

**MINUTES
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**HILTON BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE, MD**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2017
(12:00 NOON EASTERN TIME)**

The meeting of the United Church of Christ Executive Committee was opened with prayer and a blessing on the meal by Thea Racelis.

The meeting was called to order by Dale Bonds, Chair at 12:49. The gathered read the Behavioral Covenant.

Committee Members Present: Dale Bonds, Frank Bolden, Maritza Angulo de Gonzalez; Sue Artt; Caroline Belsom; Brian R. Bodager; Geoffrey Brace; Carolyne Call; Dennis Coy; John C. Dorhauer; Edward Davis; Mike Denton; William Edwards; Robert Frieberg; David Gaewski; Gilberto Garcia-Rodriquez; Darrell Goodwin; Carla Gregg-Kearns; Don Hart; Richard Harter; Emily Heath; Wesley Hurt; Alice W. Hunt; Noah Jensen Tabor; Nesa Joseph; James Maki; Douglas McClelland; Brittini Melius; Yesenia Menendez-Sanchez; Keith Mills; James Moos; Jorge Morales; David Nelson; Kevin Omi; Kevin Peterson; Thea Racelis; Michael Readinger; Inez Reid; Ernesto (Ernie) Reyes; Dwayne Royster; Carol Shipley; Gary Schulte; William Tanner; Norman Williams; Frances Q.F. Wong; Yvette Wynn;

Excused: Linda Bigner, Dennis Coy, Hannah Snyder-Samuelsan

A quorum was declared by the Register.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS VOTED:

17-06-UCCB-01 to approve the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA which contained:

March 2017 Minutes

Grant Voice without Vote to Staff and Others Advising the UCC Board of Directors:
David Anderson, Lee Foly, Jan Gomoll, Richard Hilbrich, Stephen Jones, Ann Kiernozek, Heather Kimmel, Alisa Lewis, Linda Long, Ron Nowak, Denise Pittman, Dianne Roberts, Valerie Smith, Christina Villa, Cheryl Williams.

Receive the Minutes of the May 12, 2017 Executive Committee meeting.

IT WAS VOTED:
17-06-UCCB-02 to approve the Consent Agenda

ELECTION OF AISHIA A. BROWN TO THE UCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

IT WAS VOTED:
17-06-UCCB-03 to elect Aishia A. Brown to the United Church of Christ Board of Directors as an At-Large member, filling a vacancy in the class of 2019

RESCIND THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING ACTION OF 2015

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Rescinding the UCC Board of Directors action of 2015 concerning the Strengthen the Church Offering.

BACKGROUND:

John Dorhauer spoke to the motion. The Twenty-Ninth General Synod debated the challenges of managing educational expenses for members in discernment and the possibility of repurposing the Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering as a resource towards addressing this issue.

Historically, the distribution formula for Strengthen the Church receipts has been that 50% is retained by the Conferences, and of the 50% retained by the National Setting, 90% is allocated to LCM for grants to select new and renewing congregations, and 10% is allocated for Still Speaking initiatives.

At its March 2015 meeting, the UCC Board of Directors approved a resolution, effective 2015, to repurpose the Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering so that 100% of the receipts would be remitted to the National Setting in support of two distinct purposes: (1) 50% to direct grants to UCC Members in Discernment who are pursuing authorized ministry in the UCC, (2) 50% to competitive grants to select new and renewing congregations.

Recognizing at that time that this action would require time for Conferences and Local Church Ministries to adjust to this change, the expectation was established that all settings would reach full participation by 2017. LCM and the Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship were charged with overseeing development of strategies for implementation and distribution.

After passing this 2015 Board action, it was determined that this new allocation formula could potentially provide considerable disruption to the financial health of some Conferences. In addition, reallocating the Strengthen the Church Offering in this manner would not likely provide significantly meaningful impact to the financial challenges of Members in Discernment. This action has not been implemented by the National Setting. Therefore, it is requested that the Board of Directors formally rescind this 2015 action.

A motion was made to grant voice without vote to Ron Patterson so that he could speak to the motion.

IT WAS VOTED:

17-06-UCCB-04 to grant Voice without Vote to Ron Patterson

IT WAS VOTED:

17-06-UCCB-05 to Rescind the UCC Board of Directors action of 2015 concerning the Strengthen the Church Offering.

MOTION FOR FURTHER ACTION REGARDING STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

A motion was made for further action on the previous action to form a task force which would include the Board of Directors, Council of Conference Ministers, seminary students and representatives from the seminaries to make a recommendation regarding funding and to report back by the fall of 2018.

IT WAS VOTED:

17-06-UCCB 06 to form a task force for further action.

RECEIVING THE COMBINED AUDIT REPORT

IT WAS VOTED:

17-06-UCCB-07 to receive the combined **AUDIT Report**

ELECTION OF CORPORATE MEMBERS OF UNITED CHURCH FUNDS

Background: The corporate membership of United Church Funds is comprised of 15 persons nominated and elected by the United Church of Christ Board for terms of six years each (these people also serve as the Board of Directors).

In addition, the Chair of the United Church of Christ Board and General Minister and President are ex-officio members. One third of the elected membership is elected each biennium and serves until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

The Class of 2023 needs to be elected at this meeting of the United Church of Christ Board to begin serving its term at the end of General Synod in accordance with the Bylaws of United Church Funds. The Bylaws of United Church Funds and the United Church of Christ require that at least two people elected to a class be people not currently serving on the corporate membership of United Church Funds.

In addition, there is a vacancy in the Class of 2019. The governance committee of United Church Funds is requesting that the following people be elected to the corporate membership of United Church Funds:

Class of 2023
 Charles Buck; Edith Guffey; Lisa Hinds; *Connie Lindsey; *Wade Zick

Class of 2019
 Brian Holeman

*Not currently serving

IT WAS VOTED:

17-06-UCCB-08 to elect the above named individuals to the corporate membership of the United Church Funds.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD OF DIRECTORS – SITTING AS THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF THE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD

GRANT VOICE WITHOUT VOTE

IT WAS VOTED:

17-06-UCCB-09 to grant Voice without Vote to Resource Persons to the General Synod:

RECOMMENDED ACTION; the Business Committee recommends the following staff and resource persons be granted Voice at the Thirty-First General Synod for the corresponding event or their Synod responsibility.

David Anderson	Coordinator-Committee Process Team
Traci Blackmon Nominator	JWM Ex. Min. Nomination Speech
Don Clark	Presenter-Shaping Our Future Campaign
Ken Daniel	Speak Out Coordinator
Christine Davies	Presenter-New Church Start Recognition
Joel Dopico	Presenter-Caribbean Initiative
Lee Foley	Synod Administrator
Richard Hilbrich	Associate General Counsel
Denise Page Hood	Parliamentarian
Steve Jones	Chief Financial Officer
Heather Kimmel	General Counsel
Corey Larson	Agenda Coordinator
Aaron Mair	Keynote Speaker
Glennon Doyle Melton	Keynote Speaker
Movement Makers Honorees	Movement Makers Award
Reps. of Youth@Synod	Youth Perspective Event
Carolyn Roberts	Presenter-John Deckenback Tribute
Raven Rowe	Theological Reflector
Valerie Smith	Associate Synod Administrator
Karen Georgian Thompson	Presenter-Ecumenical Guests

Libby Tigner	Parliamentarian
Jill White	Presenter-John Deckenback Tribute
Damaris Whittaker	Theological Reflector

BACKGROUND; staff and other resource persons, presenters and others who will or may be required to speak during business sessions of the General Synod are required to hold voice before making their presentation. This is a recommendation to the Synod to take such action during the First Plenary. Those individuals listed here will, or are likely to, need such authority of the Synod.

SYNOD COMMITTEE LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

IT WAS VOTED:

17-06-UCCB-10 to accept notice of the Synod Committee Liaison Appointments: Caroline Belson, Carolyne Call, Darrell Goodwin, Carla Gregg-Kearns, Richard Harter, Nesa Joseph, Brittni Melius, David Nelson, Kevin Peterson, Ernesto "Ernie" Reyes, Dwayne Royster, Carol Shipley, Noah Jensen Tabor, Frances Wong, Ron Patterson.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISPOSITION

The Committee on Disposition moves:

The United Church Board adopts the Second Report of the Committee on Disposition

Second Report of the Committee on Disposition

The Committee on Disposition recommends:

The United Church Board receives the item of business submitted to the Thirty First General Synod after the January 2, 2017 deadline and prior to the June 9, 2017 deadline. The United Church Board recommends disposition as follows:

**THE EARTH IS THE LORD’S – NOT OURS TO WRECK
IMPERATIVES FOR A NEW MORAL ERA**

Submitted by the Southern California Nevada Conference

A Resolution of Witness

The United Church Board recommends affirming that it meets the *Could Not Have Been Anticipated* paragraph XI 3c)1)ii) in the Standing Rules of the Thirty-First General Synod, and

The United Church Board recommends referral to a Committee of the General Synod

IT WAS VOTED:

17-06-UCCB-11 to accept the report of the Committee on Disposition

APPROVE THIRTY-FIRST GENERAL SYNOD AGENDA

IT WAS VOTED:

17-06-UCCB-12 to approve the Final Thirty-First General Synod Agenda

GENERAL SYNOD XXXI DETAILED AGENDA

Last Updated: 6/6/2017 at 9:17 AM

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 30, 2017

PLENARY 1

Gathering Music
Opening Worship
Moderator Welcome/Call to Order
Welcome from the Central Atlantic Conference
Introduction of General Synod Leadership
Report of Credentials Committee/Organization of General Synod
Quorum Declared
Explanation of Electronic Voting
Adoption of the General Synod Agenda
Granting Voice to Resource Persons
Initial Report of the Board of Directors including Introduction of Slate for
Nominating Committee
Report of the General Synod Nominating Committee
Committee on Disposition Report/Empowering Business Committee to Make
Referrals of New Business for Action
Introduction of New Business (by title only)
Announcements
Recess

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 1, 2017

PLENARY 2

Gathering Music/Prayer Service
Call to Order
Introduction of Honored Guests
Introduction of Ecumenical Guests
Introduction of Overseas Guests
Nomination and Speech of JWM Candidate
Movement Makers Award
Glennon Doyle Melton Keynote
Report of the General Minister and President
Theological Formation Summit Presentation
New Church Start Parade
Announcements
Tribute to John Deckenback

**SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 2, 2017
PLENARY 3**

Call to Order and Sponsor Commercial #1
Speak Out!
Theological Reflectors
Committee Block A
Budget Presentation and Vote
Music /Stretch Break
Election of JWM Officer/Recognition of the Officers/Collegium
Committee Block B
Theological Reflectors
Announcements
Recess

**MONDAY MORNING, JULY 3, 2017
PLENARY 4**

Call to Order and Sponsor Commercial #2
Speak Out!
Theological Reflectors
Election of United Church Board/Election of General Synod XXXII Moderator
and Assistant Moderator/Election of Nominating Committee
Committee Block C
Recognition of New and Retiring Conference Ministers
Committee Block D
Music/Stretch Break
Aaron Mair Keynote
Theological Reflectors
Announcements
Recess

**MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 3, 2017
PLENARY 5**

Call to Order and Sponsor Commercial #3
Speak Out!
Theological Reflectors
Committee Block E
Caribbean Initiative
Committee Block F
Shaping Our Future Campaign
Theological Reflectors
Announcements
Recess

**MONDAY EVENING JULY 3, 2017
PLENARY 6**

Call to Order
Speak Out!
Theological Reflectors
Committee Block G
Purpose, Vision, and Mission Statement (Three Great Loves)
Theological Reflectors
Announcements
Recess (following Evening Worship)
Worship

**TUESDAY MORNING JULY 4, 2017
PLENARY 7**

Call to Order
Speak Out!
Theological Reflectors
Presentation by General Synod Youth
Committee Block H
Music/Stretch Break
Recognition of National Staff
Committee Block I
Theological Reflectors
Announcements
Recess

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON JULY 4, 2017
PLENARY 8**

Call to Order
Speak Out!
Theological Reflectors
Thanks to General Synod Program and Planning Committee
Committee Block H
Thanks to/Recognition of Local Arrangements Committee
Invitation to General Synod XXXII
Installation of General Synod XXXII Moderator and Assistant Moderator
Final Theological Reflection
Motion to Adjourn at the Close of Worship
Closing Worship Service

Lee Foley made a presentation regarding General Synod Orientation and Distribution of Electronic voting devices, including backup voting protocol.

Lee Foley also did a brief General Synod Walk-through.

Frank Bolden provided some remarks and distributed gifts to honor to Honor the Class of 2017.

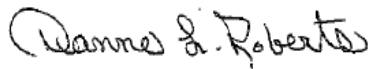
Dale Bonds provided remarks as the outgoing chair.

Frank Bolden provided remarks as the incoming chair.

- The UCC Board of Directors will meet at 5:15 pm Friday, sitting as the General Synod Business Committee, only if new business is introduced during the First Plenary Session. (There will be no meeting if no new business is introduced.)

Dwayne Royster closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dianne L. Roberts".

Dianne Robert – Recorder

June 29, 2017