

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
Conference Call
September 19, 2018

1. Call to order: The Leadership Council of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches was called to order by Moderator, Jim Waechter, at 7:30 EST by conference call.
 - Roll Call: Secretary, Judy Campbell took roll.

LC Voting Members present: Moderator, Jim Waechter; Vice Moderator, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer; Patrick Stewart; Mary Prendergast; Janet Wilson; Barb Dabul; Rev. Justin Nierer

NonVoting Members present: Secretary, Judy Campbell; Treasurer, Jeff Dillon; Historian, Rev. William Lange; Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum

LC Members absent: Carol Taylor; Rev. Dr. Irv Gammon; Foundation Board of Governor's Rep, Bob Smith;

Others present: DODC, Debra Fulton; Dean of CFTS, Rev. Dr. Charles Packer; Congregationalist Editor, Marianne King
2. Welcome and personal check-ins: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer spoke of concerns surrounding a recent workplace shooting in Madison, WI. Mary Prendergast reported she was working with the pastoral search committee in Pomona, CA.
3. Opening Devotion: Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum provided devotion and offered prayer.
4. Approval of minutes:

2018/19 LC 007 Motion by Barbara Dabul to approve Minutes of the August 16, 2018 conference call as published. Motion seconded and adopted.

5. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved by consensus. This is the first of "Visioning" agendas. Members are to bring issues and concerns from their MC's for discussion by the full Leadership Council.
6. Monthly Meeting time: Doodle surveys had been sent out to members to select an appropriate meeting schedule. The most popular days were the 3rd Thursday and 3rd Wednesday of the month. A schedule was posted on Trello starting with 3rd Thursday in July with alternating days each month following. Two days were changed to avoid holiday conflicts. March will be Thursday and April will be Wednesday.

2018/19 LC 008 Motion by Cindy Bacon Hammer to establish regular Leadership Council conference calls/meetings on alternating 3rd Thursdays and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 ET 6:30 CT, July 2018 through June 2019 as revised for March and April and posted on Trello. Motion seconded and adopted.

7. Growth MC: Mary Prendergast brought two items for discussion.

Church planting. They have finalized an agreement document that, after legal review, will be used to negotiate with possible church planters. They have a Task Team to work on developing the program. Major barrier is lack of experience. No one on the MC has been involved in a church plant. Suggestions: Many offered possible contacts with prior church plants. Information will be sent to Mary.

Communication with churches. The MC continues to keep in contact with many churches. They are trying to develop a program that identifies issues churches are having and share solutions. Barrier is difficulty finding churches that have solved the problem and can share their results.

8. Mission and Outreach MC: Janet Wilson and Barbara Dabul brought items for discussion. They find it difficult to “vision” for missions as they are extremely busy already.

Qualifying New Missions. They have been approached by the director of National Parks Ministry. The organization provides Sunday services in the parks for visitors and employees. They are looking for financial assistance for books and supplies and moral support. Concern/barrier is learning enough about the organization and when and how to communicate it as a supported mission. Suggestions: Name of NA pastor who is familiar with the parks program will be sent to Janet. Debby and Marianne will assist with communication once mission is approved.

Visits to Missions. MC members and alumni are traveling to visit missions. i.e. Barbara driving to Pan American Institute to provide a music program and taking donated school supplies with her. Would like to do more. MC budget planning meeting this year will be at Morgan Scott. Barrier is limited budget. Suggestions: Coordinate trips through the office and make judicious use of the Warton fund for expenses.

Itineration of Missionaries. Linda Miller currently schedules the travel for the missionaries that attend the AM&C. True concerns over this process when she retires.

9. Vitality MC: Jason Nierer brought a list of successes to share.

CFTS and Ministerial education. Boston Seminar was a great success. Charles will discuss in greater detail. Last year the Ministers’ Convocation was expanded to two regional sites, East and Mid-West. This year a third is planned in California. The three will run concurrently April 29 – May 2, 2019. A committee is working on providing electronic communication (like Skype) so that all may share communion together.

AM&C Workshop. Plans for workshop for new ministers and those transitioning from other traditions is going well.

On-line registration. Team working on developing on-line registration. Will be experimenting with the registration for the October Board of Governors meeting. Hope to use for other meetings, Ministers’ Convocations and potentially the AM&C.

10. Other important visioning:

New Staff Member. Michael Chittum reported the hiring of Rev. Dr. Shawn Stapleton as the part-time Workshop Coordinator. Shawn will work closely with Vitality on the Lay Minister Training and will facilitate recording of events to make them available on the website.

Plymouth 400th. Will Lange reported they are preparing the bulletin inserts, a heritage game and the Thanksgiving Proclamation. Questions came up concerning communication and coordination with the host committees for the 2019 and 2020 AM&C meetings. Will offered to travel to Cleveland this week to meet with the 2019 host committee.

Boston Seminar. Charles Packer spoke on the recent seminar. Plans are being made to present it again next year. There should be a couple of CFTS students ready to participate and he has received numerous inquiries from others. This year was well attended. The seminar had not been offered to persons other than CFTS students for several years. He feels that increased the

participation. Also, there seems to be more interest from churches who have hired ministers from outside the Congregational tradition. The Congregational Library was a great resource for the program.

Year-round Delegates: Jim Waechter gave background and concerns over the program. YRD program was introduced and approved at the 2011 AM&C. Purpose is to strengthen the connection between the NA and the churches by having an additional member participating in the communication. Out of approx. 325 churches, 190 have YRD's. There is a YRD meeting at the AM&C and we publish the YRDLine each month. Barriers: Uncertain how many YRD's are actually passing on the information they receive. There is little or no dialog between churches or back to the staff. The editor of the YRDLine is retiring. Suggestions: Need Task Team to revisit the role of the YRD. Do the delegates understand their role? Can we communicate the requirements and expectations of that position to the ministers and moderators? Jim and Michael working on putting a team together.

11. For the Good of the Order:

- Team for Center for Cong. Leadership: No report.
- Appointment of LC committees:

2018/19 LC 009 Motion by Jan Wilson to appoint the following candidates to the Membership Task Team: Ed Backell, Rev. Marijke Rossi; Rev. Dawn Carlson, Rev. Christina Murphy; Marilou Hall, Dewey Gierke. Motion seconded and adopted.

2018/19 LC 010 Motion by Jan Wilson to accept the Membership Committee recommendation and accept Bethany Congregational Church of Quincy, MA as a provisional member and recommend them for full membership in the NACCC at the 2019 AM&C. Motion seconded and adopted.

12. Next call: Next call will be a Quarterly meeting on October 18, 2018 at 7:30 EDT, 6:30 CDT.

13. Closing prayer: Barbara Dabul offered the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm EDT.

Judy Campbell

Secretary