

National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Board of Trustees Meeting
Executive Committee Meeting
December 2, 2020

Present: President Irie Session, Dr. William Crowder, Yvonne Gilmore, Shannon Dycus, Belinda King, Terri Hord Owens, Timothy James

Meeting was called to order by President Session.

Agenda for Board of Trustees reviewed. Standing Committees updates to include Finance Committee (King), Program Committee (Crowder), Local Arrangements, Nominating Committee and Advisory Committee.

For 2022 Experience, Biennial Session budget and timeline will be established in 2021, in conversation with Secretary Gilmore and President Session.

National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, December 3, 2020

Present: Resident Irie Session, William Crowder, Belinda King, Shannon Dycus, Monique Crain-Spells, Timothy James, Reginald Calhoun, Aaron Smith, William Smith, Terri Hord Owens, Walter Parker, Darren Phelps, Yvonne Gilmore, Sheila Spencer, Megan Lowe, Beverly Goines, Chesla Nickelson, Donald Gillett, Cicely Holt, Anne Sowell, Juanita Greene, Jean Brown, Pernella Shortie, Edward Williams.

Absent: Eddie Anderson

Meeting was called to order with prayer by President Irie Session.

Introductions were shared in small groups.

Agenda was presented and approved. Motion: Crowder/Parker. **Approved**

Minutes from Board of Trustees meeting Minutes, December 5-7 2019 were reviewed. Moved: Smith/Shortie. **Approved**

Greetings and ministry update from General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens: Encouraged creativity of our church against empire, challenging ourselves to seeing things newly and receive permission to change. Governance Committee reviewing the design around authority and accountability. New resources emerging around covenant as Disciples with theological foundation for those new to DOC. Mission/Finance Committee reviewing sustainability of whole church seeking DMF giving of all churches. Regional ministries in Kansas area exploring opportunities for collaboration in regional structure. Offered thanks for receipt of 2020 Liberation Award.

Greetings from Interim Administrative Secretary Yvonne Gilmore: Celebration of joy in the beginning of her role and gratitude to leadership of Dr. James.

Ministry Updates

President Session offered meditation based in *The Coming* by Daniel Black welcoming the spirit of strength and empowerment into our congregations.

Interim Administrative Secretary Gilmore affirmed her plans to be in weekly conversation with Black pastors, ideas around encouraging gathering and creativity in meeting, celebrating the Black church narrative and potential grants.

Interim President, Disciples Home Missions Sheila Spencer affirmed virtual creativity and presence through DHM programming. Educational trainings are expanding and leadership grants continue. Director of Christian Education/Faith Formation position pending.

Director of Evangelism and Congregational Transformation R. Wayne Calhoun offered updates about Star Supporter Scholarship Fund received 32 applications and awarded 28 recipients with \$3000.

Program Director for Disciples Women Chesla Nickelson offered updates about internal production of annual bible study. January 31, 2021 will be her conclusion in this role and strong leadership exists as other leaders think toward new leadership and structure.

The Executive Committee met on November 19 to nominate Belinda King as new Treasurer of the National Convocation, replacing James Vertreese. **Motion Approved.**

Fellowship Group Reports

Disciples Women Fellowship Group President Pernella Shortie updated on rescheduled plans on 2020 Experience. Group looking forward to planning for 2022.

Disciples Men Fellowship Group President Walter Parker shared virtual meetings of group for prayer, encouragement around COVID and anticipated social media (FB) communication. Recruitment for the group is a priority Disciples Men goal.

Clergy Women Fellowship Group President Monique Crain Spells shared vision to discover, mobilize and resource within the group and beyond. May 2020 survey reflected collective need for shared wisdom and care, additional meetings for self-care and comedy. DHM grant of \$4000 has supported care boxes to women to read and journey together. Blackdisciplesclergywomen.org

Ministers Wives and Spouses Fellowship Group President Jean Brown shared of ongoing group meeting and support.

The following financial reports were reviewed: 2019 Audit, 2018-2019 Statement of Activities, 2021 Proposed Administrative Report, 2021 Proposed Biennial Session Budget. Discussion about recovery of income loss related to missed 2020 gathering.

Motion to accept 2021 Administrative and Biennial Session Budget: Phelps/Brown. **Approved**

Motion to accept 2021 Administrative Budget: Finance Committee/King. **Approved**

Black Ministers Fellowship Group President Edward Williams reported anticipated platform for virtual bible studies planned by Black Ministers group.

2020 It's Real Experience in covenant with Obra Hispana and NAPAD has been postponed to July 20-23 2022. Event will continue to be located at Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth, TX. Shared leadership, speakers and financial investment facilitated through Treasury Services.

Administrative Secretary Timothy James offered his final report celebrating 17 years of leadership in collaboration with colleagues of the CC(DOC). James offered gratitude for ministry with congregations, the OGMP office, and Merger staff. He celebrated the reflection of racial diversity in leadership positions that has occurred during his tenure. Gratitude and appreciation was returned to Dr. James from the Board for his leadership.

Meeting concluded with prayer by William Smith.

National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, December 4, 2020

Present: Resident Irie Session, William Crowder, Belinda King, Shannon Dycus, Monique Crain-Spells, Timothy James, Reginald Calhoun, Aaron Smith, William Smith, Terri Hord Owens, Walter Parker, Darren Phelps, Yvonne Gilmore, Sheila Spencer, Megan Lowe, Beverly Goines, Chesla Nickelson, Donald Gillett, Cicely Holt, Anne Sowell, Juanita Greene, Jean Brown, Pernella Shortie, Edward Williams, Eddie Anderson.

Meeting was called to order with meditation and opening prayer by Vice President William Crowder, Jr.: Isaiah 7:14 "God is with us" celebrating the Advent prophecy of God's presence with us and our hope in God's ongoing promise.

National Convocation Board adjourned by President Session for Agenda of the National Christian Missionary Convention.

National Christian Missionary Convention called to order.

Report from Jackie Compton Bunch, Black Disciples Endowment Fund. Board members and organizational chart were shared and priorities of Fund were shared: Leadership Development, Congregational Growth & Vitality and Advocacy of the AA Community. Ministry Partnership Grants include African American Clergy Leadership Development, DHM/National Convocation (African American School of Faith and Life), and Lexington Theological Seminary in new bivocational ministry initiative. Board members encouraged to advocate and contribute to BDEF.

Motion from BDEF the following names in nomination for election to the 2023 BDEF Board of Trustees: Jackie Compton Bunch, Eugene Fisher and John R. Foulkes. Second by Smith. **Approved.**

Report from William Lee, AACLD & Black Ministries. AACLD history offered as flow of leadership development as a supplement to DHM ministries. Reminder that 2022 Black Ministers Retreat will return to Nashville.

Report from Dwayne Bell, Greenwood Cemetery reflecting on challenges of COVID on cemetery business and named new practices and protocols that will be integrated into ongoing practices. Names of board members were shared for awareness and collaboration.

National Christian Missionary Convention meeting adjourned.

National Convocation Board of Convocation Meeting called to order by President Session.

Resolution to the General Board to change the status of the National Convocation in the Design reviewed. Discussion about how we add actionable items to this initiative, encouraged in interim priorities. "What do we need the merger to mean today?"

Standing Committees were reviewed using document 'Design for the Standing Committee.' Committee assignments will be assigned later and Trustees are welcome to volunteer for service to committees. Committee Additions:: Strategic planning: Megan Lowe and Beverly Goines. Worship: Darren Phelps, Cicely Holt. Biennial Session: Eddie Anderson

These next meeting dates were highlighted:

- Black Ministers Retreat – Cancelled 2021 – Nashville, TN
- Executive Committee Meeting – March 17-20, 2021 – Virtual
- Board of Trustees Meeting – December 1-4, 2021 – Indianapolis, IN
- The Experience It's Real! – July 20-23, 2022 – Fort Worth, TX

Meeting closed with Communion led by Yvonne Gilmore, William Crowder and Belinda King. Closing prayer was offered by Administrative Secretary Timothy James.

Meeting was adjourned by President Session.