



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Official Minutes of Business Meeting Friday, April 12, 2019

Call to Order

The 2019 World Conference convened its fifth legislative meeting at 8:35 a.m., Friday, April 12, 2019, in the Conference Chamber of the Auditorium, Independence, Missouri. President K. Scott Murphy was in the chair.

Opening Hymn and Prayer

The assembly sang "I Will Sing, I Will Sing," led by Blake C. West on the organ. Seon Ok Cho from South Korea in the East Asia Mission Center offered the invocation.

Announcements

The chair called on World Conference Co-Director Tammy Lindle Lewis for several announcements.

President Stassi D. Cramm provided further information on the plumbing issues in the Auditorium and announced an update on the voting process for the World Church Finance Board nominees.

G-2 Domestic Violence

The chair drew attention to Item G-2 Domestic Violence in the *Legislation* section in English on page 23, in French on page 22, and in Spanish on page 26. The chair read the *resolved* paragraph.

Resolved, That

1. The 2019 World Conference express its solidarity with and show active support for those organizations and community groups that currently aim to eradicate familial and domestic violence wherever it occurs.
2. Congregations worldwide be called upon anew to prioritize with urgency the admonitions found in WCR 1195, 1235, 1250, and 1276.

The chair recognized Warwick T. Sarre, Australia Mission Centre, who moved adoption of Item G-2. There was a second.

Ronald K. Lane, Coastal Bend USA Mission Center, moved to amend by adding a third *resolved*. There was a second. The *resolved* read as follows:

3. The Conference requests that the First Presidency develop or make available culturally appropriate study materials regarding domestic violence and abuse with the intent that such material will become part of the required course curriculum for all current priesthood members and candidates for priesthood office.

Ryan A. Pitt, Mid-Atlantic USA Mission Center, moved to amend the amendment. There was a second. The amendment read as follows:

add "and sexual" after the phrase "materials regarding domestic"

Gonzalo A. Mejia Mejia, Central America Mission Center, moved to close debate on the amendment to the amendment. There was a second. The vote was taken by raised hand on the motion to close debate. It passed by the required two-thirds majority.

The vote was taken on the amendment to the amendment using the polling devices. The result was 1,621 in favor and 299 opposed. The chair declared the amendment to the amendment was approved.

David P. Premoe, Michigan USA Mission Center, moved to close debate on the amendment as amended. There was a second. The vote was taken by raised hand to close debate. It carried by the required two-thirds majority.

The vote was taken on the amendment as amended with the polling devices. The result was 1,651 in favor and 120 opposed. The amendment carried.

Emily A. Rose, Pacific Southwest International Mission Center, moved to close debate on the main motion as amended. There was a second. The vote was taken by raised hand to close debate. It passed by the required two-thirds majority.

The chair read the *resolved* paragraphs as amended:

Resolved, That

1. The 2019 World Conference express its solidarity with and show active support for those organizations and community groups that currently aim to eradicate familial and domestic violence wherever it occurs.
2. Congregations worldwide be called upon anew to prioritize with urgency the admonitions found in WCR 1195, 1235, 1250, and 1276.
3. The Conference requests that the First Presidency develop or make available culturally appropriate study materials regarding domestic and sexual violence and abuse with the intent that such material will become part of the required course curriculum for all current priesthood members and candidates for priesthood office.

The vote was taken on Item G-2 as amended by use of the polling devices. The results were 1,609 in favor and 207 opposed. The chair declared the motion adopted.

Moment of Blessing

Kristin D. Judd and Joseph S. Williams led the assembly in a moment of blessing.

Morning Recess

The assembly stood in recess at 10:09 a.m.

Reconvene

President Murphy called the assembly back to order at 10:38 a.m.

Council of Twelve Mission Presentation

The chair made the following statement:

In the Presidency's consideration of the multiple agenda items we felt the Conference needed to engage in this week, we recognized it has been a while since the Conference has had a presentation from the Council of Twelve on the developing nature of mission in our global setting. Mission is at the heart of what we are about as a faith movement.

For our next session, the Council of Twelve will be sharing information with the Conference about our shared pursuit of Christ's mission. This includes the challenges and opportunities we face in the global south and changes occurring in the Western nations.

We hope this session will provide the members of this Conference with a better understanding of how the church is responding to the mission opportunities throughout the global church.

I now call on the Council of Twelve to share with the Conference.

Apostle Ronald D. Harmon Jr., president of the Council of Twelve, led the presentation. At the end of the presentation the assembly joined with the Council of Twelve in singing "We Are One in the Spirit."

Announcement

President Cramm announced about voting on the nominees for the World Church Finance Board. The voting would be open until 7:00 tonight. It was noted at least one-half of the delegates had voted at this point.

Recess

The assembly joined in singing "Great and Marvelous," led by Blake C. West on the organ. After the hymn, the assembly stood in recess at 12:02 p.m.

Reconvene

President Stephen M. Veazey called the assembly back to order at 2:00 p.m. and announced the singing of the hymn, "Crown Him with Many Crowns," led by Blake C. West on the organ.

Announcements

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

D-4 Terminating the General Operating Endowment Fund of the Community of Christ

The chair called attention to Item D-4 Terminating the General Operating Endowment Fund of the Community of Christ in the *Financials* section beginning in English on 34, in French on page 35, and in Spanish on page 35. The chair read the resolved paragraphs:

Resolved, that the 2019 World Conference approves removing the World Conference-designated assets from the Fund and re-designating them to the Bridge of Hope Fund and by this action understands that any previous actions by the World Conference to designate assets to the General Operating Endowment Fund are rescinded; and be it further

Resolved, that the 2019 World Conference supports the Presiding Bishopric's plan to take legal steps to 1) terminate the Fund and 2) move all donor-designated assets in the Fund to the Bridge of Hope Fund; and be it further

Resolved, that once the retirement responsibility is met, any remaining assets in the Bridge of Hope Fund will be transferred to the Temple Endowment Funds and Worldwide Mission Endowment Fund as determined by the Presiding Bishopric; and be it further

Resolved, that the Presiding Bishopric will include information on the status of these actions in ongoing financial updates.

The chair recognized Bishop Jeffrey A. Naylor, who moved approval of Item D-4. There was a second.

Bruce R. Judd, Mid-Atlantic USA Mission Center, moved a division of the question, to vote separately on the second *resolved*. There was a second. The vote was taken, and the motion to divide the question on D-4 was lost.

William H. Tinsman, Graceland University Congregation, moved to close debate on Item D-4. There was a second. The vote was taken. The motion carried by the required two-thirds majority.

The vote was taken on Item D-4 by the polling devices. The results were 1,509 in favor and 303 opposed. The motion was adopted.

Moment of Blessing

Katie L. Harmon-McLaughlin led the assembly in a moment of blessing.

Afternoon Recess

The assembly stood in recess at 2:56 p.m.

Reconvene

President Cramm assumed the chair and called the assembly back to order at 3:25 p.m.

G-1a Nonviolence

The chair indicated the assembly would return to consideration of Item G-1a, a motion to amend by substitution, for Item G-1 Nonviolence, found in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English on page 22, in French on page 22, and in Spanish on page 23. The surveys from the Committee of the Whole were found in Friday's *Bulletin* in English, French, and Spanish on page 5.

Alexander B. DeHaan, Central USA Mission Center, moved to amend Item G-1a by substituting the following for the resolved paragraphs:

Resolved, that, over the next three years Community of Christ members and leaders discuss the role nonviolence plays in the pursuit of "peace on and for the Earth" (Doctrine and Covenants 165:1d) and in the life and mission of the church; be it further

Resolved, that, scriptural, theological, and historical discussion resources on the principles of nonviolence be produced and suggested for members and friends of Community of Christ as part of our continued commitment to peace education and advocacy; and be it further

Resolved, that, the position of Community of Christ on nonviolence be referred to the First Presidency for a report and/or statement to be presented to the 2022 World Conference.

There was a second.

Scott A. Blair, Central Missouri USA Mission Center, moved to close debate on the amendment by substitution for G-1a. There was a second. The vote was taken by raised hand, and the motion to close debate was approved by the required two-thirds majority.

The vote was taken on the amendment by substitution for Item G-1a by use of the polling devices. The result was 1,311 in favor and 603 opposed. The amendment was approved.

Kaywea W. Nyanneon, Liberia and Sierra Leone Mission Center, moved to close debate on G-1a as amended. There was a second. The vote was taken by raised hand. The motion to close debate passed by the required two-thirds majority.

The vote was taken by the polling devices on Item G-1a as amended. The result was 1,441 in favor and 377 opposed. Item G-1a as amended was approved and became the pending motion.

The chair stated the assembly would proceed to vote on the pending motion. The vote was taken by the polling devices.

Before the vote result was announced, Mark S. Lowry, Pacific Southwest USA Mission Center, was recognized for a point of order indicating that the assembly was confused about the legislative process, had not yet had time to debate G-1a as amended, and that the chair could have ruled the motion to close debate out of order for that reason. The chair stated that after finishing the vote on G-1a, the chair paused to see if anyone wanted to debate, and no one was in the queue. Therefore, the chair ruled the point of order was not well taken.

The result of the vote on the pending motion then was announced and was 1,583 in favor and 243 opposed. The chair declared the motion adopted.

David E. Condit, Chesapeake Bay USA Mission Center, rose to appeal the ruling of the chair. President Veazey assumed the chair and indicated the parliamentary situation. The chair asked: Shall the decision of the chair be the will of the body?

The vote was taken by raised hand, and the decision of the chair was upheld.

The chair was returned to President Cramm.

Announcements

The chair said some members in the assembly had health issues and asked for everyone to be prayerful for them.

The chair stated that voting for the World Church Finance Board will close at 7:00 p.m. Results will be reported the following day.

Closing Hymn, Prayer, and Adjournment

The assembly sang the closing hymn, "Alleluia," after which Natalie K. Mun-Takata from the Island of Hawaii in the Pacific Islands Mission Center offered the benediction. The assembly adjourned for the day at 4:36 p.m. to meet again at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, April 13, 2019.

Susan D. Sloan
World Church secretary