



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Official Minutes of Business Meeting Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Call to Order

The 2019 World Conference convened its second legislative meeting at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 9, 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 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," led by Diane E. Riffie on the organ. Clemencito B. Magabilin from the Philippines in the Southeast Asia Mission Center offered the invocation.

Announcements

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

Announcement Regarding Submitting Amendments

The chair reminded the assembly of an announcement made the previous day. The chair stated:

Any delegates who may wish to move an amendment to any items 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. If you need assistance in drafting your amendment, you may visit with one of the Conference parliamentarians between 1:00 and 1:45 p.m. each day in the Heritage Room, fifth floor north in the Auditorium.

B-2 Nominations for the World Church Finance Board

The chair called attention to Item B-2 Nominations for the World Church Finance Board in the *Legislation* section beginning in English, French, and Spanish on page 8.

In harmony with the adoption of Item D-3, the First Presidency nominated the following persons for election to the World Church Finance Board for six-year terms beginning 1 December 2019 and ending 30 November 2025 in the positions indicated:

- Position 1: Valerie K. Brennan
- Position 2: John D. Chatburn
- Position 3: Eric L. Cox
- Position 4: Carolina de la Rosa Sánchez
- Position 5: Raphael Asiko Diang'A
- Position 6: Kathryn J. Haines
- Position 7: Kathleen E. Hnatyshyn
- Position 8: Judith C. Jackson
- Position 9: Kimberly I. Lubbers
- Position 10: Mark E. Megee
- Position 11: Rocio Del Pilar Paz Carlos
- Position 12: Joel C. Ross

Position 13: Ronald A. Viera Lopez
Position 14: Michael A. Wellington
Position 15: Shelby J. Williams

In addition, there was one resignation from the board this past year. Therefore, the First Presidency nominated the following person for election to the World Church Finance Board beginning 1 December 2019 and ending 30 November 2022 to fill an unexpired term:

Position 16: Sam Zokar Zota Jr.

The chair indicated that biographies for these persons were in the *Legislation* section beginning in English, French, and Spanish on page 9. The chair also indicated the current list of World Church Finance Board members was in the *Legislation* section beginning in English on page 10, in French on page 11, and in Spanish on page 11.

The chair stated that this morning the Order of Bishops elected the following two members of the order to serve six-year terms:

Andrew M. Fox
Malcolm Stephenson

The chair then indicated that nominations from the floor would be in order. It was stated that any nominations must be for a specific position with the prior consent of the nominee. Further, the chair reminded delegates that a nominee's biographical information would need to be sent to the World Church secretary by today at 5:00 p.m. to provide adequate time for the publication and review of the biographical information prior to the election of board members during this Conference.

The floor then opened for nominations.

- Courtney E. Madden, Rocky Mountain USA Mission Center, nominated Alan C. Zahniser for Position 3.
- Dan S. Whittemore, Rocky Mountain USA Mission Center, nominated Rachelle C. (Shelley) Becker for Position 7.
- Esang I. Ankoh, Nigeria Mission Center, nominated Marcel Kipili Kapendwe for Position 16.
- Lynn R. Wilson, Far West USA Mission Center, nominated Robert E. Piepergerdes for Position 5.

The chair stated that without objection, those who are the only ones nominated for a position would be considered elected. There was no objection, and the following persons were elected:

Position 1: Valerie K. Brennan
Position 2: John D. Chatburn
Position 4: Carolina de la Rosa Sánchez
Position 6: Kathryn J. Haines
Position 8: Judith C. Jackson
Position 9: Kimberly I. Lubbers
Position 10: Mark E. Megee
Position 11: Rocio Del Pilar Paz Carlos

Position 12: Joel C. Ross
Position 13: Ronald A. Viera Lopez
Position 14: Michael A. Wellington
Position 15: Shelby J. Williams

The chair indicated the election of World Church Finance Board members for contested positions would take place beginning Wednesday at 8:00 a.m., and the polls would close Thursday at 7:00 p.m. The results would be announced Friday.

The chair made an announcement on using smartphones to vote with an app. The chair also explained the process for voting at the voting stations. The chair then responded to several questions of clarification on the voting process and board representation.

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

A-1 List of Retired World Church Employees

The chair called attention to Item A-1 List of Retired World Church Employees, found in the Tuesday *Bulletin* in English, French, and Spanish on page 5.

The chair made the following statement:

All those who serve as disciples and servant ministers of Jesus Christ are a blessing to the church and to the world. The people listed in Item A-1 List of Retired World Church Employees, as well as their families, made significant sacrifices to support Christ's mission. The church's mission is stronger today in many places because of their generous and faithful servant leadership. Those able to attend were honored at a Service of Honor and Recognition on Friday, April 5.

Biographical information about the people retiring from World Church employment can be found on the church's website. Please take time to read this information and to personally thank those mentioned for their years of service.

Just as we all are challenged to discover this Conference, those retiring from employment will have the fun and adventure of discovering where the Holy Spirit will lead them next in their life of service. The church looks forward to seeing how each will respond.

At this time, we ask the Conference to join us in publicly thanking these faithful servants for their ministry and service.

The assembly expressed its appreciation with a standing ovation.

G-1 Nonviolence

The chair called attention to Item G-1 Nonviolence, submitted by the British Isles and Western Europe mission centres, found in the *Legislation* section in English on page 22, in French on page 22, and in Spanish on page 25. The chair explained the process that would be followed in considering Item G-1, which was found in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English, French, and Spanish on page 18. World Church leaders and the Common Consent Team selected G-1 to be deliberated with elements of the alternative common-consent process. In preparation for this process at World Conference, various church events held discussions, and an online survey was done in three languages.

The chair then drew attention to the substitute resolution Item G-1a in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* in English, French, and Spanish on page 19.

The chair then stated that before G-1 was considered, the delegates would be asked to suspend Standing Rule 13 during deliberations. Rule 13 states:

13. After any main motion is introduced, at least two speeches in favor and two opposed shall be allowed prior to the chair entertaining any amendment or any motion to refer.

Suspending Standing Rule 13 would allow the Conference to receive the motion to substitute without starting debate on G-1

The chair then drew attention to a summary of responses on Item G-1 from gatherings and a survey, found in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* in English, French, and Spanish on page 20.

Without objection, the First Presidency requested that Standing Rule 13 be suspended during the deliberations on G-1 and G-1a.

Warwick T. Sarre, Australia Mission Centre, rose to object.

The vote was taken on suspending Standing Rule 13. The results were 1,539 in favor and 539 opposed. Standing Rule 13 was suspended.

The chair read the resolved paragraphs of Item G-1 Nonviolence.

Resolved, That Community of Christ reject all forms of violence, including acts of terrorism, war, and financing wars, and act upon Christ's invitation to practise nonviolence and (confront and resist) injustice; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ reject the notion that violence on Earth and violence against Earth can be addressed separately, and affirm the importance of addressing the environmental causes of conflict; and be it further

Resolved, That, through its Enduring Principle of "Worth of All Persons," Community of Christ oppose all ideologies of violence and injustice including those expressed in diverse forms of nationalism, populism, racism, and bigotry; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ continue its support of peace education and invite its members to embody Christ's nonviolence through local, global, ecumenical, and interfaith actions towards justice, and peace for all.

The chair recognized Elray G. Henriksen, Western Europe Mission Center, who moved approval of Item G-1 Nonviolence. There was a second.

The chair then recognized Shandra K. Newcom, Rocky Mountain USA Mission Center, who moved by amendment the approval of a substitute resolution, Item G-1a Nonviolence. There was a second.

The chair read the resolved paragraphs of Item G-1a Nonviolence.

Resolved, that, over the next six 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; and 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, time be allocated in the schedule of the 2022 World Conference for discussions on nonviolence; 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 a statement to be presented to the 2025 World Conference.

The chair indicated that further action on Item G-1 and Item G-1a was postponed until after the use of the alternative common-consent process.

President Cramm relinquished the chair to President Stephen M. Veazey.

Recognition of Outstanding World Conference Service

President Veazey read the following statement.

The World Conference is invited to join the Presidency in a special recognition of outstanding World Conference service. At each World Conference there are many worthy candidates for this recognition. However, this year’s awardee, the Laurel Club, is especially noteworthy.

The Laurel Club, which is ending its formal organization, has provided exceptional church and community service for 112 years. Yes, you heard that right, 112 years! One of its main functions, as most are aware, is food service for World Church and community events to raise funds for charitable causes.

Through its activities, the Laurel Club has generated funds to donate to the church and other charitable groups. For example, the Laurel Club donated money for major projects related to the International Headquarters Complex, including contributing funds to church-wide efforts to complete the Auditorium and Temple. Also, whenever we walk on the nice replacement carpet here in the Auditorium Chamber or benefit from the air conditioning we can thank the Laurel Club for its work and generosity.

The generosity of the Laurel Club extends far beyond the church’s International Headquarters, though. For example, significant donations have benefited the Restoration Trails Foundation (Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation) and the World Church International Delegate Travel Fund. Furthermore, the Laurel Club has supported the worldwide mission of the church through contributions to various vital programs, including international resources translation projects. Many more examples could be cited. In fact, the final balance of Laurel Club funds is being contributed to Bridge of Hope Tithes!

Jesus said, "I am among you as one who serves" (Luke 22:27). For well over a century, the Laurel Club has shown us what true servant ministry is all about. We have been blessed by its members' hospitality, friendly service, delicious meals, financial contributions, and broad community-building ministries. And, as the Laurel Club formally ends its organization, we are certain that the vision, spirit, and soul of the Laurel Club lives on in all the serving, giving, and community-building initiatives of the worldwide church.

If you have ever served as a Laurel Club officer or department head, please rise.

(The assembly applauded.)

If you have served as a Laurel Club volunteer, please rise.

(The assembly applauded.)

If you have enjoyed a Laurel Club meal, please rise.

(The assembly applauded.)

The church and the World Conference thanks you, Laurel Club, for showing us how to serve and share the blessings of community in the spirit of Christ. Well done, good and faithful servants!

The assembly then expressed its appreciation for the Laurel Club with a standing ovation.

Recess

The assembly sang "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." After the hymn, the assembly stood in recess at 11:50 a.m.

Reconvene

President Cramm called the assembly to order at 2:00 p.m. and announced the singing of the hymn, "All Creatures of Our God and King," led by Dr. Jan K. Kraybill at the organ.

The chair announced that the process for considering Items G-1 and G-1a had been postponed and would be back in the legislative process Friday. Any amendments needed to be submitted to the World Church secretary prior to Friday.

The chair stated that the assembly now would move into the Committee of the Whole. The First Presidency left the presiding station.

Committee of the Whole: Focused Listening

At the request of the First Presidency, Sandee R. Gamet and Kelly A. Phipps served as presiders of the Committee of the Whole.

The chair called the Committee of the Whole to order. The chair noted that Sue Ann Allen was also on the rostrum, listening to the discussion and advising the presiders as needed. Also on the rostrum was Katie L. Harmon-McLaughlin, who led the Moments of Blessing.

The chair explained the process that would be used in considering Item G-1 Nonviolence and said the listening session would allow delegates and guests to step back from the formal legislative process and engage with one another in a different way.

Moment of Blessing

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

Common Consent-focused Listening

The chair drew attention to themes in the survey found in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English, French and Spanish on page 20.

For each theme, a collection of readers read a quote from a survey participant. The themes:

- Resistance sometimes requires force.
- Concern for members in the military
- Violence is never the solution.
- Concerns about taxes and financing war
- This resolution is unnecessary or unhelpful.
- What do these terms mean?
- What about self-defense?
- Violence is more than terrorism or war.
- This is consistent with the church's mission.
- Nonviolence is the way of Jesus.

As the assembly listened to the quotes, it was encouraged to write down any new ideas or insights. The chair periodically asked the assembly members to share with those around them about what stood out as they listened.

After listening to the 10 themes, the chair then stated that the last group of quotes to be shared would be a collection of perspectives that did not fit into a theme, but were unique thoughts. This group also included perspectives shared by international delegates, collected at the International Leaders' Meeting the previous week.

As the assembly listened to the quotes, it was encouraged to write down any new ideas or insights. The chair periodically asked assembly members to share with those around them what stood out as they listened.

In addition, the chair stated it was recognized that within the assembly there may be unique perspectives that had not yet been heard. The delegates were invited to register to speak. Several delegates were recognized to share perspectives.

The chair then extended gratitude to the assembly for working hard to be open and to listen to those who showed trust by participating in the survey. It was hoped those perspectives were faithfully represented. The chair further stated that taking time to listen and learn from each other is part of what it means to be a worldwide community in Christ, and it is part of our unique culture as a faith community.

The chair said that on Thursday the Committee of the Whole would reconvene and return to the same topic. Surveys would be conducted to help us learn even more from each other.

Assembly members were challenged to continue listening to one another, especially those with whom they may not agree. As delegates continue to listen with open hearts and curious minds, we trust the Spirit will continue moving among us.

The chair stated the Committee of the Whole would rise. President Cramm then declared the assembly would recess for 30 minutes.

Afternoon Recess

The assembly stood in recess at 3:32 p.m.

Reconvene

President Cramm called the assembly to order at 4:00 p.m.

F-3 Counselor to the President of the High Priest Quorum

The chair called attention to Item F-3 Counselor to the President of the Quorum of High Priests, found in the Tuesday *Bulletin* in English, French, and Spanish on page 5.

The chair read the resolution:

To the World Conference:

On April 7, 2019, the Quorum of High Priests approved the selection of Jennifer L. Killpack as counselor to the president of the Quorum of High Priests.

We recommend the World Conference approve the selection and authorize she be set apart as counselor to the president of the Quorum of High Priests and as a member of the quorum presidency.

We also wish to express appreciation to Kathryn Olson Sharp, who has been serving as a counselor to the president of the Quorum of High Priests and now is honorably released from this responsibility.

—The First Presidency

The chair recognized Julia A. Smith, secretary of the Quorum of High Priests, for a motion to approve. There was a second. The vote was taken by raised hand, and the motion was approved.

The chair stated that Sister Killpack would be set apart during a meeting of the Quorum of High Priests later in the week.

The chair was relinquished to President Murphy.

Statement Regarding the End of the Proviso

The chair made the following statement:

In 2016 the World Conference adopted a proviso to the Bylaws of Community of Christ to the effect that during the past inter-Conference period, the First Presidency would be free to experiment with various field organization models.

The Presidency wishes to inform the Conference that the provisions of this proviso have been fulfilled, and we have determined that no further adjustments to the bylaws are required at this time.

This is for the information of the Conference, and we request that it be recorded in the minutes.

B-2 World Church Finance Board Nominees

The chair stated that the First Presidency received during the lunch period a communication from Marcel K. Kapendwe, who was nominated for position 16, indicating that he withdrew his name for nomination to the World Church Finance Board. There were now only three positions for election to the board during the voting process the following day.

The chair said that, without objection, since Position 16 does not have a competing nominee for the assembly to consider, that Position 16 for Sam Zokar Zota Jr., would be considered approved. There was no objection. Sam was elected for position 16.

The chair was relinquished to President Cramm.

Announcements

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

The chair then announced that the following morning would begin with worship at 10:30 a.m. followed by a legislative meeting at 11:00 a.m. The worship service would be delegate seating only.

The chair also announced the Wednesday morning meeting for the Order of Bishops would be in the Temple Continents Room and the Order of Evangelists would meet in the Temple Lecture Hall. This change was for Wednesday only.

Closing Hymn, Prayer, and Adjournment

The assembly sang the closing hymn, "We Are One in the Spirit," after which Jenny Pea from the island of Arutua in the French Polynesia Mission Center offered the benediction. The assembly adjourned for the day at 4:22 p.m. to meet again at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Susan D. Sloan
World Church secretary