

Minutes of the Connectional Table Meeting February 21, 2017 – Zoom Online Meeting

Welcome - Bishop Christian Alsted

Bishop Alsted welcomed CT members and guests to the online meeting. He announced that we have invited two ecumenical guests to attend our CT meetings this quadrennium, Rev. William Flippin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and Doug Swanney of the British Methodist Church.

Alsted also introduced Dennis Oglesby as the nominee to serve as a representative of the caucus Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) on the Connectional Table.

The roll call was taken by using the attendance list through the online technology.

Present:

Pete Aguila, SCJ	Thomas Kemper, GBGM	Bishop James Swanson, GCUMM
Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, NCJ	Judi Kenaston, NEJ	Monalisa Tuitahi, PINCUM
Ole Birch, No. Europe/ Eurasia CC	Cynthia Kent, NAIC	Bishop Mark Webb, GBOD (DM)
Bishop Earl Bledsoe, GCORR	Dana Lyles, SEJ	Miller Wilbourn, SCJ
Brad Brady, SEJ	Bishop William McAililly, GBHEM	Stefan Zurcher, Central/Southern Eur. CC
Kim Cape, GBHEM	Bishop Mike McKee, GCFA	
Emanuel Cleaver III, SCJ	William Meekins, NEJ	
Amy Coles, SEJ	Brian Milford, UMPH	
Fred Day, GCAH	Germain Mupasa, DMYP	Absent/Regrets:
Josephine Deere, SCJ	Tonya Murphy, SEJ	Barbara Boigegrain, Wespah
Jacob Dharmaraj, NFAAUM	Kenneth Nelson, SEJ	Fred Brewington, NEJ
Junius Dotson, GBOD	Marianne Niesen, WJ	Bishop Sally Dyck, GBCS
Cashar Evans, UMCom	David Nuckols, NCJ	Bishop Ciriaco Francisco, STCCCM
Kelly Gifford, NCJ	Miracle Osman, DMYP	Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, GBGM
Gary Graves, CoGC	Bishop Jeremiah Park, GCAH	Dan Krause, UMCom
Gil Hanke, GCUMM	Benedita Penicela Nhambiu, Africa CC	Moses Kumar, GCFA
Dawn Wiggins Hare, GCSRW	Lyssette Perez, MARCHA	Duncan McMillan, CoGC
Erin Hawkins, GCORR	Harriett Olson, UMW	Lathem Postell, SEJ
Susan Henry Crowe, GBCS	Jovito Sermonia, Jr., Philippines CC	Robin Scott, SEJ
Michelle Hettmann, SEJ	Robert Kilembo, Congo CC	Mike Slaughter, NCJ
Mike Dio Jen, West Africa CC	Bishop Tracy Malone, GCSRW	Bishop Michael Watson, OCUIR
Beverly Jones, SCJ		
Markus Jung, Germany CC		

Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai led an opening meditation.

Business/Action Items:

Alsted presented the minutes of the November 2016 Connectional Table organizing meeting for approval.

Motion to approve the minutes was made. Seconded. Approved. (Vote: 35 yes; 3 abstain)

Bigham-Tsai presented recommendations from the Leadership Discernment and Community Life group. (LDCL)

Motion: LDCL moved to approve Dennis Oglesby as a CT member from BMCR with an assignment to the Vital Congregations Working Group. Approved.

Bigham-Tsai reported on a few additional items from LDCL:

- Reassigned Bishop Francisco to the WWN Working Group – Chapter 5 Revision.
- Reassigned Duncan McMillan to the US Structure Advisory Group.
- Decided not to invite a caucus member to the executive committee.
- Clarified that proxies are permitted to attend but with voice and no vote only.
- Clarified that resource people can be used with advisory groups by action of the convener with approval of the Chief Connectional Ministries Officer.

Motion to receive the report, seconded. Approved.

The working groups were divided into two breakout rooms for their respective meetings. They returned to the plenary at 10:25am. Bigham-Tsai led a centering prayer.

Vital Congregations – Four Areas of Focus Working Group Report – Beverly Jones

The plenary was called back to order and Beverly Jones, chair of the Vital Congregations – Four Areas of Focus Working Group presented a report and action items from the group.

She reported that the VC-4AF working group discussed three proposals and only approved one proposal – the Learning Partners proposal - to be acted on by the CT plenary. The other two proposals required further discussion.

Motion: The Learning Partners proposal was presented for approval.

Discussion:

- Against: Agency boards have evaluation processes in place and it would be better for agencies to work directly with the advisory group rather than bring a new group of people to learn about the work of the agencies.
 - Response: The learning partners will be United Methodist lay and clergy members with some familiarity of the agencies.
- Question: How does this proposal interface with the board's evaluation process?
 - The focus is on how the agencies work fits into the Four Areas of Focus. The agencies' work outside of the Four Areas would be evaluated by the agencies.
- Against: Concerned about the complexity of various evaluations coming from different places. Chapter 5 group is looking at how the agencies function, doing research. Worried that this makes our work too complex and more difficult to get useful information.
- Question: Is there a financial implication to adding Learning Partners?
 - Response: Financial implication would be less than \$20,000 that can be covered within CT's existing budget.
 - Follow-up Comment: Clearly, we do not have consensus on this proposal and we need buy-in for this to work
- Question: What does this mean in relation to the Connectional Assessment Tool?

- Response: This is an important part of the information that will populate the Connectional Assessment tool. They work together.

Motion: Brad Brady, co-convenor of the Agency Evaluation Advisory group moved to table the proposal. Seconded. Approved.

Jones continued the report from the working group, noting that the Missional Trends group is meeting face-to-face this spring and Connectional Assessment Tool group is continuing its work.

WWN Working Group Report – Benedita Penicela Nhambiu

Nhambiu reported on one action item that was a referral from the Northeastern Jurisdiction (NEJ). The jurisdiction submitted legislation to General Conference 2016 called the Global Connection Plan that was not considered at GC. The NEJ passed a resolution in July asking CT and other bodies to receive the legislation and report back to them in 2020 on how, if at all, we used the material. The working group approved referring the NEJ Global Connection Plan to the US Structure Advisory Group and the General Church Council Advisory Group.

Motion: The WWN Working Group moved that the full CT approve the referral of the Global Connection Plan to the two WWN advisory groups. Approved.

Budget Advisory Team Proposal:

Dave Nuckols, a member of the Budget Advisory Team (BAT) reported that the BAT has received two World Service Contingency Fund proposals. He explained that the BAT has not been able to meet to discuss these two proposals.

Motion: On behalf of the CT Budget Advisory Team, Nuckols moved that the CT empower the executive committee to act on these two matters after the BAT meets on March 13 to discuss and make a recommendation.

He explained that the alternative is to wait until the May meeting in Oslo.

Discussion:

- Have we used this process in the past? Yes
- It was clarified that the proposals had not been shared with the full CT.
- Does the Oslo meeting fit the timeline of the proposals?
 - Susan Henry Crowe, submitter of one request, stated that United Methodist Global AIDS Fund is already making plans and needs a decision as soon as possible.
- There was a suggestion to approve the proposals at this meeting. Alsted explained this would require a suspension of the rules.

Discussion on suspending the rules:

- Against: Suspending the rules would not be good procedure and there are two financial requests to consider that the members have not seen.
- Against: Nuckols spoke against suspending the rules, and asked if the body could vote on the motion he made.

Bishop Swanson offered parliamentary procedure clarification, that the president can put a motion before the members in front of another motion on the floor.

**Motion: There was a motion to suspend the rules. Seconded.
Vote: 18 No, 9 Yes, 6 abstain. The motion did not pass.**

The body was then asked to vote on the motion from the Budget Advisory Team:

**Motion: Empower the executive committee to act on the recommendations of the BAT of the World Service Contingency Fund requests.
Vote: 23 yes, 3 no 5 abstain. The motion passed.**

The executive committee will report to the CT in Oslo on their final decision.

Logistics on the Oslo meeting:

Valdez Barker noted that the call to meeting will be sent out on February 22, 2017 and that the local hosts have arranged for a few local excursion options in Oslo.

Closing remarks:

Kim Cape announced that the general secretaries would bring their agencies' individual agency evaluation plans to the CT in Oslo.

Bishop Alsted thanked everyone for their work in the advisory groups and closed the meeting with prayer at 11:05am Central US Time.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Cynthia Dopke, CT Staff*