



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Official Minutes of Business Meeting Monday, April 8, 2019

The 2019 World Conference convened its opening legislative meeting at 10:30 a.m., Monday, April 8, 2019, in the Conference Chamber of the Auditorium, Independence, Missouri. President Stephen M. Veazey was in the chair.

Call to Order, Opening Hymn, and Prayer

President Veazey called the Conference to order with the reading of Mathew 7:7 NRSV. The assembly sang "Redeemer of Israel" accompanied by Dr. Jan K. Kraybill on the organ. Kim K. Morris from the British Isles Mission Centre offered the invocation.

Welcome Statement

President Veazey offered the following statement to the Conference:

It has been almost three years since we were together at the last World Conference held in June 2016. That Conference had a profound spirit of unity and hope. The church's call to be an agent of healing and witness in the world was given renewed focus.

Since that time, a great deal of faith, energy, and skill has been poured into the ministries and Mission Initiatives of the church. God has blessed us as we have sought to deepen our discipleship.

In like manner, we trust that this Conference will be a time of empowerment for the church. An amazing amount of planning and effort has gone into making this Conference memorable and meaningful. Peace flags that are displayed in the Temple illustrate the contributions sent by many around the worldwide church.

We once again welcome all delegates, registrants, and visitors from the nations of the world where the church is established and is being established. In addition, we greet all persons around the world who are joining us via live video streaming.

While we are happy to be together, we also are sad and concerned about the delegates who planned to attend this Conference but cannot because they were not granted visas to enter our host nation. Let us pause now in silence to share their deep disappointment and to acknowledge that we are not complete as a representative body of the worldwide church because of the absence of so many delegates who wanted to be here. Let the empty seats in this chamber remind us constantly of their absence.

The assembly paused in silence.

Announcement on the Status of the Translations System

President Stassi D. Cramm was recognized for a statement about the status of the translations system and the Wi-Fi system.

Greetings to the World Conference

President Veazey welcomed Rev. Canon Emmanuel Yona Chikoya, general secretary of the Council of Churches in Zambia. Rev. Chikoya was invited to the unique opportunity to experience the diverse cultures that make up Community of Christ around the world. He also was present to witness and support Bishop Catherine Mambwe's ordination to the office of apostle, if approved by the Conference, so that upon his return to Zambia he could provide first-hand testimony of this experience to the Council of Churches in Zambia.

Rev. Chikoya then offered greetings to the assembly.

C-1 Credentials Committee Report

The chair referred the assembly to Item C-1 Report of the Credentials Committee in the Monday *Bulletin* beginning in English, French, and Spanish on page 7. World Church Secretary Susan D. Sloan moved the approval of the report with the proviso that alternates certified as delegates after the report was printed also be included as full participants in the Conference in accordance with the Bylaws of Community of Christ and the Standing Rules to be adopted by this Conference.

The chair noted the Credentials Committee would update the official list of delegates as the week went on. Questions and changes were asked to be referred to World Church Recorder Christopher Shaw. The chair also noted, as is our custom, that delegate seating was offered to First Peoples with three (3) delegates, Graceland University with nine (9) delegates, and one (1) delegate for our military chaplain.

With no discussion, a vote then was taken by raised hand on the approval of the C-1 Credentials Committee Report, and it was approved.

C-3 Conference Organization and Procedures Team Report

The chair drew attention to Item C-3 Conference Organization and Procedures Team Report found in the *Legislation* section, beginning in English on page 13, in French on page 14, and in Spanish on page 15. The report was commended to the delegates for their reading.

C-2 Standing Rules of the 2019 World Conference

The chair called attention to Item C-2 Standing Rules of the 2019 World Conference found in the *Legislation* section, beginning in English on page 12, in French on page 12, and in Spanish on page 13. The chair noted the Standing Rules had been provided in multiple languages to delegates ahead of time, and, without objection, the Standing Rules were not read aloud.

Apostle Mareva M. Arnaud Tchong, a member of the Conference Organization and Procedures Team, moved approval of the Standing Rules on behalf of the team. With no discussion, a vote was taken by raised hand. The results were 1,956 in favor and 107 opposed. The C-2 Standing Rules were approved as printed by the required two-thirds vote.

Announcement of the Official Program

The chair called attention to the Official Program Schedule of the Conference found in the *Program* section beginning in English, French, and Spanish on page 4. The chair noted that since the Standing Rules just adopted authorized the First Presidency to “formulate and adjust the agenda daily,” this item did not require approval by the Conference. The tentative legislative agenda was printed in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English on page 8, in French on page 9, and in Spanish on page 8.

Declaration of Organization

With a rap of the gavel, the chair declared that, with the adoption of the Report of the Credentials Committee, the approval of the Standing Rules, and the announcement of the official program, the World Conference of 2019 was “organized and ready to transact the business of the church.”

Statement on New Presiders’ Gavel

The chair said those presiding during the week will use a new gavel. The Joseph Smith III gavel has become fragile and is brought out only for special occasions. The new gavel being used is a gift from our parliamentarian, Leonard M. Young. It will be kept in the First Presidency’s office and used in this and future World Conferences.

The assembly applauded.

Legislative Procedures

The chair drew attention to the “Parliamentary Guidelines” in the *Legislation* section beginning in English on page 53, in French on page 55, and in Spanish on page 59. The number of parliamentary actions remains at 14 for this Conference. The chair ruled that, without objection, these parliamentary processes are special rules for this Conference. There was no objection.

The chair further stated that the parliamentary processes outlined in the guidelines were for the benefit of our multilingual assembly, representing many cultures and customs, and included the parliamentary actions that may come before the Conference, written in international English.

H-1 Report of the First Presidency Regarding Actions Requested by the 2016 World Conference

The chair drew attention to H-1 Report by the First Presidency, which provides follow-up information on actions taken by the 2016 World Conference. The report was in the *Legislation* section beginning in English on page 25, in French on page 25, and in Spanish on page 28. The report was presented for the information of the Conference, and no action was required.

Evacuation Procedures

The chair recognized World Conference Director Tammy Lindle Lewis to explain evacuation procedures.

Statement about Voting

The chair stated it was the First Presidency’s intention to use the polling devices in voting for the remainder of the Conference, whenever deemed appropriate. He reminded the delegates of the importance of keeping track of their polling devices all week. He asked delegates to handle them carefully and return them to their device steward at the conclusion of Conference.

Receiving Printed Reports

The chair called attention to the printed reports in the *Legislation* section beginning in English on page 29, in French on page 32, and in Spanish on page 29. The reports provide an update to the Conference on the work of the various World Church teams since the 2016 World Conference. The reports are presented as information, and no action is required.

Statement on Prioritization

The chair made the following statement:

Standing Rule 10A calls for the World Conference to prioritize the business to come before it. The purpose behind this rule is to provide that items of greater priority to the delegates will be considered first. The assumption here is that it might not be possible to complete all the business of the World Conference, and prioritization would assure that those items that have less priority would be the ones not considered if time ran out. If this were to occur, resolutions not making it to the floor automatically would be referred to the First Presidency. The First Presidency has looked carefully at the Conference Agenda and believes there is adequate time to consider all items of business proposed. Therefore, unless there is objection, we will not go through the process of prioritization at this World Conference.

Hearing no objection, the prioritization process was dispensed with during this Conference.

Announcement Regarding Submitting Amendments

The chair made the following statement:

Those delegates who may wish to move an amendment to any item of business to come before the Conference are advised to submit these in writing to the World Church secretary as soon as possible and hopefully at least one day prior to it being presented to the Conference. Having these submitted electronically would be most helpful. In this way, the translators can prepare the necessary PowerPoint and can be prepared when you move your item. The early submission of proposed amendments does not guarantee that the amendment will be considered. Those who wish to move an amendment still must seek the floor at the appropriate time, be recognized, and move the amendment. If you need assistance in drafting your amendment, you may visit with one of the Conference parliamentarians between 1:00 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. each day in the Heritage Room on the fifth floor north in the Auditorium.

President Veazey relinquished the chair to President Cramm.

B-1 Nominations for Graceland University Board of Trustees

President Cramm drew attention to Item B-1 Graceland University Board of Trustees in the *Legislation* section beginning in English, French, and Spanish on page 7. The chair introduced Graceland University President Dr. Patricia H. Draves and invited her to share a statement with the assembly.

Following Dr. Draves' statement, the chair read the following statement:

In the past, World Conference was asked to sustain First Presidency appointments to the Seminary Advisory Committee in addition to electing members to the Graceland Board of Trustees. In 2018, the Graceland University Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation were updated, as

was the memorandum of understanding between Graceland University and Community of Christ. The new bylaws establish the Seminary Committee as an official committee of the board with three members from the Board of Trustees and three members from Community of Christ as appointed by the Corporate Body of Community of Christ.

The new memorandum of understanding broadened the purposes of the Seminary Committee. The Committee's primary responsibility will be to advise the seminary director as requested and especially by reviewing how the Seminary and College of Liberal Arts and Science undergraduate religious education are achieving their shared mission. The shared mission is to provide quality theological education and service to the church as well as provide a quality educational experience to all students aligned with the nonsectarian values of Graceland since its founding in 1895.

As part of this review, the First Presidency reviewed the process to appoint members to other committees and boards such as Outreach International and PeacePathways. It was determined that World Conference sustainment was not needed for these appointments, and similarly that it was not required for the Seminary Committee moving forward.

Following the 2019 World Conference, three members will be appointed by the church's Corporate Body to represent the church on the Seminary Committee. To facilitate transition, one member will be appointed for one year, one member for two years, and one member for three years. Then starting in 2020, the corporate body will appoint one member each year to serve for three years.

Now let's look at the nominations for the Graceland Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees' Committee on Trusteeship is responsible for identifying and tracking gifts and background needed in people considered for openings on the board. The First Presidency determined board nominations to present to the Conference in consultation with this committee, the board chair, and the Graceland president.

As I already mentioned, in 2018, the church's corporate body and the Graceland Board of Trustees worked together to update the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Board. The goal was to incorporate current best practices to include modifying the terms and term limits for the trustee positions. The new term length is three years per term. This means that starting with the 2022 World Conference, each Conference will fill the seven positions on the board filled by the World Conference.

At this Conference, we still are transitioning to the new term structure. This Conference will fill two positions whose terms expire in August 2019 for full three-year terms. The Conference also will fill two positions whose current terms won't expire until August 2020. These two positions will have only two-year terms so that they can be filled again at the 2022 World Conference. Then, by 2022, each World Conference will have the responsibility of filling seven trustee positions each Conference.

The chair then read the names placed in nomination along with the details of the term.

For a three-year term beginning 3 August 2019 and ending 5 August 2022.

Position 1: Heather A. Donofrio

Position 2: Scott D. Ourth

For a two-year term beginning 8 August 2020 and ending 5 August 2022.

Position 3: John F. Glaser

Position 4: John R. Sheehy

The chair indicated the biographies for these persons were in the *Legislation* section beginning in English, French and Spanish on page 7.

In accordance with World Conference Resolution 1185, the chair indicated that further nominations would be in order from the floor, and that any nomination must be made for a specific position with the prior consent of the nominee. The chair further reminded the assembly that biographical information for any nominee must be transmitted to the World Church secretary by noon, Tuesday, April 9, to allow adequate time for the publication and review prior to the election of board members later during the Conference.

The floor then was opened for additional nominations. None was received. The chair indicated that since there were no nominations from the floor, without objection a single vote would be taken on all nominees. There was no objection. The vote was taken by raised hand, and all the nominees were elected to the terms indicated.

Announcements and Demographics Survey

The chair called on World Conference Co-Director Lindle Lewis for several announcements. World Conference Co-Director Susan K. Naylor then conducted a demographics survey. The results:

Which age group best describes you?

Responses		
	Percent	Count
8-20	1.59%	31
21-30	2.31%	45
31-40	4.26%	83
41-50	15.18%	296
51-60	22.31%	435
61-70	32.31%	630
71-80	16.92%	330
81-90	4.97%	97
Over 90	0.15%	3
Totals	100%	1950

Which one of these best describes your discipleship category?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Bishop	2.35%	40
Deacon	2.00%	34
Elder	32.08%	545
Evangelist	10.06%	171
High Priest	22.25%	378
Member	8.95%	152
Priest	6.83%	116
Seventy	12.83%	218
Teacher	2.65%	45
Totals	100%	1,699

Recess

The assembly sang “The Spirit of God like a Fire Is Burning.” After singing the hymn, the assembly stood in recess at 12:09 p.m.

Reconvene

President Veazey called the assembly back to order at 2:00 p.m. and announced the singing of the hymn, “God of Grace and God of Glory,” led by Thomas Vorzella at the organ.

Announcements and Demographic Survey

The chair called on World Conference Co-Director Naylor for several announcements. In addition a demographics survey was conducted. The results:

Which one best describes where you live?

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Africa	16.98%	308
Asia	3.14%	57
Canada	1.82%	33
Caribbean	8.16%	148
América Central (incluyendo México)	2.21%	40
Europe	1.16%	21
Pacific Islands	3.91%	71
América del sur	0.83%	15
USA	61.80%	1,121
Totals	100%	1,814

Letter of Counsel about World Church Leaders

President Veazey drew attention to the letter of counsel about World Church leaders found in the *Saturday/Sunday Bulletin* beginning in English, French, and Spanish on page 4. He made the following statement:

As indicated in its preface, I humbly submit this letter of counsel to the World Conference in response to my perception of the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for which I am deeply grateful.

I now relinquish the chair to President K. Scott Murphy for formal consideration of the letter according to well-established procedures.

President Murphy assumed the chair and stated:

One of the special moments of a World Conference is the opportunity to consider calls of persons to serve in the leading quorums of the church. They respond to these calls out of a deep love for the church. It is also a time when the Conference celebrates with those who are released from leadership responsibilities, which frees them to extend a new expression of their ministry with the church.

We will now consider the letter of counsel about World Church leadership brought to the church by President Stephen M. Veazey on January 24, 2019.

This letter is found in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English, French, and Spanish on page 4.

The chair recognized Apostle Richard C.N. James, who moved the calls in the letter of counsel about World Church leadership, dated January 24, 2019, be approved. Bishop Steven E. Graffeo seconded the motion.

Recognition of Those Retiring from Leadership Service

The chair invited those who are released as World Church officers to share comments with the Conference. They were Apostle Linda L. Booth, Apostle Rick W. Maupin, and Bishop Michele K. McGrath. After each statement, the assembly offered a standing ovation, and each person then withdrew from the rostrum.

The chair said the church is deeply grateful for the tremendous service, ministry, and leadership of these servants of Christ, who are moving into new expressions in their lives. May we continue to uphold them in prayer as we trust that God will continue to bless their ministry.

To honor the service of these disciples of the Christ, the assembly joined in singing “Blest Be the Tie that Binds.”

Consideration of New Calls

The chair drew attention to the calls for those who are to serve in the leading quorums of the church. Written acceptance statements by each of those named in the letter were printed in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English on page 7, in French on page 8, and in Spanish on page 7.

The chair invited each person being called to make a brief statement to the Conference. They were Catherine C. Mambwe and David M. Nii, each to the office of apostle and members of the Council of Twelve Apostles, and Jeffrey A. Naylor as a counselor to the presiding bishop and member of the Presiding Bishopric. After each statement, the assembly offered a standing ovation, and each person then withdrew from the rostrum.

The chair thanked them for their faithful discipleship and willingness to respond to these calls.

Moment of Blessing

Apostle Bunda C. Chibwe led the assembly in a song, and then Katie L. Harmon-McLaughlin of Spiritual Formation Ministries led the assembly in a few moments of prayer.

Reports of Councils, Quorums, Orders, Mass Meetings, and Caucuses

The chair indicated that councils, quorums, orders, mass meetings, and caucuses had considered these calls, and all were approved by substantial majorities. The chair further indicated the reports of each of these bodies would be published in the *Bulletin* later in the week. The releases of persons from World Church leadership roles noted in this letter are administrative matters. Such matters do not require the action of the Conference.

Approval of Calls

Each call was voted on individually by raised hand and approved. The chair thanked the assembly for its prayerful consideration. The chair then indicated when the ordinations or settings apart would take place.

Recess

The assembly stood in recess at 3:05 p.m.

Reconvene

President Veazey assumed the chair and called the assembly back to order at 3:35 p.m. The chair shared some information on why the assembly did not hear from Jane Gardner, indicating Jane is retiring and was recognized Friday during the Service of Honor and Recognition. Today's consideration was for release of individuals from the leading quorums. Jane is not being released and will continue to serve as the presiding evangelist in a self-sustaining capacity. The chair expressed appreciation for the generosity displayed by Jane and her husband, Bob.

The chair then responded to expressions of concern of Catherine Mambwe's children, who were not in attendance. The church extended invitations and resources and made extra effort to ensure Catherine's children would be here, but her children were among those denied entry visas into the USA. Their hearts and spirits are here. It was not for a lack of effort on the church's behalf that this occurred; it was factors beyond our control.

D-1 Presiding Bishopric Report

The chair drew attention to Item D-1 Presiding Bishopric Report in the *Finances* section beginning in English, French, and Spanish on page 2.

The chair recognized Presiding Bishop Stassi D. Cramm, who led the presentation of the report with her counselor, Steven E. Graffeo. During the report Bishop Richard Betts provided additional information.

The Presiding Bishopric paused in its presentation of D-1, and Presiding Bishop Cramm invited Bishop Jeffrey A. Naylor to share some background information about item D-3.

Following Bishop Naylor's presentation, Presiding Bishop Cramm indicated to the chair that the Presiding Bishopric was ready for the assembly to consider item D-3.

D-3 World Church Budgeting and Audit Process

The chair drew attention to Item D-3 World Church Budgeting and Audit Process in the *Finances* section in English on page 32, in French on page 32, and in Spanish on page 34. The chair indicated that since the resolution was lengthy and was available in English, French, and Spanish and was discussed during the International Leaders Meeting, that without objection, he would not read the resolved paragraphs. There was no objection.

The chair recognized Bishop Naylor, who moved approval of the motion. There was a second.

Mark A. Euritt, South Central Asia Mission Center, moved to amend Item D-3 by deletion in point 6 by striking out the words "...shall not be current employees of Community of Christ in local or World Church jurisdictions...." There was a second.

Following discussion on the amendment, the vote was taken with the polling devices. The result was 440 in favor and 1,127 opposed. The chair declared the amendment lost.

Consideration returned to Item D-3 as originally moved. The vote then was taken on the main motion. The result was 1,666 in favor and 243 opposed. The chair declared the motion was adopted.

Closing Hymn, Prayer, and Adjournment

The assembly sang the closing hymn, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," after which Carlos A. Orellana from El Salvador in the Central America Mission Center offered the benediction. The assembly adjourned for the day at 4:35 p.m. to meet again at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Susan D. Sloan
World Church secretary