

APPROVED MINUTES
CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
November 9, 2020
Conducted on Zoom

Call to Order and Roll Call: The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by Vice Moderator Rev. Art Ritter at 4:05 PM CDT/5:05 PM EDT by Zoom conference call.

Secretary, April Barrett recorded the attendance.

BoD Members Present: Moderator Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer; Vice Moderator Rev. Art Ritter; Secretary April Barrett; Treasurer Jeff Dillon; Rev. Dr. Martin Hall' Claudia Kniefel; Jodee Lord; Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

BoD Members Absent: None

Others Present: Executive Director Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum; CFO Dan Drea; Debby Fulton, DODC; Marianne King, Editor of Congregationalist

Check-Ins

Opening Devotion: Art Ritter shared some thoughts on Ephesians 5:15, offering the various translations of the phrases. He shared ways we can redeem the season through patience, recognition this is a long work, kindness, passion with humility, and creating spaces to rest.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda was approved by consensus.

SPECIAL NOTATION—THE FOLLOWING MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY EMAIL VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2020:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

2020/21 C011 MOTION by April Barrett to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2020 Zoom meeting. Motion seconded, discussed, and adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

2020/21 EC002 MOTION by April Barrett to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2020 Zoom meeting. Motion seconded, discussed, and adopted.

2020/21 EC003 MOTION by April Barrett to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 Zoom meeting. Motion seconded, discussed, and adopted.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the September 14, 2020 Zoom meeting were reviewed.

2020/21 C012 **MOTION by Jodee Lord to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 Zoom meeting with one correction. Motion seconded, discussed, and adopted.**

Reports:

Executive Director: Report on Trello. Discussion regarding need to approve housing allowance for the first five months of 2021.

2020/21 C013 **MOTION by Marty Hall to approve the 2021 housing allowance as presented by the Executive Director. Motion seconded, discussed, and adopted.**

Development/Communication: October reported was posted on Trello today. Highlights as follows. Goal was 100% giving by leadership by the end of October—close but did not reach this goal. LC/BoD are at 90% (one outstanding). Growth and MOMC are at 100%. Vitality is at 60% (two outstanding). BoG is at 100%. Reaching out to outstanding leaders. Ahead of last year. AM&C appeal received \$25,280, more than \$25,000 goal. Christmas appeal will go out right before Thanksgiving. The website is moving along. A question was asked about what the medallion mailing is—this is to mail the medallion honoring significant donors since it was not possible to recognize them in person at the Annual Meeting.

Leadership Council: Youth are looking at three possible venues near Spokane. Council was reminded about budget worksheets going out, due beginning of December. CFTS has admitted a new student, Thomas Rockwell, given out scholarships, and shared regarding Lay Ministry Training Program—a video and brochure are ready. Growth continues to distribute Hurting Churches funds; Advent devotionals going out; still receiving contributions for Lenten devotionals; putting together a new Worship Book; and prayer circle moved to Thursday has gone well. Vitality reported the East is still seeking a Convocation venue; the Council will not consider virtual Convocations so is pursuing in person. MOMC had their budget meeting last week. The Congregationalist is going well; photos of Spokane are needed. The next Leadership Council meeting is on December 15, 2020.

Congregationalist Editor's Advisory: Looking ahead to the March issue which will focus on reconciliation. Still needing to connect with some individuals to write articles, specifically from people who work with the police.

Building & Loan: No inquiries. Squantum Church has broken ground and is moving forward with their project.

Nominating: Concerns shared about vacancies in MOMC—board members shared their knowledge of some candidates who have been contacted, which alleviated some of this concern. BoD is a concern as there is a desire for a male from the Midwest. Several names were mentioned to consider. The next Nominating Committee meeting is on November 30 and any suggestions of individuals for BoD can be offered before that date.

CIT: The final draft of the revised Investment Policy Statement will be presented to the committee this Wednesday. Third quarter performance was 5.58%. The first and second quarters had cancelled each other out. Began the year at -15%. One new participant, First Congregational Church of Rockwood, Michigan. There are now 34 churches in the trust.

AM&C: Synopsis given—in good shape for workshops, speakers, schedule, and parliamentarian. The survey results on whether people would attend was shared prior to the meeting via email. There are basically two camps of opinion: wait until the end and let the hotel cancel or cancel now. The committee is working to make everything available virtually. There was lengthy discussion about whether it is feasible to have an in person Annual Meeting. The final decision was made with great sadness.

2020/21 C014 MOTION by Claudia Kniefel to cancel the 2021 in person Annual Meeting in Spokane, WA, for both adults and youth. Motion seconded, discussed, and adopted.

Discussion about disseminating this information and contacting the Spokane venue. A stand-alone letter to communicate with the churches will be prepared and signed by the Moderator and Executive Director. Other key planners will be sent personal notes. It was noted that the International meeting is still scheduled to take place in person in Massachusetts in July 2021.

P&A: Time has been spent on the Executive Director job description with much discussion resulting in changing physical “requirements” to physical “aspects”. It was noted that travel and moving expenses will need to be included in the budget.

Finance: Report on Trello. Shared Ministries Fund is doing well. Discussion about the services agreement with the BoG. The meeting of the joint finance committees was acrimonious with not much coming out of it. It is understood that the status quo will be maintained on what the NACCC receives. Fundamentally there is a question of process, and there is question on whether the two groups will work together well and how to bridge the gap.

Search Committee: As noted previously, much discussion has centered on the job description. Advertising will happen soon.

Other Business:

Strategic planning for the future was discussed, and it was suggested that this should wait until a new Executive Director is in place, which was agreeable to everyone.

The Search Committee has asked the BoD to submit a few general sentences about five-year goals for the BoD and NACCC as a guide for hiring the Executive Director. Moderator encouraged us to consider this request after adjournment and share our thoughts.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, January 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM CDT/5:00 PM EDT on Zoom.

Future Meeting Dates: March 8, 2021; May 10, 2021; June 2021 at Annual Meeting

Closing Prayer: Marty Hall

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM CDT/6:55 PM EDT.

April L. Barrett
Secretary