

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
United Church of Christ Board
July 31, 2024

The United Church of Christ Board is the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ Board Corporation, Justice and Witness Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ). Each meeting of the United Church of Christ Board is a meeting of each of these corporations.

Members Present:

David Ackerman, Jean Avison, Kearstin Bailey, Joyce Bathke, Joan Bell Haynes, Brian Bodager, Judith Booker, Deborah Dee Brayton, Liz Brunton, Charles Buck, Cynthia Butts, Lorraine Cenicerros, Elly Chong, Jasmine Coleman Quinerly (Vice-Chair), Tom Croner, Lillian Daniel, Sana Delcorazon, Daniel Doty, Mark Dutell, Shernell Edney Stilley, Derrick Elliott, Julia Gaughan (Chair), Jimmy Gibbs, Sheila Harvey (elected at the meeting), Richard Hom, Eric Jackson, Cean James, Tracy Keene, Janese Murray, A.T. Ortiz, Andrew Ponder Williams, Shari Prestemon, Michael Readinger, Lawrence Richardson, Gregory Sato, Rushan Sinnaduray, D'Angelo Smith, Kylie Steever, Karen Georgia Thompson, Elizabeth Walker, Kate West, Kim Wood

Committee Members with Special Expertise Present:

Ron Patterson

Members Not Present:

Tyler Connoley, Courtney Dobbins, Jamar Doyle, Darrell Goodwin, Marcia Keesee, Careina Williams, Jeanette Zaragoza De Leon

Staff present:

Josh Baird, Donyale Chapman, Bentley deBardelaben-Phillips, Cynthia Gaffney, Heather Kimmel, Tami Marinella

Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum

Heather Kimmel, Secretary of the United Church of Christ Board, declared a quorum.

Welcome By Chair, Julia Gaughan and Vice-Chair, Jasmine Quinerly

Julia and Jasmine opened the meeting with thanks for everyone joining to do this work.

Opening Prayer began with covenant read together as a group. Devotional led by Shernell Edney Stilley followed by prayer.

Approval of Agenda

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-07-01 To approve the Agenda.

Supporting Document: UCCB-24-07-01 Agenda

MOVED: Karen Georgia Thompson

SECONDED: Cean James

MOTION CARRIED

Grant Voice Without Vote

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-07-02 To grant voice without vote to Donyale Chapman, Cindy Gaffney, Heather Kimmel, and other National Staff members.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Approval of UCCB March 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-07-03 To approve the minutes of the March 1, 2024 Meeting of the United Church of Christ Board.

Supporting Document: UCCB-24-07-02 Minutes 03.01.2024

MOVED: Eric Jackson

SECONDED: Deborah Dee Brayton

MOTION CARRIED

Abstain: Joan Bell Haynes

First Governance Committee Report: Election of Sheila Harvey to fill an unexpired term by Shernell Edney Stille

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-07-04 To approve the election of Sheila Harvey to fill an unexpired board term for the class of 2028.

Supporting document: UCCB-24-05-GOV-08-Sheila Harvey bio

APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION

Remarks of the Chair and Vice Chair

Jasmine thanked Sheila Harvey for joining the Board. Gratitude was expressed for all members joining the meeting.

Julia welcomed Shiela Harvey and Lillian Daniel to the Board. She and Karen Georgia Thompson have been in discussion planning for the board and the future.

Remarks of General Minister and President

Karen Georgia welcomed everyone and expressed gratitude for everyone on the call. Rev. Bentley deBardelaben-Phillips has taken on the role of transitional executive in Love of Church. Rev. DeBraber, Philanthropy Director, has moved to a nonprofit in Grand Rapids. Kent Siladi agreed to come back to serve until new Philanthropy Director is found.

Executive Committee Report: Executive Committee acting as UCCB ad interim to approve Common Global Ministries Committee mission personnel appointments by Julia Gaughan

The Executive Committee met to approve CGMC personnel appointments. The information on the appointments will be made available after the meeting on BoardEffect.

Finance and Budget Committee Report by Mark Dutell

General Synod Budget Approval

Two documents were discussed at the meeting: (1) fee schedule for upcoming GS and the budget for the upcoming GS budget. The fee schedule informs the budget of the revenue items. Attendance fees are increased for 2025. It is a deficit budget. We are continuing to experience the impact of costs related to the cancellation in 2020 because of the pandemic. Wifi cost is high and production costs are high. General Synod per capita costs are very high and continue to go up. The funds we are raising are for General Synod and not for other events at General Synod. The Dipko Fund can be used to offset some of the expenses. Attendance is shrinking but the production level is not.

Discussion related to both motions:

Members asked questions about the availability of shuttles for mobility challenges, and what will drive attendance in 2025 given the 2023 actuals.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-07-04 To recommend that the United Church of Christ Board approve the approve the proposed 2025 General Synod budget fee schedule as presented.

Supporting document: UCCB-24-07-FB-03-GS 35 Fee Schedule

MOTION CARRIED

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-07-05 To recommend that the United Church of Christ Board approve the approve the proposed 2025 General Synod budget with total Revenues of

\$1,139,470.00 and total Expenses of \$1,333,009.49. Any net loss will be covered by operating revenues or reserves.

Supporting document: UCCB-24-07-FB-04-GS 35 Proposed Budget

MOTION CARRIED

**Second Governance Committee Report
By Shernell Edney Stilley**

UCCB Standing Rules Amendments

The amendments pertain to the Common Global Ministries Committee and giving non-Board members the ability to vote.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-07-06 To amend the UCCB Standing Rules as shown on Supporting Document UCCB-24-05-GOV-06.25.2024_draft_Revision_UCCB_Standing_Rules.

Supporting document: UCCB-24-05-GOV-06 03.25.2024-draft-Revision-UCCB-Standing-Rules

MOTION CARRIED

Group Exemption Resolution Amendment

The recommendation is to amend UCCB-13-10-ExComm-03 (revised) Group Exemption to include a process to remove covered UCC-related organizations that fail to comply for two or more years.

Covered organizations, after they fail to comply for two or more years and receive a sixty-day notice, can be removed from the group exemption. A letter was sent out to COREM leaders in January 2024.

Discussion:

Members raised concerns about the effects on COREM ministries. Karen Georgia noted we need to hear from these groups that have not provided reports for the monies they have received over the years. There need to be measures of accountability. Partnership and covenant go both ways. Members raised concern regarding the permanence of the policy. The groups have two years to come into compliance.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-07-07 To amend UCCB-13-10-ExComm-03 (revised) Group Exemption Policy to include as the fourth Resolved clause the following language:
FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governance Committee of the UCCB may, in its discretion and upon 60 days' notice to the organization,

permanently remove from the group ruling a UCC-related organization that fails for two or more years to provide the required information described above.

Supporting document: UCCB-13-10-ExComm-03 (revised) Group-Exemption-Policy

MOTION CARRIED

Abstain: Cean James, Dick Hom, Sheila Harvey

UCC Constitution Amendments and UCC Bylaws Amendments

Associate General Ministers are being removed as officers. A FAQ has been formulated to cover questions that may be asked. This process has been ongoing, and this is a next step of living further into unified governance.

**It was VOTED:
UCCB-24-07-08**

To approve and recommend to the General Synod for its approval amendments to the UCC Constitution as shown on Supporting Document UCCB-24-05-GOV-04 2023-UCC-Draft-Constitution Amendments 5.30.2024.

Supporting document: UCCB-24-05-GOV-03-Memo-UCCB-Officer_Amendments 04.26.2024

Supporting document: UCCB-24-05-GOV-04 2023-UCC-Draft-Constitution Amendments 5.30.2024

Supporting document: UCCB-24-05-GOV-05-UCC-Draft-Bylaws-Officer-Amendments 5.30.2024

Supporting document: UCCB-24-07-03 GOV C-B Amendments-Officers-FAQ 07.03.2024

MOTION CARRIED

Abstain: Tracy Keene

Discussion related to both motions:

The functions, once no longer officers, are staff positions and no longer under the Bylaws. The responsibilities are in the job descriptions. The FAQ as a starting point with the Council of Conference Ministers and committees and groups and start engaging regionally. By the time it gets to General Synod, the body should be informed. They are called positions but not elected. There will be a Bylaws hearing at General Synod. A member reminded the UCCB that this is the UCCB's proposal and belongs to the whole board. The board has the responsibility to adequately inform General Synod.

**It was VOTED:
UCCB-24-07-09**

To approve and recommend to the General Synod for its approval amendments to the UCC Bylaws as shown on Supporting Document Supporting document: UCCB-24-05-GOV-05-UCC-Draft-Bylaws-Officer-Amendments 5.30.2024

MOTION CARRIED

Abstain: Tracy Keene

**It was VOTED:
UCCB-24-07-10**

To move into Executive Session.

MOTION: Mike Readinger

SECONDED: Kim Wood

MOTION CARRIED

**It was VOTED:
UCCB-24-07-11**

To return to Regular session.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Conclusion of business

Closing Prayer provided by Julia and Adjournment