

## Connectional Table Meeting - Atlanta, Georgia

February 23, 2023 - 1:00 PM

### Attendance

#### Present (V indicates Voting Member):

Arroyo	Giovanni
Belles	Sarah V
Birch	Ole V
Brown	Shareka V
Calentine	Raggatha V
Campbell	Jeff
Cleaver III	Emanuel V
Coles	Amy V
Deere	Josephine V
DeVine	Jerome V
Dharmaraj	Jacob V
Dyck	Sally V
Fernandes	Roland
Hill	John
Johnson	Theon III V
Jones	Beverly V
Jung	Markus V
Kitete	Prosper V
Malone	Tracy S. V
Moore-Koikoi	Cynthia V
Murphy	Tonya V
Muyombo	Mande V
Norwood	Regina V
Nuckols	Dave V
Olson	Harriett V
Prudente	Karen V
Rooks	Jessica V
Sermonia	Jovito V
Simpson	Kim V
Slaughter	Mike V
Swanney	Doug
Wiggins-Hare	Dawn

#### Present on Zoom:

Arnold, Greg	
Bergquist	Greg
Boggan	Ashley
Evans	Cashar V
Graves	Gary
Jung	Hee-Soo V
Krause	Dan

Kumar	Moses
Meekins	William V
Milford	Brian
Mueller	Gary V
Perez	Lyssette V
Steiner-Ball	Sandra V

#### Guest on Zoom:

Dease	Robin
King	Rick
Mai	Danny
Olson	Harriet
Vance	Rick

#### Regrets:

Aguila	Pete V
Burgos Nunez	Hector V
Francisco	Ciriaco V
Gable	Dena
Gatdula	Venus Mae V
Harvey	Cynthia Fierro V
Hendren	Andrew
Jen	Mike Dio V
McKee	Michael V
Nelson	Kenneth V
Nhambiu-Penicela	Benedita V
Tuitahi	Monalisa V

#### In-Person Guests:

Agbossoumonde	Mireille (Interpreter)
Chadwell	Jodi (GCFA Meeting Planner)
Delaporte	Luc (Interpreter)
Eubanks	Celeste
Patterson	James (UMNews)
Dopke	Cynthia

#### Staff:

Hopkins	Kacie (via zoom)
Kenaston	Judi
Killian	Grace
Roberts	Frances

## **Summary of Action Items**

**February 25, 2023**

### **Session II Committee Reports:**

- Expand the term for the Interim CCMO up until General Conference of 2024. No later than July 31, 2024 was affirmed unanimously.
- Welcome and Approval of New Board Members Rev. Dr. Theon Johnson, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey was affirmed unanimously.
- Travel Authorization Policy Proposal clarifications were affirmed unanimously

### **Session IV**

- Motion to add one DMYP member to the Connectional Table was approved.
- Motion to include at least 2 women, to include 1 female Clergy and 1 female Lay Person to the Connectional Table was approved
- Motion to use “jurisdictions” in the proposal was approved
- Confirmation of all of the Amendments were approved

### **Budget Allocations Team Report:**

- Support of the updated allocations algorithm was approved.
- Motion for the Connectional Table to recommend 18% as amended by the Budget Allocations Team was approved.



### **Opening** by Bishop Mande Muyombo, President of the Connectional Table

Bishop Muyombo expressed gratitude for the General Board of Global Ministries hosting our meeting and special thanks to the staff for all their work.

### **Welcome & Greetings**

- ❖ Bishop Robin Dease, Resident Bishop of North Georgia Conference
- ❖ Mr. Roland Fernandes, General Secretary of General Board of Global Ministries

### **Opening Worship**

- ❖ Call to Worship-
- ❖ Opening Hymn-For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
- ❖ Land Acknowledgement-
- ❖ Prayers of the People
- ❖ The Lord’s Prayer
- ❖ Hymn: Come and Find the Quiet Center

- ❖ Scripture: Romans 15:1-6, 23-26 (*Read in Danish*)
- ❖ Bishop Mande Muyombo- Preaching  
Sermon: “The Collections for the Saints”
- ❖ Closing Hymn-How Firm a Foundation
- ❖ Benediction-Bishop Tracy Malone

**Session I:** Dr. David Field-Faith Working Through Love and the Future of the UMC

Highlighting (3) themes:

1. A Wesleyan and Methodist Understanding of Theology
  - ❖ Wesley’s Context: Deism and Orthodoxy
  - ❖ Wesley’s Description of Christian Doctrine:
    - It describes genuine Christian Character-Sermon on the Mount & 1 Corinthians 13
    - It promises that we can attain this character.
    - It describes how this character can be attained.
    - All other Christian’s doctrines are related to these.
2. The Centrality of Sanctification
  - ❖ Wesley’s Context: Antinomianism & Legalism
  - ❖ Wesley’s Proposal- “faith working through Love”-Holiness
    - Reject a simplistic dichotomy between law and grace.
    - If the center and climax of a Wesleyan understanding of salvation is a life permeated by love, then the way we promote and argue for our understanding of this tradition must be characterized by love. When we act contrary to love we cease to be Wesleyan.
    - Christians ought to have a particular intense love for their fellow Christians-working for the unity of the church both within our denomination and with other denominations is an imperative of holiness.
3. Integrated Holiness
  - ❖ The genius of Wesleyan theology is that there is no personal holiness that is not social holiness, and there is no social holiness that is not personal holiness.
  - ❖ Genuine personal transformation is expressed in social holiness, Wesley states: “it is true that the root of religion lies in the heart.....but if this root be really I the heart it cannot but put forth branches.
  - ❖ It is through engagement in actively seeking the welfare of others that we are personally transformed. “Methodist have always been careful not to separate the ways we relate directly to God”.

Conclusions

1. How does “faith working through love” not as book but as a lived reality shape the way you plan and organize for the church into the future?
2. How can you equip and enable the UMC to become church in which people experience the transforming grace of God that leads to lives characterized by working through love?

3. How can The UMC become a church which embodies faith working through love in its structures, congregations, and conferences?
4. Does your work as the CC embody the kind of that love that Wesley described?
5. How can we facilitate that conferences and congregations recover their mission of spreading scriptural holiness that is lives permeated by love, throughout the world?

### **Session II:** Business Session

- ❖ Judi Kenaston, Connectional Table Interim Chief Connectional Ministries Officer
  - Introduction of Connectional Table Staff
    - Frances Roberts
    - Grace Killian
    - Kacie Hopkins
    - Jodi Chadwell – GCFA Staff, Meeting Planner
- ❖ Roll Call – 32 voting members present, in-person and on zoom. We have a quorum.
- ❖ Election of New Members
  - Rev. Dr. Theon Johnson, (to be elected – affirmed)
  - Assigned
  - Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball
  - Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey
- ❖ Prayer: Judi Kenaston
- ❖ Onboarding Session
  - Ms. Celeste Eubanks, Onboarding Facilitator, Director of Connectional Ministries, Alabama-West Florida Conference, Deaconess in the UMC

Onboarding Group Activity Questions for Judi Kenaston & Bishop Muyombo.

Dinner Break

### **Session III:** Bishop Mande Muyombo & Judi Kenaston

- Judi Kenaston
- [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) activity- What word comes to mind when you think about The United Methodist Church in the last year?
- What words sums up your hope for The Connectional Table?
- Strengths-Phil. 4:13 (paraphrased)
- Challenges-2 Corinthians 12:9 (CEB)
- Objective One: Provide a forum for the understanding and implementation for the vision, mission and ministries of the global church.
- Objective Two: Enables the flow of information and communication
- Objective Three: Coordinates the program life of the church with the mandates of the Gospel, The UMC's mission and global needs.

- Objective Four: Evaluates the missional effectiveness of program agencies and connectional structures and recommends changes for denominational effectiveness.
- Objective Five: Provides leadership in planning and research to evaluate needs and plan strategies.
- Objective Six: Collaborates with the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) to prepare budgets for the apportioned funds in (806.1 and 810.1)
- Objective Seven: Reviews general agency budgets and approves special offerings and church-wide appeals.

### Moving Forward

- Regionalization
- Centrality of Connectional Table
- 2024 General Conference Preparations
- CT's Work post-General Conference
- Transformation: At the Intersection of Church and World
- Gathering at the Table
- ❖ Question: What is your Hope for the United Methodist Church in three words?
  
- ❖ Presentation to Bishop Mande Muyombo from CT Staff and Members
  
- ❖ Closing Remarks and Reflection-Bishop Mande Muyombo
  
- ❖ Closing & Evening Devotions-Rev. Grace Killian
  
- Remembrance of Baptism
  
- ❖ Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

## Connectional Table Meeting - Atlanta, Georgia

February 24, 2023 - 9:30 AM

### Session I

- ❖ Morning Devotions – Rev. Markus Jung
  - “Give Thanks”
  - Song: “All You Need Is Love” by The Beatles
  - Scripture:
  - Song: “Still” by Hillsong Worship
  - Blessing in German

### Session II

- ❖ Bishop Mande Muyombo, CT President
  - Welcome of Connectional Table Members that have arrived today
- ❖ Connectional Table Onboarding (Continues)
  - Judi Kenaston, CT ICCMO
    - Self-Care is exercise and walking, getting her steps (7,000 a day is goal)
    - Grief Care-lost both parents last year
    - Leadership Experience in the UMC-started in college with the Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministries for her Conference.
    - Inspiration to be the CCMO-never had any inspiration to be the CCMO, but was inspired by close family, friends, and her Bishop.

### Session III:

- ❖ Board Makeup Task Force & Small Group Discussion-Ecumenical Officer ( Bishop Sally Dyck & Rev. Amy Coles)
- ❖ CT Board Task Force-Rev. Amy Coles
  - CT Make-Up Proposal presented
  - Highlighted The Connectional Table’s Purpose
- ❖ Small Group Table Discussions (Questions)
  1. How will the new purposed structure enable the CT to accomplish our purpose according to the *Book of Discipline*, Section 904?
  2. Does the proposal ensure a diverse and equitable representation of persons across the connection? Why or Why not?

### Session IV:

- ❖ GCFA Presentation, by Rick King and Moses Kumar
  - Denominational Circumstances
  - Denominational Base is Shrinking

- Conference Survey Results (July 2022)
- Church Closures by Year and Region (review of report on GCFA website)
- Number of Active Churches 2013-2022
- Recommendation: Apportionment Sustainability Taskforce
- Rate of Apportionments is sharply declining
- NOTE: this recommendation will go before the General Conference for a vote. GCFA Board approved recommendation to reduce the Base Percentage by 25% in 2025-2028.
- Overall General Church Apportionments declining by 40%

### Questions & Discussions

- ❖ Report of the Budget Allocations Committee, Dave Nuckols-CT Treasurer
  - Presented budget figures based on the base percentage rate of 18% and 25%
  - Budget Allocations Team is recommending the allocation based on the 18% base rate.
  - Other considerations of the budget allocations team were based on the church's stated vision, values and mission.
  - Some agencies will be allocated on a fixed rate and others on a percentage.
  - This allocation formula will be the same regardless of the base rate.
  - Greg Arnold, UMMEN asked for clarification of where the UMMEN will be fixed rate or percentage.

### Session V:

- ❖ Regionalism Conversation
  - Discussion Questions at tables and in larger session.
    1. What are the values that the CT sees that undergird regionalism?
    2. What other concerns do you see that we as the CT should share with the Standing Committee?
    3. Do you have input on who should be part of the task force?

## Connectional Table Meeting - Atlanta, Georgia

February 25, 2023 - 9:30 AM

### Session I:

- ❖ Morning Devotions – Raggatha Calentine
- ❖ Identity, Vision, Connectionalism, and Mission-Rev. Grace Killian
  - Proposal
  - Tuesdays at The Table
  - Recurring Themes
  - Articulate The Vision (Book of Discipline, 2016, Section 904)
  - Group Discussion & Reporting Out

### Session II

- ❖ Committee Reports
  - Leadership Discernment and Community Life (LDCL)-Rev. Amy Coles
    - Expand the Interim CCMO up until General Conference of 2024. No later than July 31, 2024.
      - Vote: Decision was Affirmed unanimously
    - Approval of New Board Members
      - Vote: Decision was Affirmed unanimously
    - Travel Authorization Policy Proposal clarifications
      - Vote: Decision was Affirmed unanimously
    - Replacement of Connectional Table Secretary (Beverly Jones)
      - Seeking individuals to replace Beverly Jones
  - COVID Vaccine Equity Task Force-Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
  - Executive Committee & Standing Committee- Judi Kenaston
    - The committees met in the morning via zoom and recommended a slate for the joint task group to consider regionalization plans:
    - The joint task group members from the CT are: Bishop Tracy Smith-Malone, Judi Kenaston, Karen Prudente, Benedita Penicela Nhambiu, Ashley Boggan
  - The Commission on General Conference-Ms. Kim Simpson
    - Update: April 23 – May 3, 2024 Charlotte, North Carolina
    - The Commission is working on legislative submissions and timelines.
- ❖ Announcements:
  - Future Connectional Table Meetings (Virtual)
    - Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 9:00AM EST
    - Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 9:00 AM EST
    - Joint meeting of the Executive Committee and Budget Allocations Team Meeting May 17-18, 2023, Nashville, TN (In-person)



- Reimbursement Forms can be sent via email or through the USPS.

### **Session III**

- ❖ Board Engagement Activity-Rev. Grace Killian
  - Table conversations around vision, mission, identity and connectionalism.

### **Session IV:**

#### ❖ Business/Report/Voting

- Prayer by Mike Slaughter
- CT Board Make-Up Proposal (UPDATED)-Rev. Amy Coles

Motion: Sarah Belles moved to add one DMYP member to the Connectional Table. 2<sup>nd</sup>-  
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Vote: Motion approved (M1)

Tonya Murphy moved to include at least 2 women, to include 1 female Clergy and 1 female  
Lay Person to the Connectional Table

Vote: Motion approved (M2)

Discussion: Question about use of “United States and North America” in the proposal.

Motion: Bishop Moore-Koikoi moved we use “jurisdictions” in the proposal.

Vote: Motion Approved (M3)

Vote: Confirming all of the Amendments approved (M4)

#### ❖ Budget Allocations Team -Dave Nuckols

- In response to a request from the UMMEN, the Budget Allocations Team adjusted the  
allocations proposal to allow for a lessor cut on ratio from the other on ratio agencies.

Casher Evans(online) praising the Budget Allocations Team work for the proposal.

The Budget Allocations Team moved for support of the updated allocations algorithm.

Vote: Motion Approved.

The Budget Allocations Team presented Option A-18% as amended and Option B-25%.

Group Prayer & Discernment - Song: “Trust & Obey”

Prayer: Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

- A written ballot was taken for the vote.

#### ➤ VOTE:

- Option A-28

- Option B-1
- Abstain-1

Connectional Table is recommending 18% as amended by the Budget Allocations Team. Approved (M5)

- ❖ Closing Worship with Communion
  - Pianist-Rev. Theon Johnson, III
  - Call to Worship-Rev. Sarah Belles
  - Hymn-*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*
  - Opening Prayer
  - Prayer for Illumination
  - Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9 - Rev. Prosper Kitete, Central Congo Conference
  - Sermon-“Shift Happens”: Rev. Dr. Emanuel Clever, III
  - Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles Creed
  - Hymn-Spirit of The Living God
  - Prayers for the People – Rev. Sarah Belles
- ❖ Communion
  - Presiding - Bishop Tracy Smith-Malone & Bishop Gary Mueller
  - Assisting Clergy: Rev. Jessica Rooks, Rev. Doug Swanney, Rev. Grace Killian
- ❖ Prayer After Communion
- ❖ Closing Hymn – *Sent Forth by God’s Blessings*
- ❖ Dismissal with Blessing – Bishop Muyombo.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:39 PM