

APPROVED MINUTES
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
February 16, 2021
Conducted on Zoom

Call to Order: The meeting of the Leadership Council was called to order by Moderator Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer at 7:06 PM CDT/8:06 PM EDT by Zoom conference call.

Roll Call: Secretary, April Barrett took roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

LC Voting Members Present: Moderator Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer; Vice Moderator Rev. Arthur Ritter; Patrick Stewart; Rev. Justin Nierer; Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III; Rev. Jamie Bonnema; Rev. Sarah Terlouw; Mary Prendergast; Janet Wilson

LC Non-Voting Members Present: Secretary April Barrett; Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum; Treasurer Jeff Dillon; Debby Fulton

LC Voting Members Absent:

LC Non-Voting Members Absent: Historian Rev. Dr. Mary (Mimi) Biedron; CFTS Dean Rev. Dr. Charles Packer

Others Present: Congregationalist Editor Marianne King

Opening Prayer: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the October, 2020 meetings were reviewed.

2020/21 LC 007 MOTION by Cindy Bacon Hammer to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 conference call meeting. Motion seconded, discussed, and adopted.

Council Reports:

Vitality MC: Met today. LMTP humming along. First official application received via application software. Another is anticipated. Groups are working on publicity, technology, and accountability for teaching. Information sessions via Zoom will be offered on March 13, 2021. Upcoming meetings will be through Blackboard, which is the virtual teaching platform chosen. Convocation 2021 will be held via Zoom, April 12-15, 1-3 pm daily—there will be no cost to participants; honorariums are already in the budget.

MOMC: Two more partnerships have been dissolved: Ministerio Vida in Honduras—they are not sending reports and money cannot be sent to them; Christian Mission of the Far East—has been unwilling to sign enabling documents, didn't want a connection to the United States that could be discovered by Communist rebels, also no way to send money there. Monies have been sent to Samaritan's Purse in the amount of \$11,000 for relief efforts from Hurricane Sally in Alabama. Monies have been sent to Asociacion Civil Cristiana in the amount of \$3,400 for food boxes. Monies have been sent to Kenya in the amount of \$3,000 to help with the health issues of the director. Enabling documents with Myanmar organization have been signed. We are working closely with Mission Ozawa on separating out their documents. Pinewood Christian School has asked for reconsideration. It was noted that there is open persecution in India, as well as other places, that makes sending money to them difficult.

2021/21 LC 008 MOTION by Janet Wilson to fill unexpired terms on MOMC by Barbara Dabul and Tom Chelimsky. Motion discussed and adopted.

Growth MC: Meeting next Monday. Lenten devotional is out and is a great resource for the homebound to stay connected with the local church and the NACCC. Work is continuing on the Worship Book, with some response to the ad in The Congregationalist. There are no recent Hurting Churches applications, though a few are possibly coming. Growth would still like promo of the Thursday prayer group. A recommendation was made to give photo credit in the devotional—particularly for the cover photo.

Other Reports:

Youth: NAPF/HOPE Zoom meeting last week. A virtual conference is being put together with the theme: "Miles Apart But Connected In Faith." It will be a week-long event. We have reached out to four speakers to do pre-recorded discussions. Each church group can plan and access the videos on their own schedules and choose a mission project in their community. Registration forms will be to churches rather than individuals to get a count. Kits will be sent out to the churches with swag. On Saturday, June 26 there will be a live Zoom event to close out the week. Currently working on the budget with another meeting scheduled for next week. Hopes are for an in person event in Wichita in 2022.

Youth Interns TT: Report on Trello. A reminder for everyone to read the report in order to approve/give blessing.

Treasurer: Report on Trello—emailed last week. Giving from member churches is varied; giving from individuals is good. East Orange endowment income is now recorded. Churches who have not made a contribution are being contacted and possibly will be removed—there are seven churches who haven't given in three years. Some missions giving has been returned because it was given for organizations we no longer support.

Board of Directors: BoD is interested in the LC goal planning process. BoG desires giving guidance/suggestions to Councils for especially regarding budget surpluses. The Executive Director Search Committee will be starting the second round of interviews next Monday, with the Committee is meeting weekly, sometimes twice weekly (per Justin Nierer).

Executive Director: Report on Trello. Responsibilities continue on as normal, with four months until retirement. The last day in the office will be May 18, 2021.

2020/21 LC 009 MOTION by Michael Chittum to approve West Congregational Church of Taunton, MA joining the NACCC as a member church. Motion discussed and approved.

Blessing by consensus to reinstate Christ Evangelical Congregational Church of Quincy, MA as a NACCC member church.

Development: Report on Trello. Christmas appeal is over--\$62,000 (last year \$45,000). Next week the direct appeal begins to those who receive The Congregationalist. It was noted that the magazine generally runs at a deficit.

Website: Team meeting tomorrow regarding the pastoral search domain merge. Currently working on 25-30 pages with a goal to launch by the first of the fiscal year.

Historian: Report will be given at the next LC meeting.

Congregationalist: Thank you for the appeal letter. March issue is at the printer in pre-production—this marks the beginning of a new publication year. Continuing work on the racial justice issue.

CFTS: Jacob Poindexter will join. Tom Van Tassell retiring in June. Two new students in process with 2-3 others currently enrolled. (Report given by Justin Nierer).

Updates:

RJTT: Town Hall panel is working on a series of three webinars for Lent. Resources continue to be posted.

AMCC: Going well. The conference will be two days. The February mailing has gone out. The basic schedule is together, and the business meeting is being planned out.

Other Business:

Five-year goals: Discussion regarding five-year goals. Cindy Bacon Hammer will write a summary of the discussion.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 7:00 PM CDT/8:00 PM EDT

Future Meeting Dates: June 15, 2021

Closing Prayer: Jamie Bonnema

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM CDT/9:48 PM EDT.

April L. Barrett
Secretary

ACTION STEP FOR ALL—

Review the Youth Intern Task Team Report in preparation to vote on the plan at the next meeting.