

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Present: Timothy James, Donald Gillett, Irie Session, Pamela DuBose, Ken Langston, Beverly Goines, JoAnn Flowers, Terri Owens, Sheila Spencer, Antonio Redd, Cicely Holt, Pernella Shortie, Milton Bowens, Shannon Dycus, Julia Brown Karimu, R. Wayne Calhoun, Chelsa Nickelson, Delesslyn Kennebrew, Brenda Rossy, Edward Williams, Dee Long, Sotello Long, Juanita Greene, William Smith, Patricia Penelton, James Vertreese, Bill Lee, John Faulkes

9:14

Opening and Morning Meditation- President Gillett

Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12 "Two people are better than one..."

Prayer

One Share Introductions by everyone

Call to Order 9:40

Agenda Adopted

Moved William Smith

2nd Juanita Greene

2017 Minutes Accepted

Moved Sotella Long

2nd Juanita Greene

Greetings and Ministry Update

Terri Owens, General Minister

She has attended all but 6 regional assemblies. She stated that we are overcoming financial difficulty and leadership crises and she is very excited to have 6 Black women on board- the perspective and look has changed! Rev. Lee Hull Moses will become the new chief of staff in February. Our mission OGM's mission is to promote spiritual practice and biblical literacy.

Concerns and goals:

Connections- relationships w/ regions- a communications consultant is an ongoing part of the General Ministers Staff.

Seeking a grant writer to aid with funding to connect and update data and coordinate justice activities via a website, blogs, videos- whatever is best (i.e. leverage the information from the Poor Peoples Campaign and immigration issues.

Congregations need to understand our approach to theological diversity. The power lies within the congregation.

She thanked the group for feedback and asked for our prayers and stated that we have the power to change our narrative.

Donald Gillett, President NC

Stated that he would like to see a body that does more than gather to plan a biennial event.

We should work this connection: person, congregation, convention, convocation

Strengthen and build young adults

More action in social justice

Stand with the Poor Peoples Campaign (William Barber)

Immigration

Be a clearinghouse for information

Goal: In the next two weeks we will comprise goals, and objectives for Dr, James's evaluation

Sotello Long, President DHM

Submitted a full report which is available for view. He stated that merger staff will make sure we are connected. We have two new ministry centers- Blue Theology Mission Station and Pacifica Grove. An executive leadership school will take place in January and we have a Leadership Initiative Team (LIT) which will help develop leadership by using the resources that DHM has put together.

Julia Brown Karimu, President Global Ministries

Stated that at Global Ministries "we walk the walk". The title Missionary has changed to Mission Coworkers- we are all coworkers with God. In 2017 there were over 109 Mission Coworkers and there are 290 partners around the world. She encouraged us to consider a People to People pilgrimage. There are 6 initiative programs- Caribbean, Congo, Middle East, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. There are Global Mission Internships for young adults and college students.

Ministry Reports

Timothy James, Administrative Secretary

Submitted a full report which is available for view. He encourages us to attend General Assembly as this is the 50th anniversary of the Merger Agreement and we need to attend the anti- racism workshop as well as Sunday's meal. The joint convocation will take place in 2020 July 22- 25- still deciding on a location. The text for the event is Revelations 7: 9- 10. He needs the board members to respond to all correspondence.

Merger Staff Reports

Sheila Spencer, Christian Education and Faith Formation

Submitted a full report which is available for view. Stated that Merger Staff establishes relationships- connections and networks. Thanked the group for prayers and support as she received her Masters of Divinity. She mentioned two projects that have been supported- Spiritual Direction and Red Elephant HIV Awareness.

R. Wayne Calhoun, Evangelism and Congregational Transformation

Submitted a full report which is available for view. The goal is to reach 1000 congregations in transformation. Once a church is in transformation it is always in transformation- it is an ongoing process. He has served for 15 years as staff and 39 years in ministry and is still very excited. Star Supporter distributed 19 scholarships in 2017.

Chelsa Nickelson, Program Director Disciples Women

Submitted a full report which is available for view. She reviewed the 2018 NC DW luncheon (SUCCESSFUL) and discussed her busy schedule including LAP and regional events.

Fellowship Group Reports

Dee Long- for Sue Gray, Ministers Wives and Spouses

Submitted a full report which is available for view. At NC, they gave \$500.00 to a local homeless shelter and they challenge other fellowships to go beyond the walls and give to local charities during each Convocation. Their goal is to reach as many ministers wives and spouses as possible. A concern is how to connect pastors to information about Pension Fund.

Pernella Shortie, Disciples Women

Submitted a full report which is available for view. Stated that DW wants to train young women to continue the work of DW. DW will focus on training, leadership, and raising \$25,000 in the next two years to aid with DW expenses.

Milton Bowens- for Walter Parker, Disciples Men

Submitted a full report which is available for view.

Edward Williams, Black Ministers

Submitted a full report which is available for view. Stated that he always represents Black Ministers and there will an upcoming protest at the mall where the young innocent Black man was shot.

Delesslyn Kennebrew, Clergy Women

Submitted a full report which is available for view. She stated the new slate of officers. In 2019 they will be in the process of planning the Black Ministers Retreat. Currently they are praying throughout this season Advent.

Antonio Redd, Young Adults

Submitted a full report which is available for view. He asks that we please talk to young adults and encourage them to serve. They are initiating a series of "Table after the Table" interactive conversations. The plan is to also connect informational videos.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Gary Kidwell, Christian Church Foundation

Handed out a summary of our investment funds and made a SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: a fund has been named the Bostick Fund after Sarah Lou Bostick.

Matters for Discussion

Patricia Penelton, Task Force Report

Submitted a full report which is available for view.

The report was presented in power point form, explained and discussed. A full report will be submitted to President Gillett by the end of February. Existing documents (mentioned by Bill Lee and John Faulks) will be shared in NC documents, reviewed, and used to complete the final Task Force report as well as the results of a Survey Monkey which will be sent to everyone who attended the 2018 National Convocation.

Motion to accept the Task Force report with changes and to complete the second part by the March 2019 Board Meeting.

Moved- Ed Williams

2nd- Pernella Shortie

Passed

Closed Thursday with prayer and grace by Milton Bowens at 5:32

*The meeting also included grace for lunch offered by William Smith at 12:20 (reconvened at 1:35 after lunch)

Friday, December 7, 2018

Present: Timothy James, Donald Gillett, Irie Session, Pamela DuBose, Ken Langston, Beverly Goines, JoAnn Flowers, Sheila Spencer, Antonio Redd, Cicely Holt, Pernella Shortie, Milton Bowens, Shannon Dycus, R. Wayne Calhoun, Chelsa Nickelson, Delesslyn Kennebrew, Brenda Rossy, Edward Williams, Dee Long, Sotello Long, Juanita Greene, William Smith, James Vertreese, Bill Lee, John Faulkes, April Johnson, Angelita Dobbs

9:15

Opening and Morning Meditation- Vice President Session

I King 3: 7-12

“How We Position Ourselves to Win”

1. Humility
2. Spiritual Discernment
3. The People over Personal Prestige and Power

Prayer

Standing Committee Assignments- President Gillett

Chair, Members, Staff

Program Committee

President, Don Gillett, chair
JoAnn Flowers
Milton Bowens
Cicely Holt
Chesla Nickelson and Dr. James, Staff

Biennial Session

Vice President, Irie Session, chair
Ken Langston
Delesslyn Kennebrew
Beverly Goines
Shiela Spencer, Staff

Budget and Investment

Treasurer, James Vertreese, chair
Juanita Greene
William Smith
Timothy James, Staff

Standing Committee

Secretary, Pamela DuBose, chair
Edward Williams
Sue Gray

Antonio Redd
R. Wayne Calhoun, Staff

Nomination Committee

Delesslyn Kennebrew, Chair
Ken Langston
Arnold Hayes (will provide direction)

Congregational Care Committee

Vice President, Irie Session
Milton Bowens
Edward Williams
JoAnn Flowers
(President Gillett will pass on the collection that he has.)

Reconciliation

Ken Langston, Chair
Beverly Goines

Communication

Brenda Rossy, Chair
Shannon Dycus
Pernella Shortie

General Assembly

Banquet

Antonio Redd
Shannon Dycus
Dr. James
JoAnn Flowers

Booth

Pernella Shortie
Cicely Holt
Dr. James
President Gillett

25th Biennial Session Review and Overview

Edward Williams

Pros-

- Communication is Key
- Plan with God 1st- Faith Work
- Great cooperation from Regional Staff

Included Area Anglo churches- representation of whole church

Robin Blakeman- phenomenal plan for the youth

Used the youth in programming- appealed to a younger audience

Cons-

COST- not able to control

Suggestion

Appeal to younger people by placing scholarships for them to afford to attend- maybe use sponsors for convocation time.

Timothy James

Thanked Ed and Local Arrangements for cooperation.

We will use the Region.

Registration was in the BLACK!

Great Presentations

Concerns

Young Adult Events

Paid Registrants

Banquet Meals (registration issue)

Add a Health and Wellness Booth

President Gillett

Thanked Ed Williams, local arrangements, Brenda Rossy, and Greenwood.

Matters of Discussion

Timothy James

2020 Joint Convocation- National Convocation, Obra Hispana, and NAPAD

Suggested text: Revelation 7: 9-10

Wednesday, July 22- Saturday, July 25

Site choices (to be determined by February 2019):

Orange County, CA

Dallas, TX

Suburban Chicago

Concerns/ decisions to be made

Separate business sessions

Workshops- both blended and specific

Considering requesting sponsorships from the different ministries

Cultural Night

12:00 Grace for lunch offered by Sotello Long

1:15 Reconvened

National Convocation and Biennial Session Budget Reports- Angelita Dobbs, reports on file for view

1. 2018 Biennial Budget Report
2. 2018 National Convocation Budget Report

Discussed by the group.

Recommendation from Dr. James to give each fellowship at least \$1000.00 from the Benevolent Fund in order for each to start with a positive balance of at least \$1000.00.

Special Invite

April Johnson, Minister for Reconciliation Ministries

A full report is on file for view. She stated that regions need to own the reconciliation training process. Grants and funding are available because of our generous donations and much work has been and is being done to serve the church. She invited us to get involved by getting the word out about reconciliation. She encouraged us to visit the website to find ways which we can assist.

Announcements from President Gillett:

The convocation is accepting our board member donations of \$200,00/ year (or another feasible amount).

Congratulations to Vice President Session on receiving a \$15,000 grant from Louisville Institute for her pastoral project: [Womanist Ecclesiologies: Black Clergywomen Resisting White Supremacist Capitalist Patriarchy.](#)

Congratulations to Lexington Theological Seminary and President, Dr. Charisse Gillett for receiving a \$1,000,000.00 Lilly Grant. Congratulations to Dr. Charisse Grant for also receiving a leadership grand from Duke.

4:27 pm Grace and prayer were offered by Cicely Holt

