

**Minutes of the Connectional Table Meeting  
November 13, 2017 – Zoom Online Meeting**

**Welcome - Bishop Christian Alsted**

Bishop Alsted welcomed CT members and guests to the online meeting, and led a brief devotional from Joshua 2.

Meredith Hoxie Schol provided a brief overview of the Zoom webinar technology.

The roll call was taken by using the attendance list in the Zoom webinar platform. The following record of attendance confirms that a quorum was established.

**Present:**

Pete Aguila, SCJ  
Ole Birch,  
    No. Europe/Eurasia CC  
Barbara Boigegrain, Wespeth  
Brad Brady, SEJ  
Emanuel Cleaver III, SCJ  
Amy Coles, SEJ  
Fred Day, GCAH  
Jacob Dharmaraj, NFAAUM  
Bishop Sally Dyck, GBCS  
Cashar Evans, UCom  
Venus Mae Gatdula,  
    Philippines  
Kelly Gifford, SEJ  
Gary Graves, CoGC  
Gil Hanke, GCUMM  
Dawn Wiggins Hare, GCSRW  
Susan Henry Crowe, GBCS  
Michelle Hettman, SEJ  
Beverly Jones, SCJ  
Glenn Kellum (for Thomas  
    Kemper, GBGM)  
Judi Kenaston, NEJ  
Prosper Kitete, Congo CC  
Dan Krause, UCom  
Moses Kumar, GCFA  
Brenda Lockhart (GBOD, for  
    Junius Dotson)  
Bishop Tracy Malone,

**GCSRW**

William Meekins, NEJ  
Germain Mupasa, DMYP  
Tonya Murphy, SEJ  
Kenneth Nelson, SEJ  
Marianne Neisen, WJ  
David Nuckols, NCJ  
Dennis Oglesby, BMCR  
Harriett Jane Olson, UMW  
Bishop Jeremiah Park, GCAH  
Benedita Penicela Nhambiu,  
    Africa CC  
Latham Postell, SEJ  
Jovito Sermonia, Jr.,  
    Philippines CC  
Mike Slaughter, NCJ  
Monalisa Tuitahi, PINCUM  
Karen Ward (for Kim Cape,  
    GBHEM)  
Stefan Zurcher,  
    Central/Southern Eur. CC

**Guests:**

Doug Swanney, British  
    Methodist Church  
Isabelle Berger, interpreter  
    for Prosper Kitete and  
    Germain Mupasa

**Absent/Regrets:**

Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, NCJ  
Bishop Earl Bledsoe, GCORR  
Fred Brewington, NEJ  
Josephine Deere, SCJ  
Bishop Ciraco Francisco,  
    STCCCM  
William Flippin Jr.  
    (ecumenical officer)  
Erin Hawkins, GCORR  
Mike Dio Jen, West Africa CC  
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, GBGM  
Markus Jung, Germany CC  
Cynthia Kent, NAIC  
Dana Lyles, SEJ  
Bishop William McAllily,  
    GBHEM  
Bishop Mike McKee, GCFA  
Duncan McMillan, CoGC  
Brian Milford, UMPH  
Lyssette Perez, MARCHA  
Robin Scott, SEJ  
Bishop James Swanson,  
    GCUMM  
Bishop Michael Watson,  
    OCUIR  
Bishop Mark Webb, GBOD  
Miller Wilbourn, SCJ

## **Business/Action Items:**

Alsted presented the agenda for the November 13<sup>th</sup> online Connectional Table meeting for approval. **Motion to approve the agenda was made. Approved.**

Alsted presented the minutes of the May 2017 (Oslo) Connectional Table meeting for approval.

**Motion to approve the minutes was made. Approved.**

## **Executive Search Committee – Update on search process**

Alsted presented an update on the Executive Search Committee process. The CT has worked with the GCFA Human Resources services department. We had a strong pool of applicants, and after a phone screening, the executive search committee performed online interviews, followed by face-to-face interviews. We expect to be able to announce the new Chief Connectional Ministries Officer in the beginning of December. The new executive will start in January 2018.

## **Executive Committee Report**

Dopke instructed the attendees to see the report for details.

Revised meeting schedule: There is a recognized need to have some joint meetings with GCFA. Given scheduling and a bishops' delegation planned immediately after the COB meeting, the executive committee proposed that a delegation from the CT meet jointly with the GCFA (November 14<sup>th</sup>), one day in advance of their regularly scheduled Board meeting (members of executive committee, BAT, conveners of agency evaluation advisory group)

Additional highlights: Dopke reported that Beverly Jones and Judi Kenaston will join the Budget Advisory Team for the Apportionment Sustainability Task Force meeting. Alsted mentioned that one of the conveners and 1-2 members from the Commission on a Way Forward to join the CT for part of the April 2018 meeting. The online meeting in 2020 is moved to February 10, 2020. This will allow us to do an online session with GCFA to attend to potential budgetary items.

**Motion to approve the plan proposed by the Executive Committee to send a delegation made up of the Executive Committee and the Budget Advisory Team to the GCFA Fall 2018 meeting to deliberate on budget process for the 2021-2024 quadrennium. Approved by quorum.**

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

There were no action items from the group, but Jones offered the following points of information:

Agency Evaluation: This group has received and is in the process of reviewing the logic models in the Four Areas of Focus from the general agencies. CT hosted representatives from the agencies on a learning day with Dana Lyles and Brad Brady and consultants as trainers. See page 5 of the Board book for more detail. The logic models have been submitted to TCC.

Connectional Assessment: see page 6 of the Board book. This group is implementing an assessment process with goal of strengthening relationships between annual conferences and agencies to build capacity in connectional ministries in the Four Areas of Focus. This tool asks questions of connectional entities; it is anticipated that this process will strengthen the connection. The most recent version is under Resources -> CA Assessment Tool Draft (September 2017). The beta tests in six annual conferences are planned January – March 2018; rolled out to all conferences in late summer or early fall. Reports returned in 2019.

Missional Trends: See page 7 of the Board book. This group is identifying global trends. They are hoping to partner with GBGM and UMCOM.

### **WWN Working Group Report – Benedita Penicela Nhambiu**

There were no action items from the group, but Nhambiu offered the following points of information:

Chapter 5: The purpose of Ch. 5 is to serve in a consultative role with the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters (StCCCM). The group members are working in three sub-groups within the St. CCCM (Theology of Agency, Research, Editing Book of Discipline Text). Their proposal will be submitted to the executive committee of the St. CCCM to change the scope of their work.

General Church Council: The group met November 4<sup>th</sup> at Lake Junaluska. Please see the Worldwide Nature report for more details.

U.S. Structure: Please see the summary report on page 10 of the Board book. They have identified the need for discussion with other groups, methods for engagement, and developed a timeline for conversations and actions.

### **Discussion:**

- Is there a master timeline for this group in terms of coordinating the work between the three groups (St. CCCM, Chapter 5, US. Structure)?
- Benedita offered that we do not yet have a general timeline. We do have a timeline for the U.S. Structure group to design a broader timeline that will involve the three advisory groups.
- Alsted stated that this will be a task for the April 2018 meeting; it will involve several agencies outside of the CT, such as the St. CCCM, Committee on Faith and Order, jurisdictional study group, Council of Bishops, and others.

**A change in the agenda was made due to a sound issue. The Leadership Discernment and Community Life report was postponed.**

### **Internal Finance & Evaluation Report – Dave Nuckols**

Nuckols offered an overview of the CT internal finances. The 2018 spending plan figure is \$674,735, which reflects an 8% increase due to the additional CT Atlanta meeting, as well as the part-time evaluation and research specialist. The consultant position total is about \$42,000; this will be spent out of reserves. He noted that the CT is not in financial difficulty, but reaching the appropriate level. If the position continues into 2019 and 2020, the CT will need to find other forms of funding (ie World Service Contingency Fund).

**A motion was made to approve the CT 2018 Spending Plan. Approved.**

**A motion was made to receive the 2016 Audit Report and CT 2017 financial statements. Approved.**

#### **CT 2018 Agency Spending Plan Review Team Report – Brad Brady**

Brady offered a summary. See pages 48-49 for review report. He reported that each fall, a CT review team meets with GCFA to review the programs and budgets that receive World Service funding. Reps from the Agency Evaluation group were present. Agencies are reviewing their mandates and are beginning to consider legislation to adjust their mandates.

#### **Agency Financials/Reserves Report – Rick King**

Details are on page 51 of the Board Book. The funds are being spent consistently. Collection rates are similar across agencies. Projected 4% decrease from year to year. Rick reviewed additional expected changes in reserves, which includes an expected decrease over the next few years. King offered a slide that shows the percentages of spending for each agency as it relates to administrative work.

#### **Discussion:**

- Alsted called for questions
- Nhambiu asked for clarification of the percentages for the agencies
- King clarified that the percentages shown relate only to each agency's administrative spending; these figures do not represent program expenses

**A motion was made to accept the recommendation to approve the 2018 agency spending plans. Approved.**

#### **Leadership Discernment & Community Life Report – Ken Nelson**

Nelson reported on staffing updates, including the hiring of Adrienne Trevathan as administrative coordinator, and he welcomed Meredith Hoxie Schol back from maternity leave. He also explained that LDCL approved the part-time contract position to assist staff with the evaluation and assessment work this quadrennium.

Nelson explained that Miracle Osman, the CT member from the Division on Young People's Ministries (DMYP) took a position as a Global Mission Fellow with Global Ministries and needed

to discontinue her service on the CT. DMYP has nominated Venus Mae Gatdula from the Philippines as a new member to the CT.

**A motion was made to elect new DMYP board member Venus Mae Gatdula. Approved.**

### **Budget Advisory Team Report – Bishop Alsted**

#### **Guiding Principles – Dave Nuckols**

Nuckols provided an overview of the guiding principles drafted by the CT/GCFA Budget Advisory Team for the general church budget process. He explained that the agency general secretaries agreed to clarify missional priorities by March 2018 in preparation for the CT April 2018 meeting. He noted that the budget process is a multi-year process and that by approving them, these are not necessarily the final guidelines; we will continue to revise them.

*Proposed Language Added:* CT executive committee added proposed language to include “disciplinary mandates of the commissions and agencies” in item #5. CT will take this proposal to the joint Budget Advisory team for consideration.

**Nuckols motioned to approve the Guiding Principles (with Executive Committee addition). Approved.**

#### **Update on Budget Timeline – Cynthia Dopke**

Dopke clarified that the document will be updated as priorities unfold. This is an overall picture of how the CT and GCFA are working together on the budget process. We will adjust the dates in 2019 as a result of any changes/updates from the special session of the General Conference.

#### **Closing remarks - Bishop Alsted**

Alsted instructed the attendees to fill out the meeting evaluation coming later today so that we can improve the way we conduct our online meetings.

Nhambiu asked to hear more information about Venus. Gatdula introduced herself briefly.

#### **Closing Prayer – Bishop Tracy Smith Malone**

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 am CST.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Adrienne Trevathan, CT Staff*