



**July 18, 2019 Online Meeting
Full Board Minutes
The Connectional Table
First UMC Chicago Temple (Chicago, IL)**

July 18, 2019

Business meeting called to order at 9:07 AM CDT.

Connectional Table Roll Call

Present:

Voting Members:

Aguila, Pete, SCJ
Alsted, Christian No. Europe/
Eurasia CC
Belles, Sarah, DMYP
Birch, Ole, No. Europe/
Eurasia CC
Brady, Brad, SEJ
Brown, Shareka, SEJ
Clever III, Emmanuel, SCJ
Deere, Josephine, SCJ
Devine, Jerome, NCJ
Dharmaraj, Jacob, NFAAUM
Dyck, Sally, GBCS
Francisco, Ciriaco,
STCCCM
Gatdula, Venus Mae, DMYP
Hettman, Michelle, SEJ
Jones, Beverly, SCJ
Jung, Markus, Germany CC
Kenaston, Judi, NEJ
Kitete, Prosper, Congo CC
McAllily, William, GBHEM
Meekins, William, NEJ
Murphy, Tonya, SEJ
Nelson, Kenneth, SEJ
Neisen, Marianne, WJ
Nuckols, Dave, NCJ
Oglesby, Dennis, BMCR
Penicela Nhambiu, Benedita, Africa CC

Perez, Lyssette,
MARCHA
Prudente, Karen, NEJ
Scott, Robin, SEJ
Swanson, James, GCUMM

Non-Voting Members:

Boigegrain, Barbara, Wespah
Graves, Gary, CoGC
Hanke, GIL, GCUMM
Hare, Dawn Wiggins, GCSRW
Henry-Crowe, Susan, GBCS
Kemper, Thomas, GBGM
Milford, Brian, UMPH
Olson, Harriett, UMW

Regrets:

Bergquist, Greg, GBHEM
Bledsoe, Earl, GCORR
Coles, Amy, SEJ
Day, Fred, GCAH
Dotson, Junius, DM
Evans, Cashar, UMCOM
Hawkins, Erin, GCORR
Jen, Mike Dio, West Africa CC
Jung, Hee-Soo, GBGM
Kent, Cynthia, NAIC
Krause, Dan, UMCOM
Kumar, Moses, GCFA
Malone, Tracy, GCSRW
McKee, Michael, GCFA
McMillan, Duncan, CoGC

Park, Jeremiah, GCAH
Postell, Lathem, SEJ
Sermonia, Jr., Jovito, Philippines CC
Slaughter, Mike, NCJ
Tuitahi, Monalisa, PINCUM
Watson, Michael, OCUIR
Webb, Mark GBOD
Wilbourn, Miller SCJ
Zurcher, Stefan, Central/Southern Eur. CC

Staff:

Bigham-Tsai, Kennetha
Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Rachel
Clemons, Emily
Stricker, Adrienne

Special Guests:

Berger, Isabelle, Interpreter for Prosper Kitete
Campbell, Jeff, DM
Gable, Dena, ELCA
Jones, Dale, Wespeth
Swanney, Doug, British Methodist Church

Welcome & Opening Devotional – Bishop Christian Alsted, Chair

Bishop Christian Alsted offered a welcome and brief devotional.

Opening Business

Roll Call - Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Assistant Connectional Ministries Officer

Birkhahn-Rommelfanger read the names of those joining the meeting via computer and phone, including guests.

Establish quorum - CT staff

Quorum was established with 24 voting members present.

Instructions for voting – Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Assistant Connectional Ministries Officer

Birkhahn-Rommelfanger provided a brief overview of the voting website and gave time for CT

members to select their location in the world. Those calling in were given time to text their vote to the number indicated on the website.

Review of the Agenda – Bishop Christian Alsted, Chair

Alsted gave instructions for those wishing to provide feedback about the agenda.

Alsted called for approval of the agenda. **Action:** Alsted moved for the approval of the agenda.

Motion Approved.

Approval of April 2019 Minutes – Bishop Christian Alsted, Chair

Alsted called for changes to the minutes. **Action:** Alsted moved for the approval of the minutes.

Motion Approved.

Leadership Discernment & Community Life – Ken Nelson, Chair, Leadership Discernment & Community Life

Nelson mentioned that staff have recently had reviews and continue to plan vacation time in advance.

Actions: None.

Report to General Conference - Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer

Bigham-Tsai offered an overview of the report, its scope, and the process for creating the report. Alsted provided an opportunity for members to share questions or comments. There were none.

Alsted called for members to affirm the report, abstain or oppose. **Report affirmed.**

Emerging project website - Emily Clemons, Director of Communications

Clemons offered an overview of the Emerging project, including its leadership, vision, and purpose statement. Bigham-Tsai shared feedback from the Executive Committee. We have solicited writers for this project, and there are also writers' submission guidelines on the website. The leadership team seeks balance across theological perspectives. There was a discussion regarding the scope of the project within Methodism and its expected responses.

CT work in the next quadrennium - Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer

Bigham-Tsai shared an overview of the vision for the CT's work in the next quadrennium.

U.S. Contextual Ministries - Judi Kenaston, Chair, U.S. Contextual Ministries advisory group

Kenaston began with the document entitled Two-Stage Proposal with Option 2. Kenaston explained the differences between stage one and stage two. Barbara Boige grain is in charge of the strategic team and Jerry DeVine is in charge of the legislative team. Kenaston shared the rationale for the word “regional” instead of “central”. Stage one could be an interim plan or a contingency plan. All legislative work would need to be approved by the General Conference.

Stage 2 legislation has surfaced complications. The USCM advisory group is recommending option B. It is similar to option A, which is similar to legislation provided at the April CT meeting. Jurisdictions would continue to function as they do currently.

The Executive Committee had a discussion related to the USCM work. Penicela Nhambiu explained that option B is the recommendation from the Executive Committee. The following italicized text is the recommendation from the Executive Committee:

“For Stage I a **disciplinary petition** will be submitted calling for the establishment of a US Regional Committee through the insertion of a new paragraph in the BoD. This Committee, with legislative functions, is to be composed of delegates from the United States to the GC and would decide on petitions considered to be in the exclusive interest of (U.S. Region - Adaptable);

*This Committee will include additional members from the central conferences outside of USA Region, one lay person and one clergyperson from each of the central conferences, appointed by the Council of Bishops through the Leadership Discernment Committee to serve with voice but not **and** vote, would help bring insight on whether some legislation that is perceived as U.S.-specific may also have some global implications.”*

Alsted called for discussion about the amendment from the Executive Committee.

Discussion:

- There was a request for more explanation from the Executive Committee.
- The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters (St. CCCM) has voice and vote for consistency.
- The proposed structure is a different structure than the St. CCCM that is more aligned with a legislative committee.
- Alsted asked if others wish to speak.
- The issue of voice and vote has arisen several times at both the CT meeting and the editorial team. The editorial team may not have any resistance to the amendment.
- A member spoke in support of the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Central conferences can elect their own members.

- The administrative committees of the General Conference are all elected through the process determined by the Council of Bishops. Communication between central conferences and GC office are not always consistent.
- Birch offered a proposal for an alternative text.
- A clarification was made that the amendment should be addressed first.

Action: Alsted moved for the adoption of the amendment. **Motion Approved.** 4 opposed, none abstained.

Birch shared the following proposal: *Elected by the Central Conferences or their leadership bodies.*

Discussion:

- A member spoke for giving more autonomy to the central conferences.
- There was a question of whether the motion is intended to be applied.
- The proposed USCM legislation is not parallel to the St. CCCM as the purpose of the group is different. As USCM looks at the makeup of central conferences, it is likely not possible to make a parallel structure for the U.S.
- Birch clarified that the amendment would be added to two sections pertaining to the Standing Committee (line 208) and the COB (lines 4-10).

Action: Alsted moved to accept the proposal as stated. **Motion approved.** 1 opposed, none abstaining.

Action: Alsted moved to vote on stage 1 as amended. **Motion approved.** None opposed, none abstained.

Alsted called for discussion on Stage 2, version B. **Action:** Alsted moved to vote on stage 2, version B. **Motion approved.** None opposed, none abstained.

Next meetings:

- a. November 11, 2019 (Online)
- b. Pre-General Conference briefing [Executive Committee & Budget Advisory Team], January 23-24, 2020 (Nashville)
- c. Proposed: April 23, 2020 (Online)

Action: Alsted moved for approval of the above meetings. **Motion approved.** None opposed, none abstained.

Closing Prayer - Bishop Christian Alsted, Chair

Adjourned at 10:37 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Adrienne Stricker, Associate Administrative Specialist

