



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Official Minutes of Business Meeting Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Call to Order

The 2019 World Conference convened its third legislative meeting at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in the Conference Chamber of the Auditorium, Independence, Missouri. President Stephen M. Veazey was in the chair.

Welcome New General Officers to the Rostrum

The chair welcomed the newly ordained members of the leading quorums to the rostrum. They were Apostles Catherine C. Mambwe and David H. M. Nii, and Counselor to the Presiding Bishop Jeffrey A. Naylor.

The assembly responded with applause.

J-2 Notice of World Conference Discussion: Bridge of Hope

The chair drew attention to Item J-2 Notice of World Conference Discussion, found in the *Legislative* section beginning in English on page 51, in French on page 54, and in Spanish on page 58.

Presiding Bishop Stassi D. Cramm was recognized to lead a presentation on Item J-2.

Following the presentation by the Presiding Bishopric, the chair facilitated a time of questions and comments from the assembly.

The chair thanked the Presiding Bishopric for the information and responses provided to help the Conference understand the challenge in meeting the retirement responsibility. The afternoon session would include time for the assembly to continue with questions and responses on Item J-2.

Recess

The assembly sang "Lord, Who Views All People Precious," led by Diane E. Riffie on the organ. After the hymn, the assembly stood in recess at noon.

Reconvene

President Veazey called the assembly back to order at 2:00 p.m. and announced the singing of the hymn, "Humble Yourself," led by Apostles Bunda C. Chibwe and Catherine C. Mambwe.

Announcements

The chair called on World Conference Co-Director Susan K. Naylor for several announcements.

J-2 Notice of World Conference Discussion: Bridge of Hope

The chair said the assembly would continue with questions and responses on Item J-2 Notice of World Conference Discussion: Bridge of Hope.

The chair facilitated a time of questions and comments from the assembly, with responses provided by the Presiding Bishopric.

The chair thanked the assembly for its attention to the financial information presented by the Presiding Bishopric. The chair also thanked the Presiding Bishopric for the information and responses provided.

President Veazey relinquished the chair to President K. Scott Murphy.

F-1 Officers of the Council of Twelve

The chair drew attention to Item F-1 in the Wednesday *Bulletin* in English, French, and Spanish on page 6.

The chair stated that on March 4, after a month engaged in daily spiritual practices and prayer, the Council of Twelve Apostles and the apostles-designate met with President Veazey to select a council president-elect and secretary-elect. After worship and prayer, Apostle Ronald D. Harmon Jr. was elected as president-elect, and Apostle Richard C.N. James was elected as secretary-elect.

The chair recognized Apostle Bunda C. Chibwe, who moved approval of Item F-1 Officers of the Council of Twelve. Apostle Richard C.N. James seconded the motion. The vote was taken by raised hand, and the motion was approved.

Council of Twelve Assignments

The chair drew attention to the Council of Twelve Apostles assignments in the Wednesday *Bulletin* beginning in English, French, and Spanish on page 6.

The chair stated that the First Presidency deeply appreciated the work and ministry of the members of the Council of Twelve Apostles and looked forward to working with each of them in the coming years. He said “May God grant a special blessing on these special witnesses of Jesus Christ!”

The assembly responded with applause.

F-2 Assignments of the Council of Presidents of Seventy

The chair drew attention to Item F-2 Assignments of the Council of Presidents of Seventy in the Wednesday *Bulletin* in English, French, and Spanish on page 8.

The chair stated that the First Presidency continues to appreciate the work and ministry of the presidents of seventy and looked forward to working with each of them in the coming years. He said “May God continue to bless these special witnesses of Jesus Christ!”

President Murphy relinquished the chair to President Veazey.

F-4 Standing High Council

The chair drew attention to Item F-4 Standing High Council in the Wednesday *Bulletin* beginning in English, French, and Spanish on page 8.

The chair read the following statement:

The Standing High Council is a World Church standing (permanent) council composed of up to 12 high priests. It is established by various Doctrine and Covenants sections and church bylaws. The First Presidency, which attends meetings as *ex officio* members, presides over the council. The council fulfills these important functions:

1. Advisory: To provide advice and recommendations to the First Presidency about ethical, theological, sacramental, cultural, judicial, and administrative issues.
2. Missional: To make recommendations to the First Presidency about issues and questions that should be considered to benefit the mission of the church throughout the world.
3. Judicial: While rarely used, the council serves as the highest church court.
4. Facilitative: To serve as facilitator, if not advocate, for World Church priorities, the exploration of issues, and decision-making processes in conjunction with the First Presidency and the World Church Leadership Council.
5. Legislative: To submit legislation for World Conference consideration as guided by and approved by the First Presidency.

Council members are called by the president of the church after consultation with other church leaders. A large majority, if not all, of council members are not church employees. Providing non-church-employee perspectives is important in fulfilling the council's functions. Council members also offer broad professional and ministerial expertise. Their backgrounds include, but are not limited to, ethics, theology, law, medicine, psychology, science, education, technology, wholeness, and self-sustaining congregation and mission center leadership. Through technology and evolving meeting formats, the council increasingly is able to represent human and cultural diversity across the church.

At this time the Presidency would like to acknowledge the service of four members whose membership on the Standing High Council is concluding, with honor, at this World Conference:

1. Kathy D. Robinson (2000–2019)
2. Matthew J. Frizzell (2010–2019)
3. Valerie K. Brennan (2010–2019)
4. Lynn R. Wilson (2013–2019)

The church is grateful for the contributions these ministers have brought to the council's work. We wish them well as they pursue other avenues of ministry and leadership.

The assembly expressed their appreciation with a standing ovation. The chair continued with the statement.

After prayerful reflection and consultation with field leaders, the following persons are called to serve on the Standing High Council:

Mark D. Dixon, MD—Odessa, Florida, USA
Eva M. Erickson—Berlin, Germany
Lucy N. Ibanga—Lagos, Nigeria
Joan L. Thompson—Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

We appreciate the willingness of these persons to serve on the Standing High Council.

The chair recognized Sharon L. Kirkpatrick, who moved approval of Item F-4 Standing High Council. There was a second. The vote was taken by raised hand, and the motion carried.

The chair was relinquished to President Murphy.

Setting-apart Service

Apostle Ronald D. Harmon Jr. was set apart as president of the Council of Twelve Apostles by President K. Scott Murphy and Apostle Bunda C. Chibwe.

Mark D. Dixon was set apart as a member of the Standing High Council by President Stephen M. Veazey and High Priest Warwick T. Sarre.

Eva M. Erickson was set apart as a member of the Standing High Council by President Stassi D. Cramm and High Priest Kent Bradford.

Lucy N. Ibanga was set apart as a member of the Standing High Council by President K. Scott Murphy and High Priest Sharon L. Kirkpatrick.

Joan D. Thompson was set apart as a member of the Standing High Council by President Stephen M. Veazey and High Priest Gwendolyn Hawks Blue.

Afternoon Recess

The assembly stood in recess at 3:11 p.m.

Reconvene

President Cramm assumed the chair and called the assembly back to order at 3:40 p.m.

B-2 World Church Finance Board Election

The chair made an announcement regarding the voting process for the World Church Finance Board. A question had been raised the previous day during the legislative meeting about whether the voting process complied with D-3.

The First Presidency had reviewed the resolution during the lunch break and concluded the point made was accurate, and voting was not in compliance with the newly passed resolution D-3.

That chair stated there were 15 nominations by the First Presidency for six-year terms. The 16th position was in a separate category that now was filled and closed. The revised ballot will include the 15 nominees in Item B-2 and the three new nominations from the floor. Delegates will vote for no more than 15 names through the online app. The 15 persons with the highest votes will be elected. Voting will be reopened today and closed at 5:00 p.m. Friday.

Warwick T. Sarre, Australia Mission Centre, rose for a point of order and asked for clarification about whether delegates must vote for 15 positions or up to 15 positions. The chair clarified delegates can vote for up to 15 positions. They may not vote for more than 15 positions, or the ballot will be invalid.

A-4 Priesthood Release for Cause

The chair indicated the assembly would move into an open-discussion period on Item A-4 Priesthood Release for Cause, and that parliamentary actions would not be in order. The chair provided an overview of Item A-4.

The chair recognized President Murphy to share background and history on Item A-4.

Following President Murphy's presentation, the chair stated that If A-4 is approved the Procedures for Priesthood Release for Cause would be finalized after World Conference and may be modified for some fields or nations as appropriate. A replacement for the *Church Administrator's Handbook* was planned and would contain comprehensive information about implementing priesthood-status categories and numerous other topics.

The assembly then discussed Item A-4.

President Veazey responded to a question about priesthood members and cohabitation. There were requests that his statement be printed and made available. The statement was printed in the Thursday *Bulletin* with some additional information.

Matthew G. Swain, East Asia Mission Center, rose to a point of order, stating it is difficult for delegates to follow the conversation when statements are read at a quick pace in a language not their own. The chair noted the concern.

The chair invited persons with additional questions to email those to the First Presidency at FP@CofChrist.org.

Announcement

The chair drew attention to the survey questions on Item G-1 Nonviolence found in the Wednesday *Bulletin* beginning in English on page 8, in French on page 8, and in Spanish on page 9. The assembly was encouraged to review the information and come prepared for the common-consent process Thursday afternoon.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Julius Opondo Nandi from Kenya in the Kenya Mission Center offered the benediction. The assembly adjourned for the day at 4:35 p.m. to meet again at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, April 11, 2019.

Susan D. Sloan
World Church secretary