

**National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Meeting held by Zoom  
December 1, 2021**

Present: President Irie Session, Vice President William Crowder, Treasurer Belinda King, Secretary Shannon Dycus, Anne Sowell, Darren Phelps, Aaron Smith, Claudette President, Juanita Greene, Megan Lowe, William Smith, Rev. Eddie Anderson

Ex-Officio Members: Interim Administrative Secretary Yvonne Gilmore, Interim DHM President Sheila Spencer, Brenda Rossy Merger staff: Monique Crain Spells, Angele Johnson, R. Wayne Calhoun

Meeting called to order by President Irie Session with prayer.

Dr. Jack Sullivan joined the meeting.

Ministry conversation with DJAN (Disciples Justice Action Network), Dr. Jack Sullivan Jr.: Dr. Sullivan shared history of development of DJAN, a current network of activists. Additional history shared of Disciples Center for Public Witness as a partner with DJAN with separate board but shared leadership executive director with DJAN. Sullivan shared organizational discernment of how God is inviting the next season of ministry, highlighting the ethos of liberation of the Black Church and inviting dialogue around what would it be like for DJAN to embody the ethos of racial, social and economic justice.

Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. left the meeting.

Board members discussed action steps in response to DJAN sharing naming priority for collaborative movement across convocation priorities: surveying congregations about justice needs, merger staff of intersectional justice, identifying responses to the multiple pieces of immediate and long-term justice needs.

Rev. Marco Cable joined the meeting.

Ministry conversation with DOM (Division of Overseas Ministries), Rev. Marco Cable: President Cable shared the shared mission of DOM with the following core values: mutuality, presence, community, justice, and peace in 5 regions, with 290 partners in 90 countries. People-to-People program, Child and Elder sponsorship programs were highlighted for church wide support alongside ongoing appointments for partners in service of varying time lengths.

Shared conversation included virtual pilgrimages with global partners, how funding and family support enables appointments of young people, a global engagement committee of NCCC.

Rev. Marco Cable left the meeting.

Meeting concluded by President Session.

**National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Meeting held by Zoom**  
**December 2, 2021**

Present: President Irie Session, Vice President William Crowder, Treasurer Belinda King, Secretary Shannon Dycus, Anne Sowell, Aaron Smith, Rev. Eddie Anderson, William Smith, Juanita Greene, Megan Lowe, Darren Phelps, Claudette President

Ex-Officio Members: Interim Administrative Secretary Yvonne Gilmore, Interim DHM President Sheila Spencer, Jackie Compton Bunch, Dwayne Bell, Brenda Rossy Merger staff: Monique Crain Spells, Angele Johnson, R. Wayne Calhoun

**Ministry Updates:**

Meeting called to order by President Irie Session with meditation and prayer, followed by introductions by all. Meeting agenda was reviewed and review of minutes from December 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

Greetings were offered from Rev. Sheila Spencer, highlighting the ongoing work of deployed DHM staff. Into the fourth month of her leadership, President of International Disciples Women Angele Johnson shared hopes for reengaging and reimagining impactful and relevant ministry for women. Interim Secretary Yvonne Gilmore greeted with invitation to prayerfully hold Dr. Terri Owens as she is on sabbatical. Gilmore highlighted the priorities of church narrative project and 'Imagine with Me' digital series for ongoing connection across the church.

**Fellowship Group reports:**

Disciples Women from Claudette President: Celebration of virtual tools for online meetings and leadership apprentice training. Excitement for onboarding of Angele Johnson in shared leadership.

Black Disciples Clergywomen from Monique Crain Spells: Offered report in acknowledgement of ending leadership in March 2022. Care was prioritized over other important topics with 'Sawubona' boxes for 40 women to do monthly discussions for shared healing. Recent discussions include development of a fund for ongoing care of black clergywomen.

Youth and Young Adults from Rev. Eddie Anderson: Gratitude for participation in virtual Juneteenth celebration, planning for 2022 It's Real and continued development towards podcast.

**Board Actions:**

Proposed name change for Administrative Secretary: Recommendation to change title of Administrative Secretary to Associate General Minister and President of the National Convocation of the CC(DOC). Moved by Eddie Anderson, seconded by Belinda King. **Not Approved.**

Discussion included rationale of suggested change (alignment with other judicatory roles, respect, clarity and perception of role), need for reengagement of history and education around roles, review of responsibilities. Previous recommendation offered by Board of Trustees in December 6, 2019 meeting.

Motion to begin a committee to begin a process reviewing the proposed name change of the Administrative Secretary. Moved by Belinda King, seconded by Darren Phelps. Committee named for this task: Aaron Smith, Monique Spells, Anne Sowell, Yvonne Gilmore, Eddie Anderson, Irie Session, William Crowder with named goal of response to executive committee by March 2022.

Recommendation to approve new Treasurer: Pending his approval, motion to approve Orlando Scott as Treasurer beginning January 1, 2022. This change is prompted by promotion of current Treasurer and avoidance of conflict of interest. Moved by Juanita Greene, seconded by William Crowder. **Approved.**

Rev. April Johnson joined the meeting.

Review of Executive Search Model: Overview of model with key components including: convening a search committee, screening/interview, call, successful onboarding and accountability.

Advisory Committee for permanent Administrative Secretary: Following awareness of conflict of interest in development of advisory, the board discussed how to proceed with a search.

Motion to rescind the existing advisory committee and authorize our vice-president to communicate rescinding with these members. Moved by Darren Phelps, seconded by Anne Sowell. 10 of 11 yes votes. **Approved.** (*Parliamentarian guidance named board authority to rescind a previous vote. Without prior knowledge, 2/3 vote is required to approve.* )

#### **Ministry Updates:**

From Rev. Monique Spells in Faith Formation/Christian Education highlighting Kwanzaa and Week of Laity deliverables being planned. Planning towards Meditations for MLK Day, podcast study for WELLness.

From R. Wayne Calhoun in Evangelism and Congregational Transformation reported on Black Leadership Project grants (\$25,000 rewarded in 2021), Legacy & Vision series and the Star Supporter Fund.

#### **It's Real 2022 Update:**

Vice President Crowder shared updates including ongoing concern for event: shared health among COVID, political realities of Texas, collaborations with other ministry partners, loss of leadership in local arrangements. Awareness of hybrid options and recommendation to survey all the constituents from the three groups.

Meeting was adjourned by President Irie Session.

#### **National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

##### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

##### **Meeting held by Zoom**

**December 3, 2021**

Present: President Irie Session, Vice President William Crowder, Treasurer Belinda King, Anne Sowell, Aaron Smith, William Smith, Megan Lowe, Darren Phelps, Claudette  
President Absent: Secretary Shannon Dycus, Rev. Eddie Anderson, Juanita Greene,

Ex-Officio Members: Interim Administrative Secretary Yvonne Gilmore, Interim DHM President Sheila Spencer, Jackie Compton Bunch, Dwayne Bell, William Lee, Marilyn Fiddmont, Angelita Dobbs, Brenda Rossy  
Merger staff: Monique Crain Spells, Angele Johnson, R. Wayne Calhoun

Dr. Crowder called the meeting to order and opened with a word from Jeremiah 4-6, 10-11.

God says that if we do that in the midst of all the craziness:  
I will work the advent shift in your life.  
I will not allow what should happen to happen.  
I will turn your prayer request into your praise report.

### Financial Reports

Financial Audit – Rev. Gilmore and Angelita have been in contact with auditors. No final report received from auditors as of today. Hoping to get information from them in the next couple of weeks. Up to date with accounting. Access to investment activity and QuickBooks account. Moving forward and hope that we can get a final report for audit.

Investment Report, Marilyn Fiddmont – “When I ran track, I ran relay, and I never crossed the finish line.” We are running well. We have grant applications we will be distributing for grants. Additional value of account nearly \$700k.

A new fund will be established in appreciation of Snow Hill Christian Church. Rev. Gilmore added that a new page with all funds has been added to the National Convocation website.

National Convocation 2022 Budget Proposal, Belinda King - Expenses are lower as a result of Covid. Total revenue, 92,313. Total expenditures for 2021 just over 30k. 2022 projected revenue, 96,335.94. Total expenditures for 2022 just over 85k and projected to be in the black.

### **The National Convocation board meeting recessed to facilitate the NCMC meeting.**

National Christian Missionary Convention - Reports

Black Disciples Endowment Fund, Jackie Compton Bunch, Chair - BDEF reopening our granting ministry as we seek to affect the lives of others in our ministry. BDEF is an endowment owned by NCMC. The purpose is to serve the lives of black pastors in the US and Canada.

AACLD is a grant that will receive an average of \$10,000 per year to recruit and support African American clergy.

DHM, National Convocation. \$10,000 annually

LTS, \$10,000 annually. The final installment of that grant has been given, this year.

We will now lose 2 members on our board as their tenure has concluded. Bill Lee and Ann Pickett. The class of 2024, Bob Williams, Laity, Texas, Nadine Burton, Clergy, Great River Region, and CaSaundra Silmon.

Nominations presented to board. Jackie Compton Bunch, President. Patrice Holland, Vice-President.

Nominations to serve on the board of trustees for election to the class of 2024.

Anne Sowell, Eddie Anderson, William Lee, Monique Spells. The board approved the nominations of the board members and officers. None were opposed.

Greenwood Cemetery, Dwayne Bell, General Manager- Presentation on the updates and improvements to Greenwood property. Preston Taylor area continues to be a highlight. New mausoleum photos presented (2012). Greenwood north is a flagship location (photos).

The life of greenwood north is about 60 years. The board will look into purchasing additional properties once that becomes full.

There is money allocated to make sure that black minister's retreat goes well. Along with that there is giving to the local community. This year represented at NAACP banquet.

Rev. Gilmore thanked Mr. Bell for participating in Juneteenth celebration and for excellent stewardship and faithfulness.

Black Ministries and Director of the CAAM program at Lexington Seminary, William Lee, Director of Black Minister's Retreat - previously the input was that there would be no in person retreat for 2022. Looking at doing a virtual retreat, not beholden to a March date. In the next 2 weeks there will be information on the website regarding more information. Reminder: BMR has to fund itself. In the next few weeks, by December 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be more information about a virtual event in 2022.

### **The Board meeting of the National Convocation Resumes by Dr. Session.**

Interim Minister and President, Reflection and Discernment

Stories we tell about the National Convocation and National Christian Missionary Convention

Why are black people disciples?

There are so many different stories that we tell about who we are and what we are.

The danger of a single story.

What are the stock stories that we tell? What are the things that get concealed?

Members went to breakout rooms for 10 minutes:

Common sense interpretation of scripture, communion.

What are our influences?

Just recently using our influence to the community.

Return to Main Conversation: Stock Stories

### **Mission, Identity of National Convocation and NCMC**

Breakout groups resume

Power, position, practice.

The convocation is seen as doing nothing.

How do we make ourselves visible in the community?

Each region defines how you stay in good standing.

Back to main group:

Are we here to help our churches? Is the convocation invested in the strengthening of black congregations.

“We don’t understand what our purpose was from the beginning and how it has evolved, Pastor William Smith. Students who have come through integrated settings have a hard time seeing their history right now. In other words, integration has hurt us. We have become accommodationist rather than how to hold institutions accountable.

Rev. Yvonne – breakouts. Are we open to working in a process with being trauma informed.

We have caused enough trauma to ourselves.

Maybe we need some restorative circles.

Are we really ready to discuss trauma in the life of ministry? Darren Phelps

Historical harm really stops you from moving forward, Claudette President

Rev. Gilmore. Working with Dr. Hooker: Do we need to do some trauma work?

Rev. Gilmore concluded the meeting with updates and with prayer.