of the report is primarily that the United States imprisons more of its own people than any other country in the world. The U.S. comprises 5% of the total global population, it alone accounts for 25% of the world’s prison population. In all there are over seven million people currently subject to the U.S. criminal justice system.

African American males comprise only 6% of the U. S. population, they make up 40% of those in prison or jail. This is related to much of the work, exploration and exposure of the new Jim Crow.

This resolution is a collection of other participants that are a part of this. Conference and local congregations provide opportunities for education, mobilization and public policy advocacy, to turn the tides of institutional racism and economic injustice of mass incarceration in the United States.

There was input and help with refinement of language from the Governance Committee. There has been conversation with a group from the Central Atlantic Conference, a committee in the Michigan Conference, and others who have interest in sponsorship of this resolution.

Ms. Jaramillo made it clear that the committee will not meet again before submission of the resolution by the January 1, 2015 deadline. Therefore, the vote will be to affirmed and to continue collaboration with partners and sponsorship with Justice and Witness Ministry staff regarding the resolution entitled Dismantling the System of Mass Incarceration and further recommend the Justice and Witness Board of Directors endorse the process and content of the resolution as presented, and further to approve the finalized version of this resolution to the Executive Committee of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors for adoption and submission to General Synod, prior to the January 1, 2015 deadline.

It was clarified that there will be an Executive Committee meeting before the January 1, 2015 deadline.

There was a motion to amend the resolution to “Submitted by Justice and Witness Ministries” and strike (United Church of Christ Board) and add “a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ.” It was moved and seconded.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-19 to amend the resolution to “Submitted by Justice and Witness Ministries” and strike (United Church of Christ Board) and add “a covenanted ministry of the United Church of Christ.”

There was a motion to approve the original motion as amended. It was seconded.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-20 to approve the resolution as amended.

There was a question on why the Executive Committee is referenced, other than going directly to General Synod. The response was that this is still in draft and there are anticipated revisions to the language before going on to the Business Committee.

GENERAL COUNSEL

General Counsel advised that there was an Executive Session held on October 11, 2014, and the minutes of that session now need to be appropriately released to the public. Those legal matters discussed in the session, have been resolved. This motion doesn't require a second.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-21 to release the minutes of the Executive Session held on October 11, 2014.

The chair entertained a motion for the fifth business session of the United Church of Christ Board to move into Executive Session. It was so moved.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-22 that the United Church of Christ Board will now move into Executive session, the time being 6:31 PM.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014

SIXTH BUSINESS SESSION

Ms. Bonds called the sixth business session of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors to order, the time being 9:30 AM. She acknowledged receipt of a letter from North Carolina pastor, Rev. Bob Thompson. Mr. Davis, Conference Minister of the Southern Conference, will present a report on the state of his conference and churches at the March meeting.

Ms. Bonds then called on the chair of the Audit Committee for their report.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mr. Croner noted the Committee's conference call held in October. During that call, the committee approved and recommended that the United Church of Christ receive the combined financial reports of the United Church of Christ Boards of Directors and certain affiliates, and the accompanying SAS 114 letter. The Committee also selected the auditor that will audit the books for 2014. There was some discussion the previous day about extending requests for proposals for other audit firms to assure that there are competitive rates and to exhibit fair practice policies. It has been over 10 years since there has been a change.

The conflict of interest reports have been reviewed. The majority of Board Members have submitted a completed report. The reports received do not indicate any concerns that would prevent any member's service to the Board. Mr. Croner also encouraged those who have not submitted their report to do so. It is important to submit these reports annually due to Board policy. Those that do not submit a report will be contacted and are not in compliance. This could result in action being taken.

There was an issue with disbursements of restricted funds in Sri Lanka. The revised policy has been reviewed by legal counsel and auditors and deemed to be appropriate. Moving forward there is now a clear process.

There was discussion relating to procedure and process in the finance and accounting area. The Common Financial Services area has been restructured, and the staff operations have been set up to function more balanced and efficiently. This has resulted in the loss of one staff person.

Ms. Bonds accepted the motion to receive the report of the Audit Committee. The recommendation comes from committee and needs no second.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB 23 to receive the report of the Audit Committee.

SECOND REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

The second report of the Finance and Budget Committee was given by Ms. Bathke and primary focused on Franklinton Center at Bricks. This community is an arm of Justice and Witness Ministries and does work with the underserved community in which it resides in North Carolina.

There have been conversations on budget and finance that would benefit Franklinton Center tremendously and help them move forward to becoming self-sustaining over the next few years.

The Church Building and Loan Fund launched a bold initiative to assist them, and Franklinton Center has really worked to re-invent and re-energize itself. They have also recently submitted an application for the 401c3. Justice and Witness Ministries worked with them on the proposal to forgive the financial debt.

Mr. Croner noted the suggested votes relating to Franklinton Center that are coming from this committee.

The Finance and Budget Committee of the United Church of Christ Board recommends that the United Church of Christ Board approve forgiving the operating debt that resides within Justice and Witness Ministries that was incurred by Franklinton Center at Bricks between 2011 and 2013 totaling \$883,242.16. Further, that the promissory note and other legal documents related to the Justice and Witness Ministries pay off the Center's loan with the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund be amended by legal counsel to include the \$883,242.16. The source of the funds is the Justice and Witness Ministries Unrestricted Endowment Fund.

Ms. Bonds stated that the motion comes from committee and needs no second. She then asked if there was any discussion.

There was a suggestion to hear background and financial history information on all of the recommended actions before each one is presented for a vote so that all of the pieces are heard and give a complete picture.

Ms. Houston, Ms. Jaramillo and Mr. Davis all shared in outlining the history and financial background.

Ms. Houston talked about the 2012 advancement of funds by Justice and Witness Ministries for the necessary repairs of the pool on the center for it to open for the summer season.

Ms. Jaramillo shared that the Budget and Finance Committee has heard all of the history and met with the leaders of Franklinton Center and had ongoing conversations with the previous Justice and Witness Board of Trustees. She went on to share their history with the United Church of Christ and noted the campaign and funds that allowed Franklinton Center to be built.

Ms. Jaramillo talked about the agreed covenant that both Justice and Witness Ministries and Franklinton Center entered into in 2009 that included a five-year plan for management.

The deficit is coming from operations. The deficit is largely due to serious deferred maintenance on campus. Operations are in alignment with the call of the new director in 2011 and a change in staffing. The Partners in Vision Program that is part of the Church Building and Loan Fund is contributing to Franklinton Center's economic strategy.

Mr. Davis shared that so much time is spent talking about money but not enough time talking about vision and ministry. If this continues, the "sacred" portion will be lost. He talked about the ministry and mission shared at Franklinton Center that represents the identity of the United Church of Christ. He talked about supporting Franklinton Center while it connects with the Conference and Association in its vision to continue providing service to the community.

A discussion followed relating to forgiving the debt. It was asked what the projection of the operating budget would be going forward, and noted that a report would be needed from AIM outlining their conclusion. More information was requested on deferring maintenance and an appraisal of the property. The questions were asked as to the Board's commitment and what the cost to the center would be if the decision was postponed until March? Additional information was requested from the Finance and Budget Committee. It was noted that the center is in a midst of turnaround efforts financially and in other ways.

In response to the remarks and questions, it was stated that the reports are, and have been, available. The reports have been reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee and can be made available to the full Board. Subsequently, AIM does regular reporting as well. This sharing and getting information has been done for over a year before coming to this decision, and a lot of education has been received.

There was a motion to postpone the vote on all three recommendations until the March meeting, with a request to receive all requested information.

In response to the request for postponement, concerns were lifted from several members about the impact this would have. There was concern that postponement regarding Franklinton Center would show that the ones who have done the work on this aren't trusted. There was much concern expressed with a delay. There will be both an emotional and historical cost to the delay. This decision must not be just a now decision, but a sustainable decision. The work has been done and it is not likely that the decision of the committee will be reversed. So the decision should not be postponed.

In response to the question on postponing repairs to the pool, Ms. Houston stated that the line of credit has been extended.

Ms. Jaramillo expressed Justice and Witness Ministries and the Committee's willingness to comply with all of the members' requests for written information, along with requesting personal appearances for reporting from AIM and Mr. Patrick Duggan of the Church Building and Loan Fund, if needed.

The first motion would be to secure the loan and to get a promissory note in place with a clause that the Trustees make a decision to go out of business or sell property assets that are legally owned.

Mr. Wilson offered a suggested compromise to get the information to Board Members and schedule a conference call to vote on the recommendations before the March meeting.

There was a request to amend the original motion for postponement to include scheduling a conference call before December 31, 2014, followed by a request that the Committee minutes be posted immediately after its meetings.

There was a request to call the question. It was moved and seconded.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-24 to call the question to close the discussion on the amendment to change the date on the original motion.

Ms. Bonds called the vote to change the date of the postponement to a conference call prior to December 31, 2014. It was moved and seconded.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-25 to change the date of the postponement to a conference call prior to December 31, 2014.

Ms. Bonds called for a vote on the motion to postpone recommendations from the Finance and Budget Committee as amended. It was moved and seconded.

**The vote was
DEFEATED**

Ms. Bonds called on a vote to forgive the operating debt at Franklinton Center. This recommendation comes from committee and does not require a second.

Discussion followed with questions on the language and what it affects. The money has already been spent. If approved, this frees Franklinton Center from paying these monies, but puts a lien on the property. If the property is ever sold or closed, then there is a legal recourse to reclaim the \$883,242.16. The property has been tax appraised at \$6.5 million.

There was a motion to call the question. It was moved and seconded.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-26 to close the discussion on the vote to forgive the debt at Franklinton Center.

Ms. Bonds called for a vote on the recommendation to forgive the debt at Franklinton Center. This motion comes from committee and does not require a second.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-27 to approve the recommendation from the Finance and Budget Committee to forgive the debt at Franklinton Center. (1 NO vote)

Ms. Bonds called for the vote on the recommendation of the Finance and Budget Committee relating to pool repairs. This recommendation is comes from committee and does not require a second.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-28 to approve the recommendation of the Finance and Budget Committee that the United Church of Christ Board provide a formal request to the Franklinton Center at Bricks Trustees that the pool repairs (\$53,247.00) be repaid to Justice and Witness Ministries no later than December 31, 2017. (1 Abstention)

Ms. Bonds called for the vote on the recommendation of the Finance and Budget Committee to approve extending a secured line of credit to Franklinton Center. This recommendation comes from committee and does not require a second.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-29 to approve the recommendation of the Finance and Budget Committee that the United Church of Christ Board approve extending a secured line of credit up to \$450,000 to Franklinton Center at Bricks to meet cash flow needs for the years 2014 through 2020 and that a formal agreement between the United Church of Christ Board and Franklinton Center at Bricks that provides the terms of the secured line of credit be drafted by legal counsel and signed by the appropriate board members of both organizations.

REPORT OF THE COLLEGIUM RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Ms. Bonds acknowledged that she chairs the Collegium Relations Committee and asked that the committee members stand and be recognized.

In prior years the Collegium Relations Committee did not submit a report and those sessions were held in confidence. This committee was developed because each executive reported to a different board. The current format works closely together in looking at unified governance and moving forward. The Collegium model is not the model of today going forward. Especially, in light of the new General Minister and President job description that is forthcoming, as well as for the other executives. It is also time to bury the term “Collegium.” Alternative terms will be determined.

Highlighted in the Officers Report that was given at the Fall meeting, talked about reducing the number of executives and how feasible this might be.

Unified governance has change the understanding of the Collegium and needs further refinement.

There was a suggestion that the Officers should be celebrated in a powerful way for how they have created something new from something old. This has been difficult to navigate and fix. The members responded by standing and applauding.

REPORT OF THE DANIEL HAND FUND

This is a six member board. This fund was created in 1888 by Daniel Hand. He was a businessman that was sympathetic to the plight of former slaves. He gave more than \$1 million to the American Missionary Association to be held in trust for the education of former slaves and their descendants. That \$1 million value today is around \$9.5 million. The ideas for use were establishment of schools, maintenance of those schools and scholarships. What has been traditionally done, and is the recommendation to continue to do, is to appropriate the 5% draw from the original \$1million investment, which would be \$399,201.95, to be split equally among the entities of postsecondary educational institutions, Dillard University, Fisk University, Hutson Tulletson University, LeMoyne-Owen College, Talledega College and Tugaloo College as well as the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans. There would be two annual disbursements to each institution of \$57,030.28 each. This is the recommendation from the committee.

Ms. Bonds called for vote on the report of the Daniel Hand Fund. This recommendation is coming from committee and requires no second.

It was VOTED

14-10-UCCB-30 to approve the recommendation of the Daniel Hand Fund.

REPORT OF THE CHHSM EXECUTIVE

Mr. Sickbert hoped to announce the new executive for CHSSM, but that isn't known to date. There will be a board meeting on Monday to make that selection, and the successor will be announced early that week.

Mr. Sickbert noted that his report is more of a theological reflection.

At this meeting, leadership comments resonate with what he has tried to say. Find where God is at work and identify it. It has most to do with work that is done elsewhere that is identified. Then there was the statement about gospel clarity. Being church, opposed to about church. One gift that isn't celebrated is the capacity as the Church to cut through difficult situations, with gospel clarity. It is why this church is appreciated. It touches on ecclesiology that the church is unpredictably the community, to offer hope where no one else does.

He shared a story relating to offering unpredictable hope to children in Central America, from Bethany Children's home in Southeastern, PA.

Mr. Sickbert hopes to be about church during his retirement.

REMARKS IN APPRECIATION OF BRYAN SICKBERT

Mr. Black took a point of personal privilege. He noted that Franklinton Center hosted the African American Women in Ministry Conference the previous week. This conference was started by Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson and Dr. Yvonne Delk. The conference has grown with the support of the covenanted ministries. There were 90 African American women who attended the conference, and there were 19 conferences represented.

Mr. Black noted that he has met with some of the presidents of the colleges that benefit from the Daniel Hand Fund and the grants are deeply appreciated by them. They feel very connected to the United Church of Christ.

Mr. Black invited Mr. Sickbert forward to give him thanks for 23 years of service to the Church and to the CHHSM ministry. Mr. Sickbert was then presented with a gift from the Board in appreciation of his service.

Ms. Bonds noted that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will take place in Cleveland March 19-21, 2015.

Ms. Bonds declared the agenda complete and the sixth business session was adjourned, the time being 11:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michell Farrow
Recorder