



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Official Minutes of Business Meeting Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Call to Order

The 2016 World Conference convened its fifth legislative meeting at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 8, 2016, in the Conference Chamber of the Auditorium, Independence, Missouri. President K. Scott Murphy was in the chair.

President Murphy thanked the youth and those who participated in the worship that had just taken place. He indicated that with such a wonderful worshipful time, he was pleased to call the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Announcements

World Conference Director Tammy F. Lindle was called on for announcements.

Presidents of Seventy (F-2)

The chair called the attention of the Conference to item F-2 Presidents of Seventy in the Monday *Bulletin* in English and Spanish on page 59, and in French on page 57. The chair then read the item:

To the World Conference:

The Council of Presidents of Seventy recommends the setting apart of Tanoh Assoi, Carlos A. de Carvalho, and John F. Glaser as presidents of seventy and as members of the Council of Presidents of Seventy.

These calls have been reviewed in a joint meeting of the Quorums of Seventy and have been approved by the Council of Presidents of Seventy, the Council of Twelve Apostles, and the First Presidency. These calls are now presented to the Conference for approval.

The First Presidency

The motion to approve these calls was made by John S. Wight, senior president of seventy. A second was received. Brethren Tanoh Assoi, Carlos de Carvalho, and John F. Glaser were asked to rise and be recognized by the assembly, after which the vote to approve was taken on each call. All were approved.

The chair announced that provisions had been made for the setting apart of presidents of seventy at the Thursday-evening worship service in the Auditorium Conference Chamber.

Counselors to the President of the Quorum of High Priests (F-3)

The chair indicated the next item of business would be consideration of item F-3 Counselors to the President of the Quorum of High Priests in the Wednesday *Bulletin* in English on page 115, Spanish on page 109, and in French on page 107.

The motion to approve was offered by Willem F. van Klinken, secretary of the Quorum of High Priests. A second was received.

Urbain M.P. Mbenga and Kathryn Olson Sharp were asked to stand and be recognized by the assembly. The vote to approve was taken on each call, and both were approved.

The chair announced the new counselors to the president of the Quorum of High Priests would be set apart to their new responsibilities during a meeting of the Quorum of High Priests later in the week.

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

Nominations for Graceland University Board of Trustees (B-1)

President Cramm called attention to item B-1 Graceland University Board of Trustees in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English, Spanish, and French on page 17. The chair invited Graceland University President John D. Sellars to share a statement with the assembly. Following his statement, a brief video about Graceland University was shown.

The chair indicated that after appropriate consultations with officials of Graceland University the First Presidency wished to nominate the following:

Vacancy 1 is for a two-year term beginning in 2016 and expiring in 2018. The nominee for this vacancy is Heather A. Donofrio.

Vacancies 2 through 4 are for six-years term beginning in 2016 and expiring in 2022. The nominees:

Vacancy 2: Nancy Tanner Edwards

Vacancy 3: Samuel G. Smalldon

Vacancy 4: Michelle M. Waite

The chair indicated the biographies for these persons were in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English, Spanish and French on page 17.

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 vacancy 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 Wednesday, June 8, at noon 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 nominees from the floor, without objection a single vote would be taken on all nominees. There was no objection. The vote was taken, and the nominees all were elected to the terms indicated.

The chair read a letter from Dr. Kay Mussell, chair of the Graceland University Presidential Search Committee, regarding their effort to identify the next president for Graceland University. The letter and announcement had been placed in the Wednesday *Bulletin* in English on page 116 and in Spanish on page 110, and in French on page 108.

Nominations for the World Church Finance Board (B-2)

The chair called attention to Item B-2 Nominations for World Church Finance Board in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English and Spanish on page 19 and in French on page 18.

In harmony with the adoption of Item D-4 regarding the election of the members of the World Church Finance Board, the First Presidency nominated the following persons for election to the World Church Finance Board for six-year terms, ending June 30, 2022, in the groups indicated:

Group A

- Debora Ester Ulloa Castellon
- Julie R. Crittenden
- Tamatoa I. Mariteragi
- Samuel G. Smalldon
- Lisa Sherbourne Yen

Group B

- Michael G. Giardina
- Evan A. Jenkins
- Joel A. Trinkle
- Dan S. Whittemore
- Dean T. Wight

Group C

- Gilbert B. Alberti
- Amy M. Hoerchler
- James M. Newcom
- Chad D. Ormsbee
- Emma G. Pitt

The chair indicated that biographies for these persons were in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English and Spanish on page 19 and in French on page 18. The chair also indicated the current list of World Church Finance Board members was in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* in English and Spanish on page 22 and in French on page 20.

The chair noted that on Monday morning the Order of Bishops elected the following five members of that order to serve six-year terms on the board:

- Mark A. Euritt
- Darwood M. Shepherdson
- Diane S. Martin
- Carla K. Long
- Dena R. DeVormer

The chair then indicated that nominations from the floor would be in order for World Church Finance Board members. It was stated that any nominations must be for a specific group 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 Wednesday, June 8, at noon to provide adequate time for the publication and review of the biographical information prior to the election of board members later during this Conference.

The floor then was opened for nominations.

Craig N. Lenfesty, Florida USA Mission Center, nominated Charles W. Petz for group C.
Esang I. Ankoh, Nigeria Mission Centre, nominated Iniobong (Ini) N. Edet for group A.
David E. Condit, Chesapeake Bay USA Mission Center, nominated David E. Glandon for group C.
Diane S. Martin, Central USA Mission Center, nominated John E. Williams for group B.

The chair indicated the election of World Church Finance Board members would be later in the week.

Recess

The assembly joined in singing the hymn, “Amazing Grace,” led by Dr. Jan K. Kraybill at the organ. After singing the hymn, the assembly stood in recess until 2:00 that afternoon.

Reconvene

President Cramm called the assembly back to order at 2:00 p.m. and announced the singing of the hymn, “Great and Marvelous Are Thy Works,” led by Andrew J. Shelton at the organ.

Item I-1, Mission, Tithing and Priesthood Response

President Cramm called attention to item I-1 Mission, Tithing, and Priesthood in the *Legislation* booklet in English on page 44 and in Spanish and French on page 46. It was noted this item had been shared with the church before the Conference, and considerable discussion had occurred in the field. As a result of the input from the field and discussion in the World Church Leadership Council, the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric developed a modified proposal. The modified proposal was found in the Monday *Bulletin* in English and Spanish on page 58 and in French on page 56.

The chair said that before the Committee of the Whole would begin, the assembly would be offered the opportunity to determine which of the two proposals to consider. It was noted that a “Committee of the Whole” is a parliamentary device that allows the assembly to sit as if it were one large committee. The committee operates under separate presiding officers and without the confines of normal parliamentary procedure.

The chair read the revised proposal section and then called on the counselors to the presiding bishop to speak to the modified proposal and why it was being presented. Bishops Michele McGrath and Steven Graffeo spoke to the modified proposal.

Informal Consideration

The chair asked the delegates to indicate if they preferred to proceed with the original or modified proposal. The assembly spent three minutes in small-group conversations, followed by 15 minutes of brief comments from the entire assembly.

The chair took a survey to determine which of the two proposals had more support and would move forward for consideration of the Committee of the Whole. The results were those favoring the original proposal 499 and those favoring the modified proposal 1,586. The chair declared that modified proposal I-1A would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

Appointment of Committee of the Whole Chairpersons

To facilitate the work of the Committee of the Whole, the chair appointed Apostles Linda L. Booth and Arthur E. Smith as its chairpersons. The First Presidency left the presiding station and called Apostles Booth and Smith to preside and lead consideration of proposal I-1A Mission, Tithing, and Priesthood Response.

Committee of the Whole Convenes

At the request of the First Presidency, Apostle Linda L. Booth called the Committee of the Whole to order. Apostle Booth appointed World Church Secretary Susan D. Sloan to serve as secretary for the committee.

The committee then began considering proposal I-1A entitled Mission, Tithing, and Priesthood Response in the Monday *Bulletin* in English and Spanish beginning on page 58 and in French on page 56.

The chair indicated that, over the next few days, the committee would use various surveying tools so each delegate could understand the degree of support that existed for the proposed definition of tithing and of priesthood response.

Moment of Blessing

The committee paused for a moment of blessing led by Katie L. Harmon-McLaughlin and Richard W. Holmes. The assembly sang “Jesu, Tawa Pano” (“Jesus, We Are Here”).

Review of Process

Apostle Booth outlined the steps to be taken by the committee throughout Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons. These included focused listening, surveys of support, and surveys of perspectives.

Apostle Booth relinquished the chair to Apostle Smith. He indicated the committee would focus Thursday on the definition of tithing. Delegates would be asked to respond to two surveys: a survey of support and a survey of perspectives designed to determine why delegates held a particular level of support.

Delegates then were asked to do some homework before returning to the afternoon meeting of the committee the following day.

First, each delegate was asked to make the modified definition of tithing (I-1A) a matter of meditation and prayer between that time and the following day. They were encouraged to discuss the definition of tithing with friends over meals and at their evening residences.

Second, delegates were told it would be helpful if they could determine, in general, the degree of support each held for this definition of tithing, although it was stated this would not be a final decision. The chair then drew attention to the description of the levels of support in the *Legislation* booklet in English on page 55, in French page 57, and in Spanish on page 59.

Third, the delegates were asked to turn to the Wednesday *Bulletin* in English on page 56, in French on page 58, and in Spanish on pages 59 and 60, where they would find printed the perspectives that would be surveyed the following day. Delegates were asked to read these and think carefully about which best represented why they held a particular level of support.

Fourth, in the quorums, councils, orders, mass meetings, and caucuses the following morning, presidors were asked to set aside time for discussions about the proposal (I-1A).

Fifth, delegates who wanted to speak to their level of support were instructed to register to speak during the 15 minutes prior to the 2:00 p.m. meeting of the Committee of the Whole the following day.

Finally, delegates were told that during speaking time they would be recognized in random order as determined by the computer-recognition system.

The chair provided an e-mail address for delegates or others to ask questions. Questions were to be sent to presidingbishopric@CofChrist.org.

The chair then indicated the time for the work of the Committee of the Whole had ended for the day, and the committee would be adjourned until 2:00 p.m. the following day.

Recess

The assembly recessed at 3:15 p.m.

Reconvene

The regular assembly resumed deliberations at 3:31 p.m. with President Veazey in the chair.

Issues of (Priesthood) Morality (G-1)

The chair called up for consideration item G-1 Issues of (Priesthood) Morality in the *Legislation* booklet in English and in Spanish on page 17 and in French on page 16. The full text of G-1 follows:

Resolved, This World Church Conference recommends to the First Presidency that they consider changes to policy regarding administrative action toward priesthood members, keeping the following in mind:

When questions arise involving morality (personal behaviors, interpersonal relationships, or corporate practices), they be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. In cases where no harm is known and the values expressed in Doctrine and Covenants 164:6a–b are revered in word and in action, local church officers, in consultation with the appropriate mission or World Church representatives, be given the ability to determine in each case what administrative action or actions will uphold the worth and giftedness of all people and protect the most vulnerable. The First Presidency will review administrative handbooks and policies, providing revisions and clarifications of past and present statements to uphold this “values based” administrative model.

President Veazey reminded delegates of the ruling made by the First Presidency on Monday regarding G-1 and G-3. The ruling indicated these two resolutions were very similar in their approach and that, as a consequence, only G-1 would be considered by the World Conference. Also, however G-1 is disposed of by the assembly, it would carry the intent of G-3 with it. Therefore G-3 would not be considered separately, but while G-1 was being considered, it would be in order for any delegate to offer amendments if some wording in G-3 better expressed the will of the Conference.

Ronald K. Lane, Coastal Bend USA Mission Center, objected to consideration of Item G-1. There was a second. President Veazey indicated he did not see how discussion of this item of business would do harm to the body, so, expressed with regret, he ruled the objection to consideration out of order.

The chair recognized Bryce A. Taylor, Canada East Mission Centre, who moved the approval of Item G-1. A second was received.

Christian N. Skoorsmith of the Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center moved to amend the motion by striking out the original resolution and substituting it with:

Whereas, The intent of the motion G-1 was to increase meaningful and respectful dialogue among members and priesthood about the morality of lifestyles and activities on the one hand, and the values lifted up in Doctrine and Covenants 164:6a–b; therefore be it

Resolved, That the First Presidency explore options and opportunities for meaningful and respectful dialogue among members and priesthood of how individual, family, and congregational activities, lifestyles, and choices can be more closely and more faithfully aligned with the values and morals lifted up in the Enduring Principles and Doctrine and

Covenants 164:6a–b. These discussions themselves should embody these values while we encourage each other and ourselves to live lives worthy of Zion and a priesthood of all believers; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency make these guidelines, options and opportunities for meaningful and respectful dialog available to congregational and mission center leadership no later than June 7, 2018.

A second to the substitute was received.

Following debate on the amendment by substitution and without objection, the chair asked the assembly if it was ready to close debate on the amendment by substitution. The vote was taken on closing debate by raised hands, and the chair ruled the motion passed by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote.

The vote was taken on the amendment by substitution. The results were 1,346 in favor and 608 opposed. The amendment by substitution was approved.

Darwyn Copa Caceres, Northwest South America Mission Center, rose to a point of order that the substitute had not yet been translated into Spanish. The chair ruled the point well taken and indicated debate would be suspended for the day since the hour for adjournment was rapidly approaching.

The chair then said the biographical information for the new nominees for the World Church Finance Board would be printed in the Thursday *Bulletin*.

Closing Hymn and Prayer

The chair announced the singing of the closing hymn, “I Will Sing, I Will Sing,” and indicated that following the hymn and the benediction by J. Sackor Dixon of Liberia in the Liberia and Sierra Leone Mission Centre, the assembly would be adjourned to meet again at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 9, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Susan D. Sloan
World Church Secretary