

**Minutes of the National Convocation Board of Trustees Meeting
December 7 – 10, 2016
Crowne Plaza – Indianapolis Airport
O’Hare Boardroom
2501 S. High School Road**

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Present: Valildra Berry, Milton Bowens, R. Wayne Calhoun, Ron Degges, Shannon Dycus, Donald Gillett, Gloria Gilliard, Sue Gray, Irvin Green, Arnold Hayes, Timothy James, Delesslyn Kennebrew, Ken Brooker Langston, Chesla Nickelson, Patricia Penelton, Antonio Redd, Sheila Spencer, Edward Williams

Absent: Preston T. Adams, III, Edward Cushingberry, Wanona Redd, Jesse Jackson

NCC1216.01 CALL TO ORDER / OPENING DEVOTION

President Patricia (Pat) Penelton called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. with opening prayer by Dr. Timothy James. As part of the devotion, the board joined Dr. James in singing Joy to the World.

NCC1216.02 BOARD INTRODUCTIONS

To prepare for the meeting, President Patricia (Pat) Penelton had sent the board instructions to create an introductory PowerPoint presentation. Using their creativity through pictures, images and words, board members shared what was important to them and what they bring to this board. The board shared celebratory joys with each other as well as prayerful thoughts for those who recently experience sorrow and/or loss.

NCC1216.03 ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

President Penelton gave a brief overview of the agenda, which was adopted as written. T

NCC1216.04 ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

The board received copies of the Minutes from the National Convocation Board of Trustees Meeting (December 2015) and minutes from the National Convocation Board Orientation, which was held after the 24th Biennial Session in Kansas City.

NCC1216.05 PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- Copy of historic report from Dr. Raymond Brown was discussed and accepted. This report was also sent to board members via email.
- Sharon Watkins presented the report from the General Minister & President’s Office. She shared the three expressions of the church in which there are 80+ groups/gatherings. Within the groups, there is a strong presence and participation of African American Disciples, as they gather to hear what the priorities of mission are as the church moves forward. The three expressions are:

- Mission First!
- Mission Gatherings
- Mission Council
- April Johnson presented her report from Reconciliation Ministry. She shared with the board, the grant guidelines and application process, noting a specific change regarding dates – grants are for the year in which they are applied, not the next fiscal year.
- Chesla Nickelson presented her report and shared, in detail, the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2017 mission trip to India. This journey will be an opportunity to build relationships among sisters from other congregations and regions.
- Timothy James shared his report and focused on how we as a board understand the complete relationship/role after the National Convocation came into existence as the Merger Agreement between NCMC and the International Convention of Christian Churches.
 - Do we as a board know enough to fulfill the boards roles, responsibilities, mission and vision?
 - Should we be concerned about generations who have no concern about or understanding of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?
 - How can NCCC continue to support Mission Council? And although we want to support the Mission, how do we get resources and exposure.

After the consensus to have a working dinner, fellowship groups met and presented their reports after dinner.

NCC1216.06 VISION & TRAINING SESSION – Dr. Todd Adams (Presenter)

Dr. Todd Adams shared with the board how the process of its mission, leadership, responsibilities and expectations should be fulfilled. When we are gathered in our meetings, we SHOULD be concerned about how the spend our time and to prepare conversation(s) to ID our own priorities and to ID our Mission and Vision. Comments and concerns for the training included:

- We need to live into our role – not just sit in the room and be “board members.”
- Orientation to a successful board is key to preparing for the roles we carry out.
- Tim and Pat both agreed review Tim’s job description and to continue to improve and update the responsibilities that may get overlooked.
- Tim needs to always be at the table – ensure that when we are in certain spaces, we have to be equipped, informed and be ready to challenge those who are not familiar with/in support of NCCC.
- We need to engage more in training, development, and nurturing of person to be added to serve on the board. Suggestion: Create a Lay Leadership Committee to orient new board members.

Friday, December 9, 2016

NCC1216.07 MEDITATION AND OPENING PRAYER

Day two of the board meeting started with meditation and opening prayer by Dr. James. Tim showed and expressed so much gratitude for the NCCC – *how do we keep moving forward...how do we keep thriving...how do we stay prayerful – IN SPITE OF...*

NCC1216.08 PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS (CON'T)

- Ron Degges presented the DHM report and shared how DHM is focused more on evangelism. Although he is retiring, he hopes to see future and continued growth with National Convocation. He is laying his mantle of leadership down and hopeful that we continue to move ahead.

NCC1216.09 GOAL SETTING

The board discussed how we set our short- and long-term goals and develop strategies to meet them. The Administrative Secretary's job enhancement should include (these enhancements will be continually improved upon as the role and responsibilities grow)!

- The board mandates Tim's succession plan.
- Churches who don't know who the Administrative Secretary is or what he does should be made aware of that role. Tim serves a dual role: anything related to a congregation and its whole-church leadership should be highlighted and exposed. We have to make the job of the Administrative Secretary a greater value to the whole church.
- Make sure Tim/Administrative Secretary is protected and informed so that he can successfully fulfill his role and responsibilities.
- Updating the Vision and Mission statements of the NCCC. Add modern language; rename priorities
- The goal of bringing the board up-to-date on how we share our information was discussed. Creating an electronic meeting center as well as how we share physical documents to help with meeting efficiency, is crucial to the flow of face-to-face meetings.
- We don't want to see the National Convocation Board become a 'Planning Committee'. Tim is our voice for the Black church – not **just** the voice as the Associate General Minister and Vice President.

NCC1216.10 NCMC ACTIONS

Ed Williams motioned that a Strategic Planning Committee to oversee the work of this body and to move forward to make language in Resolution 6844 (Concerning Merger of the National Christian Missionary Convention and the International Convention of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), relevant to the 21st Century and to bring back to this body, recommendations for approval. Ken Brooker Langston seconded. Motion passed. This team will complete this work by January 31. Members of the Strategic Planning Committee are: Valildra Berry, Antonio Redd, Delesslyn Kennebrew, R. Wayne Calhoun, Ed Williams.

NCC1216.11 CREATION OF AD HOC COMMITTEES

President Penelton and Dr. James approved the creation of five (5) Ad Hoc Committees. To carry out the continued work of the board.

- Communication Committee
 - Ed Cushingberry, Valildra Berry, Shannon Dycus
- Reclamation Committee
 - Don Gillett, Edward Williams, Milton Bowens, Delesslyn Kennebrew, Irvin Green
- Reconciliation Committee
 - Ken Brooker Langston, Jesse Jackson, Jack Sullivan (?), Dietra (?), April Johnson as ex-officio member
- Governance Committee
 - President, Administrative Secretary, Don Gillett, Nominating Chair – Arnold Hayes
- Site Selection Committee
 - Chair – Beverly Bell

NCC1216.12 BLACK MINISTERS RETREAT REPORT

The 2017 Black Ministers Retreat will be held March 7-9 in St. Louis, Missouri. Rev. Derrick Perkins and the Centennial Christian Church will host the event.

Saturday, December 10, 2016

NCC1216.13 BLACK DISCIPLES ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

In the absence of Mary Lou Kegler, Dr. John Foulkes shared the report with the board and shed light on the following issues/concerns:

- Resolution 44 is incompletely reported. There are open actions that are yet to be taken. The resolution identifies two/three part of the church that are no longer in existence. Item 3 of this document ends with point 'c', when the revised document recognizes information through point 'g'. John requested that the revised corrected document be sent to the board. Irvin Green motioned to receive the report of BDEF –with corrected document forthcoming. Milton Bowens seconded. Motion passed.

NCC1216.14 GREENWOOD CEMETERY REPORT

Dwayne Bell presented the report. Irvin Green motioned to receive the report as presented. Valildra Berry seconded. Motion passed.

NCC1216.15 2017 AUDIT REPORT

Angelita Dobbs presented the Audit report. Her findings included:

- No changes in accounting practices.
- No new applications in 2017,
- No difficulties encountered.
- No disagreement with management.
- All audit adjustments were correctly posted and put into the financial statements.
- Unmodified opinion in accordance with GAAPs.

NCC1216.16 2017 BUDGET REPORT

Gloria Gilliard presented the budget report to the board. She noted that the following line items to be corrected and/or added to accurately reflect the budget.

- Budget information for the Biennial Session needs to be included.
- BMR & Merger Summit budget items need to reflect accurate numbers.
- Disciples Clergy Women's budgeted line item needs to be included.

Arnold Hayes motioned to receive the proposed budget with pending corrections to be finalized and distributed to board. Edward Williams seconded. Motion passed.

NCC1216.17 MISSION COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Delesslyn Kennebrew, who is a member of the Mission Council, proposed that if we are serious the Mission First! process of the church, we should add Mission Council to the meeting agenda. We should propose language for Mission priorities (children, youth and young adults). As the discussion continued, Ed Williams motioned that we accept the actions in this meeting as a matter of record. Milton Bowens seconded. Motion passed.

NCC1216.18 JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Delesslyn Kennebrew will serve as chair of the Jubilee Celebration Planning Committee and will work with Mae Reed and Amelia Walker in the planning. The celebration will take place on Sunday, July 9 during General Assembly. Tim will follow up with the GA Program & Planning Committee re: the significance of this celebration.

NCC1216.19 ROUND ROBIN DISCUSSION – CONCERNS & COMMENTS

- Time management is critical concern. We need to create a tight agenda and stick to it and Chairpersons/President need to make sure we do.
- We need to receive electronic reports PRIOR to the start of the meeting. Creating an online meeting center where documents are upload and can be added and accessed easily makes for better meeting organization and efficiency.
- All voices at the table need to be heard.
- We need to strive for excellence as a board – mediocracy should not be acceptable.
- Thankful for leadership, talents, and gifts of the board members at this table.
- Appreciative of the support, as well as the criticism and critique.
- Grateful for the commitment.
- Honored to be a part of this board.
- History is important – but we need to make sure we know that history!
- The board should learn, share and take actions that affect us most.
- Knowledge is the key.

NCC1216.20 CLOSING WORSHIP AND COMMUNION

After devotion and communion, the meeting was officially adjourned at 11:45 am.