

Connectional Table Meeting Minutes
November 4-6, 2016

3pm: Call to Worship

The Connectional Table (CT) Organizational meeting opened with worship led by a local worship team called Campus to City Wesley that serves college-aged young adults on the campuses of Northeast Florida.

Welcome: Bishop Ken Carter of the Florida Annual Conference welcomed the Connectional Table to the episcopal area he serves.

A Vision of the Work of the Connectional Table: Bishop Christian Alsted

Bishop Alsted, the new chair of the CT offered a few words of reflection on Luke 22:24-27 to share with the new members of the Connectional Table his vision of the work for the 2017-2020 quadrennium.

[Vision Document on Onboard under "Dashboard" for Full Connectional Table Docs

- We are a church for God's mission.
- Our task is to work on the culture of a worldwide church.
- Work the underlying assumptions.

He expressed his hope that the CT is the body that thinks deep and hard about how we become a worldwide church that builds vital congregations through the four areas of focus.

Connectional Table Roll call:

Present:

Pete Aguila, SCJ
Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, NCJ
Ole Birch, No. Europe/
Eurasia CC
Bisho Earl Bledsoe, GCORR
Barbara Boigegrain, Wespeth
Brad Brady, SEJ
Kim Cape, GBHEM
Emanuel Cleaver III, SCJ
Amy Coles, SEJ
Fred Day, GCAH
Jacob Dharmaraj, NFAAUM
Bishop Sally Dyck, GBCS
Cashar Evans, UMCCom
Bishop Ciraco Francisco,
STCCCM
Kelly Gifford, SEJ
Gary Graves, CoGC
Gil Hanke, GCUMM
Dawn Wiggins Hare, GCSRW
Susan Henry Crowe, GBCS
Michelle Hettman, SEJ
Mike Dio Jen, West Africa CC

Beverly Jones, SCJ
Hee-Soo Jung, GBGM
Markus Jung, Germany CC
Thomas Kemper, GBGM
Judi Kenaston, NEJ
Cynthia Kent, NAIC
Moses Kumar, GCFA
Dana Lyles, SEJ
Bishop William McAllilly,
GBHEM
Bishop Mike McKee, GCFA
Brian Milford, UMPH
Germain Mupasa, DMYP
Tonya Murphy, SEJ
Kenneth Nelson, SEJ
Marianne Neisen, WJ
David Nuckols, NCJ
Miracle Oscan, DMYP
Bishop Jeremiah Park, GCAH
Benedita Penicela Nhambiu,
Africa CC
Lysette Perez, MARCHA
Tonya Murphy, SEJ
Latham Postell, SEJ

Robin Scott, SEJ
Jovito Sermonia, Jr.,
Philippines CC
Robert Kilembo, Congo CC
Bishop Tracy Malone,
GCSRW
Bishop James Swanson,
GCUMM
Monalisa Tuitahi, PINCUM
Bishop Michael Watson,
OCUIR
Bishop Mark Webb, GBOD
Stefan Zurcher,
Central/Southern Eur. CC

Late Arrivals:

William Meekins, NEJ
Harriett Olson, UMW
Miller Wilbourn, SCJ
Dan Krause, UMCCom
Duncan McMillan, CoGC

Guest: Jeff Campbell on behalf of Junius Dotson
Giovanni Arroyo on behalf of Erin Hawkins

Regrets:
Fred Brewington, NEJ
Josephine Deere, SCJ
Junius Dotson, GBOD
Erin Hawkins, GCORR

Mike Slaughter, NCJ

Motion: A motion was made to approve the meeting agenda. **Approved.**

Motion: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous CT meetings held at General Conference. **Approved.**

Chief Connectional Ministries Officer Report: Rev. Dr. Amy Valdez Barker

Dr. Valdez Barker gave an overview of the work of the CT for the quadrennium, highlighting the specific objectives for this organizational meeting, which were for CT members to:

- Understand the purpose of the CT
- Be grounded in theology
- Know their responsibility and role as a CT member and the covenant as a CT
- Know why we focus attention on Vital Congregations through Four Areas of Focus as a more authentic church
- Create a roadmap for our work together.

She expressed hope that CT members will shape the short and long-term outcomes this quadrennium through listening deeply, Christian conferencing together, and respecting differences around the tables. She noted that building a high trust culture at the CT is also an objective for the quad and that the strategic directions are the next step toward our vision, communicating the good work and shifting the culture from within, and building a culture of trust through relationships, strategies and stories.

Valdez Barker presented an overview of the work of the CT, including the basic organizational design proposed for this quadrennium.

5pm: Presentation of Nominations for CT Working and Advisory Groups: Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

Alsted thanked Amy for the overview and then introduced Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, whom he selected as the chair of the Leadership Discernment and Community Life (LDCL) committee. He noted that LDCL includes the personnel committee, and tends to the worship life and relationship building of the CT community.

Bigham-Tsai opened with prayer to begin the process of nominations. She explained that the CT nominations committee was made up of non-returning CT members on the executive committee.

Nominations made by the committee were as follows:

Election of vice-chair of the CT: Bishop Ciricaco Francisco. *Approved.*

Election of treasurer: David Nuckols. *Approved.*

Executive committee nominations:

- Young person: Miracle Osman
- Working Group Chairs:
 - Worldwide Nature Group: Benedita Penicela Nhambiu

- Vital Congregations Group: Beverly Jones
- General Secretary: Kim Cape
- Agency President: Bishop James Swanson

Discussion about the nominations:

- This is a restructuring from the last CT and authority to restructure this body is with the chair.
- The previous CT had administrative and collaborative groups. The restructuring was based on evaluation data feedback from the functionality of the previous CT.
- The new design is in response to the feedback from the previous CT.

Advisory Group slates:

Worldwide Nature Working Group: Benedita Penicela nominated as chair; Judi Kenaston, vice chair

Advisory group conveners:

- Ole Birch – Chapter 5 Revision
- Monalisa Tuitahi – General Church Council
- Tonya Murphy – US Structure

Vital Congregations Working Group: Beverly Jones nominated as chair; Stefan Zurcher, vice chair

Advisory Group conveners:

- Dana Lyles – Agency Evaluation
- Josephine Deere – Connectional Assessment
- Miller Wilbourn – Missional Trends

Bigham-Tsai presented the slate of nominees to the CT. **Approved unanimously.** The nominations for all of the internal Connectional Table committees were presented for

- Budget Advisory Team
- Leadership Discernment and Community Life
- Internal Finance and Evaluation
- Economic Advisory Committee representative

Motion: Bigham-Tsai moved that the entire CT leadership roster be approved. **Approved unanimously.**

It was explained that the caucus members and members of the Division on Ministries with Young People (DMYP) need to be formally elected by the CT body. Action was taken to elect the following persons:

- National Federation of Asian American United Methodists: Jacob Dharamhaj
- Pacific Islander National Monalisa Tuitahi
- Native American International Caucus: Cynthia Kent
- MARCHA: Lyssette Perez
- DMYP: Miracle Osman, Germain Mupasa: approved.
- BMCR: To Be Determined

All nominated members present from the caucuses and DMYP were elected.

6pm: DINNER BREAK

7pm: Plenary – Wonder, Love and Praise: A United Methodist Ecclesiology

Dr. Charles Wood, primary author of the Committee on Faith and Order's document entitled *Wonder, Love and Praise*, was invited to present the draft document on a UM ecclesiology as the CT orients to its tasks and begins its work. Wood noted that the study document was approved by the General Conference and will be translated as soon as possible.

Purpose: Wood explained that the purpose of the document is to articulate a coherent United Methodist understanding of the church.

Structure: The document is presented in three parts – identifying Methodist presuppositions of the church.

1. Three distinctive convictions
2. Relate three convictions in ecumenical text
3. Take up three questions that arise from this practice.

The Friday evening presentation focused on the first two sections, with the third section presented on Saturday morning.

Questions/Discussion:

- Historical understanding of “order”: In reformed traditions definition of the church. Word, sacrament and order. Order includes discipleship, faith in community.
- The doc is written on a higher reading level than *By Water and the Spirit* and *This Holy Mystery* but hopes bishops, cabinets, boards of ordained ministries, boards of laity use the document.
- Retired bishops can help promote and engage churches with the document.
- There will be a study guide. Suggestion made not downplay the ability of congregations to deal with complex material.
- How do we increase the concept of “community-forming love”? Understanding that is the key. That is the essence of living that out.
- We are going deeper theologically and getting to the roots of who God calls us to be as we think about the Trinitarian nature of God. Do we reflect the image of God unless we are in community?

8pm: The plenary concluded.

Saturday, November 5, 2016

8am: Worship was led by Campus to City Ministry, with Bishop Alsted preaching.

9am: Plenary – Dr. Charles Wood

Dr. Wood presented the third and final part of his presentation, which focused on how our ecclesiological vision informs our United Methodist polity.

***See pages 43 – 100 for Wonder, Love, and Praise*

The plenary engaged in discussion with Dr. Wood following his presentation. He received feedback about how to deepen and expand some elements of the document. Alsted thanked Wood for his presentation and the session stopped for a break.

10:45am: Plenary Resumed

Bishop Alsted welcomed recently arrived CT members:

- Duncan McMillan – Chair of the Commission on GC
- William Meekins – WPA (NEJ)
- Harriett Olson – UMW
- Dan Krause – General Secretary of UMW

OnBoard Orientation: CT staff member Minstead Sai led a brief training for CT members on the OnBoard online meeting resource. OnBoard is the program that the CT will use to post agendas, documents and conduct electronic voting when necessary.

Orientation to Working Groups: Valdez Barker introduced the work of the CT through the two main working groups: Vital Congregations Through Four Areas of Focus, and the Worldwide Nature of the Church.

Vital Congregations: Valdez Barker presented a video that gave an overview of the history of the Four Areas of Focus. This focus on the Four Areas, and the expressed need by the Council of Bishops to increase vitality in local congregations, has led to our current missional focus. The general church has been working to integrate budgets, goals, and structure to achieve outcomes in this area.

History of the Four Areas of Focus: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaDwu-YmEDw>

Worldwide Nature: CT staff member Cynthia Dopke presented a brief overview of work of the Worldwide Nature Working Group and the tasks ahead for this body. She highlighted the challenges posed in Wonder, Love and Praise, and shared 2014 UMC membership statistics that showed an overall 24% increase to 12.1 million in the past ten years, representing increases in Africa and the Philippines with decreases in the US and Europe.

The tasks of the working group align with the three advisory groups addressing these areas:

- CT partnership with StCCCM on revision of Chapter 5: new Administrative Order to embody new ecclesiological vision
- General Church Council – CT to reflect on self to adapt to the new vision of church.
- Where does the U.S. Conferences on U.S.-only matters?

Vital Congregations Through Four Areas of Focus Objectives: Kim Cape, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM)

Kim Cape, general secretary of GBHEM, gave an overview of how the general program agencies function within the UMC to “provide essential services and ministries beyond the scope of individual local churches... capable of rapid response.”

She noted an increase of communication and collaboration among agencies and an increase in dialogue with annual conferences and that they are aspiring to function as a team with a common goal that works to grow vital congregations through the Four Areas of Focus.

Stewardship of Resources: Moses Kumar, General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA)

Moses Kumar, the general secretary of GCFA and treasurer of The UMC, gave an overview of the work conducted jointly between CT and GCFA. He explained that GCFA manages connectional giving for the church and fosters stewardship in the denomination.

CT/GCFA Joint work includes:

1. Budget Advisory Team
 - Oversee development of budgeting principles
 - Makes recommendation of Quad budget to CT & GCFA
 - Members are from both bodies with three members each and executive staff
2. World Service Contingency Fund
 - CT receives requests for additional funding from general program agencies and deliberates on the distribution of the fund.
 - GCFA administers the fund and monitors use of funds for administration or capital outlay.
3. Review of Annual Spending Plans of General Church Program agencies.

Apportionment Giving

Kumar reported that in 2015, apportionments were paid out at 91.83% with 26 conferences paying 100%. To date, receipts are higher now (by 4%) in payout rate than we were this time last year.

CT/GCFA Collaboration Agreement

Moses noted that the CT/GCFA collaboration agreement drafted last quadrennium was approved by the GCFA board in July. Alsted lifted up the agreement as posted in the CT policy manual as before the body for approval. **Unanimously approved.**

Annual Spending Plan Reviews of General Agencies: Brad Brady and Judi Kenaston

Brad Brady, returning CT member, and Judi Kenaston presented the spending plan review process to the CT, explaining the CT's responsibility, their process, observations and recommendation.

Brady stated that the CT reviews the plans submitted for the four-year budget to see if the annual plan aligns and is on track programmatically and missionally. If it varies, there is discussion about the rationale. Kenaston and Brady shared a few high level observations gleaned from the review:

- Noted a high level of energy and excitement about their programming for the year
- Much evidence of collaboration around Four Areas of Focus and other disciplinary responsibilities
- Some agencies undergoing leadership transition
- Saw evidence of shared services to maximize resources for disciple-making
- Many reaching beyond the US to make visible the goal of a more authentic worldwide connection
- Logic Model – several already using tool for evaluation for outcomes around disciple-making

Brady noted that each agency spending plan is posted on OnBoard (See Program Agency Spending Plans under Full Connectional Table Orgs Docs)

Rick King, GCFA Chief Financial Officer, noted that the GCFA role in the review process is to ensure that the annual plans align with what was presented at GC, within quad budgets, and to ensure adequate funding. He shared some key financial data from the spending plans.

Motion: Kenaston moved that the CT approve the Agency Spending plans for 2017. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Concern was raised about transparency of the reserves and that CT should work to make it more transparent and communicate information.
 - Kumar reported that the review team reviews each agency's reserves and analysis. He also stated that there is no universal policy on reserves. GCFA's Audit and Review committee is addressing this concern.

Motion: To make reserves information more readily available and add to the Spending Plan Review Report. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Speech against: In each of the Agency budgets reserves is public information.
- Kumar reiterated that every spending plan already has information about reserves.

The request to make the report available was acknowledged by review team with indications that the information is available and can be provided more clearly. The motion is withdrawn.

Motion: Alsted brought the plenary back to original motion to approve the agency spending plans.
Approved.

World Service Contingency Fund Request: Brad Brady, who also sits on the joint CT/GCFA Budget Advisory Team, presented a request for funding that came from GCFA and the Council of Bishops to cover the costs of the meetings estimated for the Commission on a Way Forward. The Budget Advisory Team met the previous evening and that morning to deliberate on the request and brought a recommendation to the CT to make available \$1,057,612 of World Service Contingency Funds to cover the Commission's meeting expenses. Brady acknowledged that this is not a "normal" use of funds, but that the urgency within the denomination merited the use of funds for this purpose.

He stated that the document would be uploaded to OnBoard and that CT members could review it during lunch. Action on the recommendation would be taken later in the day.

11:30am: Divide into Working Groups

The plenary ended and CT members were directed to meeting rooms by working group for a time of relationship building.

12:30pm: Lunch - Central Conference members met during lunch in the Jacksonville Room.

1:30pm: Plenary Session

CT Financial Report: Dave Nuckols, new CT treasurer

The CT YTD financial statements were posted on OnBoard for review.

The year-to-date ending September 30 spending total: \$667,277. This includes a \$300,000 expense by the Commission on GC for 2016 pre-GC briefings in central conferences, an expense budgeted by the 2009-2012 CT. Dopke noted that GFCA does the accounting for CT, another example of our partnership.

CT 2017 Spending Plan

Nuckols presented the proposed 2017 spending plan as posted on OnBoard.

In response to a question about covering the deficit and reserve levels, Rick King reported that the CT has a reserve of \$727,000. This will be reduced by \$300,000 for 2017 with the payment noted above.

Motion from the Finance Committee: Nuckols moved the approval of the 2017 Spending plan.
Approved.

Clergy Housing Allowance: Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, chair of Leadership Discernment and Community Life (LDCL) which includes personnel matters, reported that the CT needs to approve an annual housing allowance for Rev. Amy Valdez Barker, a clergy member of the North Georgia Annual Conference. She is appointed to serve as the executive of the CT.

Motion: Bigham-Tsai moved that 31% of Amy's salary - \$32,600 be designated as housing allowance.
Approved.

World Service Contingency Fund Request Continued:

The World Service contingency fund is referred to in BOD ¶ 806.1(3)d. Kumar gave a brief overview of the WS contingency fund, projecting an ending balance in 2016 of \$3.1 million. The WSCF is used for a variety of emerging programs where needs arise that were not budgeted. Alsted pointed out that this request would fall into the category of extraordinary circumstances. A base amount was set several years ago at \$1.7 million by GCFA. He stated that the projected balance would be \$2.3 million after the Special Commission costs.

Background: Remaining funds from the General Council on Ministries monies put into this fund. Some examples of how the funds have been used:

- COB received funds for God's Renewed Creation
- 2013-2016:
 - Funds used for Sand Creek Massacre project - GCAH
 - Logic model pilot project - GBHEM
 - Africana Hymnal – Discipleship Ministries

The Commission on a Way Forward Leadership Team will seek cost savings wherever possible. The team is Bishops Carter, Steiner-Ball, and Yemba. Kumar explained that \$500,000 comes from Episcopal fund to cover the bishops' participation in meetings, and \$1.3 million from WSCF.

Kim Cape said that the General Secretaries Table (GST) conferred on this matter and they concur that we want to express support and are invested in the success of this commission and agencies are contributing generously in other ways as well. (The GST is asked to review and discuss any WSCF request, as they are typically requested by program agencies.)

Bishop McKee, a member of the Budget Advisory Team (BAT), expressed appreciation for GST for affirming an unusual request.

A question was raised about how many meetings and requested more detail about the estimates. A slide was presented that outlined the details of the estimated costs for nine meetings of 32 people: 17 jurisdictional lay/clergy; 7 Central Conference lay/clergy; and 8 bishops.

The body was asked to pray in silence before taking a vote.

Alsted reiterated the BAT motion to approve the funding request from the World Service contingency fund. None opposed, 1 abstained, **Approved by majority.**

Expectations of Board Members – Connectional Table Covenant led by Kennetha Bigham-Tsai

Bigham-Tsai led the plenary in a process of revising the CT covenant for board members based on the last quadrennium's language. The session began with a reading from Deuteronomy 5:2-3 followed by a recitation of The Wesleyan Covenant Prayer by the body.

Each table was asked to consider the following questions and make recommendations for revisions, if any, to the language of the covenant:

- What is the trying to address or achieve? Is it important?
- Will this help us develop relationships and build trust?
- Does this part of the covenant help us better live into being a more authentic worldwide connection?
- Will this help us to move our work forward as a CT?
- Does this help us to realize the mission of our work to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?

Each table discussed the questions and shared with the plenary their suggestions for change. Bigham-Tsai reported that she would take the suggestions and bring a revised covenant back to the group. Bishop Alsted reflected on the process, noting that it was an example of Christian conferencing, sharing in the gift of being in conversation with one another and expecting God's grace to move among us, heard through the voice of others.

Board Governance: Harriet Olson

Harriett Olson, general secretary of United Methodist Women who is an attorney, was asked to review the duties of a board member of a corporation. She summarized the materials on the role of a board of directors and the tasks that board governance in the CT policy manual pages 53-86.

Olson explained that the responsibilities of a board of directors are to:

- Decide who should be the CEO, developing a process of review; developing policies; and overseeing finances.
- Lead and care for the organization (Calvin Clemons)
- Build an effective organization (Bowen)

Olson invited directors to consider outcomes of their work in relation to BOD ¶ 904 to:

- Discern and articulate the vision
- Steward the mission, ministry and resources
- Provide fiscal responsibility
- Establish policies and procedures

Olson then reviewed the bylaws as printed on pages 53-64 of the policy manual, noting that the CT is incorporated in the State of Missouri, and highlighted the code of ethics that each CT member is asked to sign, along with a conflict of interest policy.

A question from the floor was raised about the proposed changes to the bylaws, asking if anything was deleted. Alsted clarified that the changes were only additions. (Proposed changes were highlighted in a different color font in the manual.)

Break

4pm: Review of Bylaws continued

Bigham-Tsai noted changes approved by the personnel and executive committee to revise the titles of the staff. The title “executive secretary” was changed to “chief connectional ministries officer”.

Motion: Bigham-Tsai moved the adoption of the bylaws. Seconded. **Approved.**

Bigham-Tsai highlighted the code of ethics and conflict of interest statements that require signatures from CT members as mandated in the Discipline. The documents were distributed and she asked each member to sign and return.

CT Staff Responsibilities: Bishop Alsted

Each CT staff member was introduced and presented a brief overview of their tasks and responsibilities for the new quadrennium. Alsted noted that Kennetha Bigham-Tsai is the chair of the personnel committee and Bishop Alsted is the direct supervisor of the chief connectional ministries officer.

A Report by UMCCom: Dan Krause, General Secretary

Dan Krause, general secretary of United Methodist Communications, showed a video on the work of UMCCom that highlighted how UMCCom is aligning the messages of the Four Areas of Focus across the various audiences within and outside the church.

Krause explained that the Four Areas of Focus fits into the overall UMCCom plan to coordinate the current 27 channels of communication down to 4 communication channels.

Discussion/Questions:

- How do you communicate with church leaders?
 - A: Meet with all program leaders; developing training for Annual Conference Leaders.
- What strategies is using to reach out to all ethnic groups?
 - A: Meeting with all the Ethnic Caucuses – attended MARCHA, Hispanic and Korean Language and Native American communication team, French web portal. They are working on an official UMC website in all languages of the church. Tim Tanton leads the Global Voices team. They hope to have a website with all the official languages of the church by 2020. As an organization they have included seven additional board members from Central Conferences.
- Will you have a planning guide/strategy for local churches to make sure they have the same message?
 - A: We are talking about the leaders of the local church.
- What is the evaluation process you go through to determine the saturation of catch phrase?

- A: We hire external firm to determine external market saturation. Internally, we do a lot of surveys.
- He acknowledged that a lot of UCom research is in U.S. and the Philippines markets and often underrepresents Africa.

Alsted added that one of the roles of the CT is to ensure the alignment of our communication.

Connectional Table Strategic Plan: Valdez Barker introduced the strategic planning process and how the CT is now ready to begin engaging in that work to create a strategic plan for the quadrennium. She reminded the body that the CT looks from a 30,000 foot level to address the church and the world.

Macro-trends Exercise: One of the elements of a strategic planning process is identifying the environment and identifying macro-trends that affect the mission. Valdez Barker led the CT in an exercise called a STEP analysis that asked them to name trends in the following areas: Socio-demographic; Technology; Economic and Political.

The plenary concluded at 6pm following the exercise.

Sunday, November 6:

7:30am: CT members traveled by bus to worship at Mandarin UMC, a local vital congregation. Working groups commenced at 10:30am – 12:30pm. Lunch was served at 12:30pm – 1:30pm, with working groups continuing until 3:30pm followed by a break.

4pm: Plenary

Benedita Penicela Nhambui led an opening song and Monalisa Tuitahi opened the plenary session with prayer. Bigham-Tsai led the group through the revised covenant based on the comments made the previous day.

Alsted asked if there was affirmation for the covenant. **One opposed, no abstentions, majority affirmed.** He thanked the committee and the work they did on the covenant. CT members were then asked to sign the covenant and return it to staff.

Reports from the Working Groups:

Vital Congregations/4AF Working Group Report:

Beverly Jones reported on the VC/4AF work noting that their session began with a presentation on the logic model.

She briefly noted the work of the three advisory groups:

- Missional trends: To assist the groups in the work.
- Connectional Assessment: the group focuses on the different entities of our connection.
- Agency evaluation: to develop an evaluation beyond the agency self-evaluation connected with the budgeting work with GCFA.

Worldwide Nature Working Group Report:

Nhambiu introduced the Worldwide Nature working group reports, noting that this group also received a presentation on the logic model. Each advisory group convener reported on their group's work:

- General Church Council Advisory Group, Monalisa Tuitahi convener: Tuitahi reported that the group is adhering to the language of the petition that mandates this work and needs to bridge the conversation with the COB to strengthen the collaboration. They will also review the legislation of Plan UMC Revised.
- US Structure Advisory Group, Tonya Murphy - convener: This group is reviewing the possibility of the US transitioning to a central/regional conference.
 - Scheduled to discuss implications, fears and finances.
 - Will identify US issues and address issues of accountability in the new structure.
 - Budget implications.
 - Planning to present the roadmap to May.
- Chapter 5 Revision Advisory Group, Ole Birch – convener: The primary task of this group is to review Chapter 5 in the BOD with the Standing Committee on CC Matters and consider what that needs to look like in a worldwide church. They will work with the logic model to identify outcomes and when they meet in February they will complete the logic model.

Milestones on the CT roadmap toward 2020:

- By May of 2017: CT will have joint meeting with Budget Advisory Team.
- By August 2017: CT will begin to determine with GCFA a bottom line on funding.
- By Spring 2018: CT will have reports from the assessment tool that will inform our decisions about allocations to the agencies.
- By May 2019: CT makes joint decisions with GCFA on the approval of the quadrennial budget. We will also be doing approval on any legislation that is due by August 2019.
- GC in Minnesota will be in May 2020.

Discussion:

- It was noted that the deadline for the legislation has been moved up based on legislation.
- The Commission on the Way Forward is parallel work. Desire expressed to take into consideration the work of the Commission.
- The Commission on the Way Forward's work may influence our work as the COB may call a special session of GC. Two CT members who also serve on the executive committee will serve on this Commission. We will be mindful of that and adjust our work as needed and navigate our way through.

Online Meeting: Feb 2017

- February 21, 2017 at 9 AM Central Standard Time Online

Next Face-to-Face CT meeting: May 2017

Alsted shared a video of Oslo to introduce CT members to the city, the location of the next board meeting. Meeting Dates:

- Arrival: May 16. (May 17 is national Norwegian holiday)
- Meeting begins May 18 and concludes on May 21.

- Departure: May 22

Sunday, May 21 will be visits to local churches in Oslo with an introduction to Norwegian society and to the Nordic welfare model and society, which is built differently than other parts of the world – it is a social democratic system with high taxes, free education, free health care, not much poverty.

Valdez Barker reviewed the quadrennium meeting schedule. A few highlights were lifted about the meeting schedule:

- The CT may meet jointly with the COB in Fall 2018.
- The meeting schedule may change depending on our road map and other decisions taking place across the system.
- The online meetings will be 1.5 to 2 hours. She asked members to contact staff if they do not have access to the Internet.
- Joint meeting with GCFA in Nashville in Spring 2019.
- Pre-GC briefings (Jan-March 2020) are a good place to take the pulse of the connection.

Action: The meeting schedule was placed before the body for approval. **Approved unanimously.**

Brian Alverado of Riverside Park UMC, Florida led closing worship.

The meeting concluded at 5pm.

Notes recorded by Cynthia Dopke and Meredith Hoxie Schol