

**Minutes of the Executive Committee of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors
A Conference Call
1:00 PM, EDT, Thursday, September 19, 2013**

The meeting was called to order, the Chair, Mr. Bernard Wilson presiding, the time being 1:01 PM, EDT, Thursday, September 19, 2013.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Lee Foley to call the roll. Members present; Mr. Wilson, Vice Chair, Ms. Dale Bonds, Ms. Maritza Angola de Gonzales, Ms. Sue Artt, Mr. Geoffrey Black, Mr. J. Bennett Guess, Mr. Brian Holeman, Ms. M. Linda Jaramillo, Mr. James Moos, Mr. Ronald Patterson, Ms. Christina Phillips. Mr. Rich Pleva. All members of the Committee were present and Mr. Wilson declared a quorum.

Mr. Wilson noted that Directors, Ms. Joyce Bathke, Chair of the Board's Finance and Budget Committee and Ms. Caroline Belsom, Chair of the Board's Investment and Endowment Committee were present, as were staff members, Mr. Donald C. Clark, Mr. W. Mark Clark, Mr. Foley, Ms. Kathy Houston, Ms. Ann Kiernozek and Ms. Heather Kimmel.

Mr. Black offered an opening prayer for the membership and the work before it.

Mr. Wilson asked for consent to grant voice without vote to Ms. Bathke, Ms. Belsom and the members of the staff who were present, and;

BY CONSENT

13-10-ExComm-02 voice without vote is granted to Ms. Joyce Bathke, Ms. Caroline Belsom, Mr. Donald C. Clark, Mr. W. Mark Clark, Mr. Lee Foley, Ms. Kathy Houston, Ms. Ann Kiernozek and Ms. Heather Kimmel.

Mr. Wilson explained the purpose of the meeting was to provide for a means of achieving a long-term solution to the finance problems facing the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. He asked Ms. Bathke and Ms. Belsom to outline the work their respective committees have so far taken.

Ms. Bathke said the committee had met three times since the Board of Directors meeting in Long Beach California at the start of July. She reported the committee had ultimately changed the allocations for the three Covenanted Ministries and the Office of the General Minister and President to more evenly spread the anticipated 2.4 million dollar shortfall for the 2014 budget year.

Ms. Belsom reported her committee has so far met twice and would meet again, on September 24, to consider the draw rates on invested income. She said, at present, the committee has directed that budgets be prepared using the draw rates currently set and in practice.

Mr. Patterson asked Ms. Houston for current draw rates and she provided a history, noting both Local Church and Wider Church Ministries had recently come in below their authorized levels and that while Justice and Witness has been running in excess of its target, its Board of Directors in the former governing structure of the Church, had directed that its authorized draw rate be lowered in successive years to bring it to five percent. The former Covenanted Ministry, the Office of General Ministries, because of insufficient invested income, had historically drawn at a significantly higher rate and that continues to be the problem now, as the first unified budget is being prepared, to include the new entity, the Office of the General Minister and President.

Mr. Patterson asked if the draw rates authorized by the Investment and Endowment Committee would cover the anticipated 2.4 million dollars shortfall and Ms. Houston answered that it would, but that would cause a significant drain on invested income and Mr. Wilson said that was the whole purpose of bringing the issue before the Executive Committee, that such draw rates were unsustainable and expenses need to be reduced in the long-term.

Mr. Black reported he and the other members of the Collegium of Officers, Mr. Guess, Ms. Jaramillo and Mr. Moos were prepared to deal with the issue and bring a plan or timeline to the October meeting of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Pleva, who also sits on the Finance and Budget Committee, said he has recently been cheered and encouraged by the Collegium's frankness and willingness to deal with the issue.

Mr. Patterson offered parameters for the Collegium, as it moves forward, saying he hoped there would be no cuts in the Development Ministry, urging members to understand the work of the Development Ministry or in other "growth engines." Mr. Guess said efforts would be made, across the board, to get the biggest bang for the buck, that bigger didn't always mean better and he and his colleagues would keep that principle in mind as they develop their plan.

Mr. Guess said he had been working on such a plan over the past few days, had consulted Ms. Houston before coming into the meeting and had, minutes before the start of the meeting, sent it to the other members of the Collegium. Mr. Black said the members of the Collegium would be looking at the proposal as a starting point at its regularly scheduled meetings and several additional meeting they have scheduled to keep their commitment to have a plan for presentation to the Board of Directors in October. Mr. Guess said, "We are past point A and taking this very seriously."

News that a plan is already under review was greeted with great enthusiasm by the members of the committee and Mr. Guess was thanked for his initiative.

Mr. Wilson asked the membership to take a look at the circulated draft agenda for the October meeting. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mr. Wilson advised the membership that it would meet once more, by teleconference, prior to its face-to-face meeting during the October meeting of the Board of Directors. He set that call for 1:00 PM, Wednesday, October 2, 2013.

There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee Mr. Wilson, presiding, declared it adjourned, the time being 1:37 PM, EDT. Thursday, September 19, 2013.

Respectfully submitted;

Lee Foley

Assistant Secretary to the Corporation

The United Church of Christ Board of Directors

September 19, 2013