



**November 11, 2019 Online Meeting
Full Board Minutes
The Connectional Table
via Zoom**

November 11, 2019

Present:

Aguila	Pete
Belles	Sarah
Birch	Ole
Brady	Brad
Cleaver III	Emanuel
Coles	Amy
DeVine	Jerome
Dharmaraj	Jacob
Dyck	Sally
Hettmann	Michelle
Jones	Beverly
Jung	Markus
Kenaston	Judi
Kitete	Prosper
Malone	Tracy
McAlilly	William
Murphy	Tonya
Nelson	Ken
Niesen	Marianne
Nuckols	Dave
Oglesby	Dennis
Olson	Harriett
Prudente	Karen
Scott	Robin
Slaughter	Mike
Swanson	James
Tuitahi	Monalisa
Zurcher	Stefan

Non-Voting Members:

Bergquist	Greg
Boigegrain	Barbara
Day	Fred
Graves	Gary
Hanke	Gilbert
Hare	Dawn Wiggins
Hawkins	Erin
Henry-Crowe	Susan

Kemper	Thomas
Milford	Brian

Regrets:

Alsted	Christian
Bledsoe	Earl
Brown	Shareka
Deere	Josephine
Dotson	Junius
Evans	Cashar
Francisco	Ciriaco
Gatdula	Venus Mae
Jen	Mike Dio
Jung	Hee-Soo
Kent	Cynthia
Krause	Dan
Kumar	Moses
McKee	Michael
Meekins	William
Park	Jeremiah
Penicela	Benedita
Perez	Lyssette
Postell	Lathem
Sermonia	Jovito (Jun)
Watson	Michael
Webb	Mark
Wilbourn	Miller

Guests:

Berger, Isabelle (Interpreter)
 Gable, Dena (ELCA Representative)
 Simpson, Kim (COGC)
 Swanney, Doug (British Methodist Church)

Agency representatives:

Campbell, Jeff (DM)
 King, Rick (GCFA)

Staff:

Belista, Denise Ann (Intern)
Bigham-Tsai, Kennetha (CCMO)
Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Rachel (ACMO)
Stricker, Adrienne (Administrator)

Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Rachel (ACMO)
Bigham-Tsai, Kennetha (CCMO)

Welcome & Opening Devotional – Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, acting chair

Bishop Tracy Smith Malone offered a welcome and brief devotional from Philippians 2:1-11.

Opening Business - Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer

Roll Call

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

Business meeting called to order at 9:18 am CDT with 22 voting members present.

Quorum was *not* established. Bishop Malone instructed participants to proceed with the agenda as planned and take a vote count via email if necessary.

Voting & Q & A Instructions – Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer

Bigham-Tsai clarified that participants are to use the chat function or the “raise hand” function in Zoom to ask questions. Audio votes will be taken with the possibility of roll call votes for some items.

Additions the Agenda – Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, acting chair

The Executive Committee has approved the agenda. Malone called for additions. A board member asked if voting items will be discussed. Malone responded that these items will be discussed.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Roll call was reviewed again, additional members had joined, and quorum was established at 9:30 am.

Action: Malone moved for the approval of the agenda. **Motion approved.**

Approval of July 2019 Minutes – Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, acting chair

Action: Malone moved for approval of the minutes as circulated. **Motion approved.**

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

Nelson provided an overview of the items requiring a vote.

New board member

Nelson introduced Kim Simpson from the Commission on General Conference. Simpson will replace Duncan McMillan in accordance with paragraph 906.1c in *The Book of Discipline*.

Bishop Malone determined this item does not require a vote.

Committee Membership

Nelson provided an overview of language to formalize in the policies the Budget Allocations Team. The Executive Committee approved LDCL's recommendation to add to the CT policies that each working, advisory or administrative group have a secretary.

Bylaws Changes

The Executive Committee has approved LDCL's recommendation of the addition of a secretary as an officer of the CT and of the Executive Committee. They noted that the secretary will be supported by staff in terms of making sure minutes for the CT meeting are done, accurate, and received in a timely manner. The following addition will be added to the bylaws under Article III, section G:

*G. **Duties of Secretary.** The secretary shall attend all meeting of the Board of Directors. The secretary shall record minutes of the meeting in books kept for this purpose. This person shall ensure all rules and bylaws of the organization are adhered to by the board during meetings and the implementation of board decisions. The secretary is also in charge of all of the records and documentation for the organization. He or She shall do and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Board of Directors.*

Action: Devine moved for the acceptance of the above language in the bylaws. **Motion approved.**

Staffing Updates (information only)

Nelson provided an update regarding staffing changes. Nelson acknowledged the departure of

Director of Communications Emily Clemons and offered a brief recognition of her work. The CT will maintain a reduced staff due to budget concerns and will utilize contractors for specific projects.

Housing Allowance for Staff (information only)

On November 2, 2019, housing designations were approved by the CT Executive Committee for CT staff. Malone thanked Nelson for his leadership and called for questions.

Discussion:

- A board member asked if board members could be assigned to staff members to offer prayer for them.
- Nelson affirmed the suggestion and noted that LDCL assigned prayer partners.

Internal Finance & Evaluation Report - Dave Nuckols, IFE co-chair & Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Assistant Connectional Ministries Officer

Spending Plan

Birkhahn-Rommelfanger provided an overview of the CT 2020 spending plan and narrative and noted that the staff will provide an updated spending plan with an increase in consulting and a staffing decrease.

Discussion:

- A member asked about the policy for reimbursement to delegates who are CT members.
- CT members attending General Conference who receive reimbursements receive the same per diem for food and are required to have a roommate for hotel stays.
- Are CT members meeting at General Conference or is the Executive Committee the only group meeting?
- The Executive Committee and Budget Advisory Team will be meeting during General Conference.
- There was a question about the list of delegates attending General Conference.
- Ideally, we would have 5 volunteers to monitor at General Conference.

Action: Simpson moved to accept the 2020 spending plan. Seconded. **Motion approved.**

Birkhahn-Rommelfanger reported that she attended the spending plan reviews at GCFA in October with Dave Nuckols and Karen Prudente and that the meeting went well.

Cell Phone Reimbursement Policy (information only)

Due to necessity of voting on other items while quorum was maintained, item was later revisited for questions at 10:12 am. There were none.

The Executive Committee has approved a cell phone reimbursement policy. Some states require a reimbursement for staff using cell phones; our policy was written by Karen Prudente. It provides \$65 a month to staff members using their phones for business use.

WSCF Request - Thomas Kemper, CT Allocations Committee member & Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer

This request has been approved by the Executive Committee and the World Service Contingency Fund committee. Kemper explained the request came from the General Secretaries Table. The purpose of the request is to offer a 2 ½ day orientation meeting for all Central Conference delegates May 2-3, 2020. There is important legislation relating to Central Conference delegates. Bigham-Tsai noted the request is for \$398,900.

Discussion:

- A member asked if there was a proposal to have an orientation throughout the world prior to coming to General Conference.
- Kemper clarified there will be listening sessions in the regions organized by Gary Graves & Sara Hotchkiss (only for delegation heads and small numbers of people).

Action: Prudente moved for acceptance of the request. **Motion approved.**

COB request for the addition of a Special Sunday for Global Migration - Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer

The Immigration Task Force is doing meaningful work around the world. The Executive Committee approves and recommends to the full CT the proposal from the Council of Bishops (to both the CT and GCFA) of a Special Sunday in 2020 to promote the Advance for Global Migration and the establishment of a Special Sunday for the same purpose for each of the years of the 2021-2024 quadrennium. If the CT approves, it would go to GCFA for their November meeting. Malone stated that our action will move it to the next level and called for questions from the CT.

Questions:

- The GAEM committee has asked for revision of the proposal. Has the document been updated to reflect these changes?

- Bigham-Tsai responded she is unsure of any changes being incorporated into the document. GCFA process would be separate from the CT's process.
- King responded that the wording regarding the request in a press release is inaccurate. The language has been updated to reflect the requested changes.
- There was a question regarding the limit of special Sundays.
- Bigham-Tsai responded that the request is timely and relevant for issues around global migration around the world. These issues will become more significant over time.

Action: Prudente moved for acceptance of the motion. Seconded. **Motion approved.**

General Conference Preparations - Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer

Legislative Updates: U.S. Regional Conference & Budget Allocations

These items have been presented at meetings throughout the connection. The college of Central Conference Bishops as has affirmed the USRC legislation and has committed to support it. Communication materials have been produced about both items and they are available on the CT website. The items will be translated.

Pre-GC Briefing

The staff will be present at the briefing to discuss the above materials.

CT Report to the GC

The report will be framed around the hymn “We Are The Church’ and the ministries we can do as a connectional body. We will release them in a digital form before the pre-General Conference briefing. We are working with a consultant to shape the presentation for General Conference. Malone called for questions; there were none.

Update: Four Areas of Focus & Strategic Team - Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer

New Missional Strategy Team

Bigham-Tsai reviewed the proposal to end the work of the Vital Areas through Four Areas of Focus Strategic Team, to celebrate the work of the Four Areas of Focus, and create a new missional strategy team. The purpose is to develop the processes for determining new missional directions. Bigham-Tsai reviewed the composition of the team. This proposal was just approved at the COB meeting.

Discussion:

- A member proposed an addition to the last paragraph on membership to include the following text in brackets: *selected by their respective bodies*.
- Discussion followed, relating to the jurisdiction of the Council of Bishops of selecting members, as well as determining leadership and direction.

Action: Nuckols made a motion to refer the above comments to the Leadership Discernment & Community Life (LDCL) committee so that they can provide appropriate feedback to the nominating committee. There was no second. Discussion continued.

- The five bishops who would comprise the team would be primarily Central Conference bishops. There was concern about keeping the team small. The work of the team is not to set missional direction, but to create processes for setting new missional direction within the denomination. These processes would involve collaboration with other groups.
- As this initiative has been approved by the COB, the COB owns the initiative. Does the CT have the authority to amend this, or are we making a recommendation to the COB?
- The chair clarified it will be a recommendation for new text.
- Change of motion to a recommendation: an addition to the last paragraph on membership to include the following text in brackets: *selected by their respective bodies*.

Action: Malone moved to accept the recommendation of an addition to the last paragraph on membership to include the following text in brackets: *selected by their respective bodies*. Seconded. **Motion approved.**

Discussion:

- Malone suggested referring the above conversation to LDCL.
- The bishops have a key role that was not fully engaged as this was created. For them to own their role and steer the vision is a step forward.
- A board member clarified that this work is missional, not programmatic.

Action: Nuckols made a motion to refer the main concerns for further conversation to LDCL. Seconded. One abstention. **Motion approved.**

Extended Cabinet Event - Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer

Bigham-Tsai provided a brief update that the event will be for 2022 as an opportunity with key leaders in the denomination. One outstanding issue is the budget and funding. The CT is working with potential sources, which is ongoing work.

Future Work of CT in Next Quadrennium (information only)

Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Chief Connectional Ministries Officer

Bigham-Tsai provided an overview of priorities for the next quadrennium and possible CT structure, as well as leadership transition and timing. Key issues named include the budget, staffing with 3 staff members and occasional contractors, and worldwide and contextual ministry. The Executive Committee has considered the below structure of the CT in the next quadrennium:

- The Executive Committee would handle World Service Contingency Fund Requests
- Leadership Discernment and Community Life would be combined with Internal Finance & Evaluation
- A combined finance team (to include spending plan reviews, CT's internal finance processes, Economic Advisory Committee representative, Budget Advisory Team representatives, and the CT Budget Allocations Team)
- Agency Evaluation, including work with agencies related to shared evaluation
- Continuation of Chapter 5 and Global Forum
- Continued work on issues of worldwide contextual ministries, regionalization, the Emerging project, Strategic Team and Missional Strategy Team
- Key dates: Nominations process in August 2020, spending plan reviews in September 2020, end of October for first full CT organizational meeting

Future Meetings of the CT:

- a. January 13 Executive Committee (10 am – 4 pm, Dallas) – Cancelled
- b. January TBD U.S. Contextual Ministries Zoom Call (Doodle sent out)
- c. February 24 Economic Advisory Committee (Amy Coles)
- d. April 23 online CT Board meeting (9:00 am – 11:00 am Central U.S.)
- e. May 14 CT online meeting – Time TBD

Note: Executive Committee, Budget Advisory Team, Allocations Team, and CT members who are delegates will already be present at General Conference

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 am with a closing prayer by Bigham-Tsai.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Adrienne Stricker, Associate Administrative Specialist