

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
Conference Call
April 16, 2020

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

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

NonVoting Members present: Secretary, Judy Campbell; Treasurer, Jeff Dillon; Historian, Rev. William Lange; Foundation Board of Governor's Rep, Bob Smith; Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum

LC Members absent: Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III

Others present: Dean of CFTS, Rev. Dr. Charles Packer; DODC, Debra Fulton; Editor of the Congregationalist, Marianne King
2. Welcome and personal check-ins: Talk about what churches are doing during the mandated "shelter in place" orders in most states for the Covid 19 pandemic.
3. Opening Devotion: Rev. Dr Michael Chittum offered the opening devotion and prayer.
4. Approval of minutes:

2019/20 LC 017 Motion by Janet Wilson to approve minutes of the conference call February 19, 2020 as corrected. Motion seconded and adopted.

5. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved by consensus.

Business Meeting: Moderator Jim Waechter

6. AMC Meeting Update: Jim Waechter reported that the BoD had voted to cancel the face to face AM&C meeting planned for June in Portland, ME due to safety concerns and uncertain restrictions that may be in place at that time. Michael Chittum said that the hotel had released us from any financial obligation for cancelling under the circumstances. He credits Carrie Dahm for maintain a good relationship with the hotel which made for an amenable solution to the issue. There are still other costs that occurred that normally would have been covered by registration fees.

There is a task team looking into presenting the business portion of the AM&C by virtual programing. Churches will need to register delegates and alternates in order to vote. Materials for things to be considered, budget, nominations, etc. will be sent out to the churches and delegates in advance. Tentative date is Saturday, June 27. Jim Waechter would still like to schedule the leadership plenary session on another date.
7. Joint BoD-BOG Relationship TT Report: Jim Waechter reported that the Board of Directors and the Foundation Board of Governors have accepted the Task Team's recommendations and the BoD voted to transfer permanent endowments to the Foundation. Working on this highlighted the need for a long-term planning process.

8. Appoint new Youth Intern TT: This task team was established at the December meeting with members appointed and others appointed in February.

2019/20 LC 018 Motion by Cindy Bacon Hammer to excuse Justin Nierer from the Youth Intern Task Team and appoint Laura Hamby and Laura Wright (staff representative) to the Task Team. Final membership of the team: Patrick Stewart (chair), Mary Prendergast, Sarah Terlouw, John Tamilio, Laura Hamby and Laura Wright. Motion seconded, discussed and adopted.

9. NACCC Reports

- Youth – Patrick Stewart reported that the Annual NAPF/HOPE meeting had also been cancelled. Focus is now on making the 2021 meeting in Spokane extra special. Plans are to give participants a “bonus” year to attend NAPF or HOPE an extra year if 2020 would have been their last year at the respective conference because they have “aged out”.
- Treasurer – Jeff Dillon reviewed the most recent Operational Giving Report that was posted on Trello. Good news is total giving by churches, individuals and trusts & bequests exceeded budget for the year. We have applied for a loan through the Cares Act to help cover the cost of staff salaries during the Covid 19 shut down.
- Board of Directors – Cindy Bacon Hammer reported that the BoD had a regular meeting March 9 at which time they approved installation of flooring in the breakroom at the Oak Creek offices. This work has not been done due to the “shut down”. The BoD also passed the 2020-2021 budget.

The BoD also called a special meeting on April 6 to consider the recommendations of the joint task team and approved the transfer of permanent endowments to the Foundation.

- Board of Governors – Bob Smith reported the BOG has had a regular and a special meeting and have their May meeting coming up with work sessions in June and July. Outline for fund raising guide is 2/3 done. Congregational Foundation has new Mission and Vision statements which he read for the group.
- Historian/P400 – Will Lange expressed pleasure that many churches have been using the Bulletin Inserts with bios of prominent Congregationalists. The Team has created a video “True Love Brewster”.

10. Staff Reports

- Executive Director – Michael Chittum had nothing to add to his written report which was available on Trello.
- CFTS – Charles Packer said much of his energy recently has been dealing with cancellations of the Ministers’ Convocations and the AM&C. There is one graduate this year. Plans are being made to honor him now and have public recognition in Spokane. Working with CCL TT, Vitality and CFTS. Looking at online platforms for curriculum.
- Development – Debby Fulton reported that the Congregationalist Appeal has now raised \$17,222. Her written report listed activities and meetings.

- Congregationalist – Editor Marianne King reported that she is “rethinking” the June and September issues. She would like to receive more “400th” contributions. She has received many interesting contributions – many referencing Covid 19 issues.

11. Task Team Reports

- CCL – Jim Waechter reported that the Team is inching closer to having a plan in place for presentation.
- YRD – Team was focused on meetings at the AM&C. Since the cancellation will work on virtual meetings.
- Website – Debby Fulton said the Team is 98% done with assembling materials to out to 3 firms for quotes. Quotes should be back by May 1.
- Ambassador – Michael Chittum said he has been slow to work on this as he has been overwhelmed by other things. Goal is to come up with a plan to have other people around the country contact and nurture churches to relieve some of that load for him.

Vision Meeting

12. Re-introduction of SMART Goals: Jim Waechter would like all the MC’s to get back to using SMART Goals. Homework for next meeting: each MC needs to plug in information for at least one goal into the form. Debby Fulton will work on filling some in. Cindy Bacon Hammer suggested that they review some that are already completed for guidance.
13. Pre-meeting plans - Suggestions on how the Ministry Council business can take place: Discussion of different media available of conferencing. Suggestions from teleconference to virtual options. Task team to meet this week to discuss.
14. AMC Leadership Plenary Session: Jim Waechter would still like to conduct the workshop on How to Set up a Task Team which was to be the subject of the Leadership Plenary Session at the AM&C. Will look into virtual options.
15. Growth, Mission & Outreach, Vitality Annual Meeting Reports: Written reports due to the Oak Creek office by May 1, 2020.
16. NA Leadership Giving: Debby Fulton said the goal was to have 100% Leadership giving in place before the June meeting. Still the goal.
17. For the Good of the Order: No new business.
18. Next Regular meeting: Next regular meeting will be by conference call Wednesday, June 17, 2020, 7:30 pm EDT, 6:30 CDT, 4:30 Arizona time.
19. Closing prayer: Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer offered the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm EDT.

Judy Campbell

Secretary