



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Official Minutes of Business Meeting Saturday, April 13, 2019

Call to Order

The 2019 World Conference convened its sixth legislative meeting at 8:32 a.m., Saturday, April 13, 2019, in the Conference Chamber of the Auditorium, Independence, Missouri. President Stephen M. Veazey was in the chair.

Opening Hymn and Prayer

The assembly sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth," led by Dr. Jan K. Kraybill on the organ. Laner Lefort from the Haiti Great North Mission Center offered the invocation.

Announcements

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

World Church Finance Board Election Results

The chair drew attention to the names of those elected to the World Church Finance Board, found in the Saturday *Bulletin* in English, French, and Spanish on page 5.

To a six-year term to the World Church Finance Board beginning 1 December 2019 and ending 30 November 2025:

Valerie K. Brennan
John D. Chatburn
Eric L. Cox
Carolina de la Rosa Sánchez
Raphael Asiko Diang'A
Kathryn J. Haines
Kathleen E. Hnatyshyn
Judith C. Jackson
Kimberly I. Lubbers
Mark E. Megee
Rocio Del Pilar Paz Carlos
Joel C. Ross
Ronald A. Viera Lopez
Michael A. Wellington
Shelby J. Williams

To a three-year term to the World Church Finance Board beginning 1 December 2019 and ending 30 November 2022 to fill an unexpired term:

Sam Zokar Zota Jr.

Statement by the First Presidency on Planning for Future World Conferences

The chair read the following statement:

The Presidency wishes to make a statement about planning for future World Conferences.

In recent years, observations and questions have come to the Presidency about the size, length, frequency, cost, and necessary functions of World Conference. Many of the comments are about the effects of changing membership demographics and desires to offer a greater variety of activities for those who do not wish to serve as delegates or regularly attend legislative sessions. Also, we remain aware of the number of elected delegates from some nations who are not able to obtain visas to enter our host nation and our incompleteness as a representative World Church body.

Following this World Conference, the Presidency plans to present a series of items to the Conference Organization and Procedures Team for consideration as planning for the 2022 World Conference and future ones unfold. These agenda items include reviewing church bylaws and World Conference Resolutions regarding World Conference size and functions and submitting recommendations for consideration to the First Presidency for any needed changes.

Within the church's capacity, the Presidency will pursue arrangements for remote, online participation for the 2022 World Conference in one or more nations to accommodate elected delegates who have difficulty obtaining visas to enter the USA.

We also will explore additional activities for participants who want to experience the worldwide church community through fellowship, learning, and worship, but don't want to serve as delegates or attend most legislative sessions.

World Conference is necessary for conducting church business and discerning divine direction as a prophetic people. It is one of the activities where we have the opportunity to respond to the counsel given in Doctrine and Covenants 162:4a:

Listen carefully to the many testimonies of those around the world who have been led into the fellowship of the Community of Christ. The richness of cultures, the poetry of languages, and the breadth of human experience permit the gospel to be seen with new eyes and grasped with freshness of spirit. This gift has been given to you. Do not fail to understand its power.

World Conference, for many reasons, remains vital to our future together as Community of Christ. However, as evidenced in our church's history, adjustments from time to time to enhance the effectiveness of World Conference may be needed.

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

C-4 Dates for Future World Conferences

The chair drew attention to Item C-4 Dates Future World Conferences found in the *Legislation* section in English on page 21, in French on page 21, and in Spanish on page 23. The resolved paragraphs were read:

Resolved, That the World Conference authorize the First Presidency to set the dates and locations for future World Conferences in compliance with WCR 1288; and be it further

Resolved, That the dates for each World Conference be announced by the First Presidency at the preceding World Conference.

The chair recognized John S. Wight, senior president of seventy, who moved approval of the resolution.

Karalyn N. Millard, Prairie Bluffs USA Mission Center, moved to close debate. There was a second. The vote was taken. The motion carried by the required two-thirds majority.

The vote was taken on Item C-4 by the polling devices. The results were 1,729 in favor and 119 opposed. The motion carried.

The chair announced the dates of the next World Conference would be June 3 through 11, 2022.

President Murphy relinquished the chair to President Stassi D. Cramm.

World Church Finance Board Election Totals

The chair indicated a question had been raised on the World Church Finance Board election totals. The chair read the vote counts based on proportional voting:

Total Votes based on Proportional Voting: 1,470	
Valerie K. Brennan	1,166
John D. Chatburn	1,147
Eric L. Cox	990
Carolina de la Rosa Sánchez	1,109
Raphael Asiko Diang'A	1,088
Kathryn J. Haines	1,121
Kathleen E. Hnatyshyn	1,079
Judith C. Jackson	1,071
Kimberly I. Lubbers	1,096
Mark E. Megee	1,055
Rocio Del Pilar Paz Carlos	1,074
Joel C. Ross	1,005
Ronald A. Viera Lopez	1,007
Michael A. Wellington	976
Shelby J. Williams	1,020
Rachel C. Becker	524
Robert E. Piepergerdes	459
Alan C. Zahniser	364

Invitation to Write Common-consent Topics Proposals

The chair made the following statement:

One of the challenges always facing the First Presidency when we gather for World Conference is choosing how to facilitate the topics being considered by the Conference. As you saw this week, we continue to experiment with ways to listen more deeply and intentionally together on the important topics and questions under consideration by the church.

Our past efforts with the common-consent process have shown us the value of working together, and we continue to learn from those experiences. We hope the time spent this week in common-consent sessions on nonviolence helped the delegates understand the wide diversity of perspectives on this topic. As we respond to the resolution G-1 as approved by this Conference, a proposal for future consideration may be one of the outcomes.

As we look toward the 2022 World Conference in June, we would ask you to consider what major questions before the church merit the additional time at Conference provided by the common-consent process. Based on our experience so far, the types of questions we believe are most suited to the common-consent process are questions that have these three characteristics:

1. Questions of fundamental importance to the mission of the church that need to be decided together
2. Questions for which there will be a wide array of perspectives among the delegates on the answers
3. Questions that we need to consider and decide together as a worldwide church

As we look forward to the 2022 World Conference, we invite you to prayerfully consider what those questions might be. If you are interested in writing a proposal for use in the common-consent process, the first step would be to consult the World Church secretary, who can provide guidance as you draft that proposal. The World Church secretary is an excellent support, whether writing a resolution or a proposal for common consent. We strongly encourage you to work with the World Church secretary when preparing legislation for World Conference.

We hope to publish guidelines on the church website soon with tips on drafting a proposal well-suited to the common-consent process. This will include guidelines on narrowing the proposal to just one topic to help the Conference focus our discussion. The 2022 World Conference may seem very far away now. However, remember that legislation must be submitted to the World Church secretary no less than one year in advance, which would be by 3 June 2021.

You may remember that in 2007 the church was challenged in Doctrine and Covenants 163:11b to consider, "What matters most." There is no shortage of questions to consume our time at World Conference. But through the common-consent process, we are trying to make the time to listen and learn from each other as the community is guided by the Holy Spirit on the topics and questions of most importance to the church. We invite you to join us in that process as we look forward to the next time this assembly meets.

Moment of Blessing

Joseph S. Williams, Georgia R. Seagraves, and Charmaine L. Chvala-Smith led the assembly in a moment of blessing.

President Cramm relinquished the chair to President Veazey.

Alan C. Zahniser, Central USA Mission Center, rose for a point of order regarding the results on the World Church Finance Board and the method of voting, the order of names on the ballot, and questioned the fairness of the election. The chair responded to the concerns and comments and indicated the Presidency would take them under advisement for the future. The chair ruled the point of order does not invalidate the election results.

A-2 Sustaining of World Church Leaders

The chair drew attention to Item A-2 Sustaining of World Church Leaders in the Friday *Bulletin* in English, French, and Spanish on page 5.

The chair recognized Jennifer L. Killpack, counselor to the president of the High Priest Quorum, who moved approval of Item A-2. There was a second.

President Veazey relinquished the chair to World Conference Parliamentarian Leonard M. Young to take the vote. The vote was taken by raised hand. There was a majority in favor, and Item A-2 was approved.

Brother Young returned the chair to President Veazey.

Statement of Appreciation to Staff and Volunteers

The chair said appreciation would be extended to the staff and volunteers in the coming weeks.

The assembly offered a standing ovation for all staff and volunteers for the Conference.

The chair then read the following statement:

At this time, we have come to the end of our legislative agenda. The First Presidency wishes to offer our sincere appreciation to all the staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to make this Conference successful. Many graciously accepted responsibility for different aspects of our World Conference experience. We are blessed to be a church where people always offer themselves for the sake of the larger body to be able to conduct its business and be blessed by the Spirit.

We offer our special thanks to the World Conference directors, Susan K. Naylor and Tammy Lindle Lewis, for their leadership in overseeing the numerous details of this major event and to ensure that this Conference ran smoothly.

Motion to Adjourn

The chair recognized Apostle Ronald D. Harmon Jr., president of the Council of Twelve Apostles, for a motion to adjourn. Apostle Harmon moved “that the 2019 World Conference be adjourned *sine die*.” Senior President of Seventy John S. Wight seconded the motion. The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

With a rap of the gavel President Veazey declared, “This World Conference is now adjourned sine die.”

Announcement

The chair announced that following the closing hymn there would be a 30-minute break, followed by a sing-along in preparation for the closing worship, which would begin at 11:00 a.m.

Closing

The chair announced the singing of the closing hymn on the business meeting. The assembly sang “This Is My Song,” after which the World Conference legislative session concluded at 10:05 a.m.

Susan D. Sloan
World Church secretary

