

MEETING MINUTES
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD
December 16, 2024
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

United Church of Christ Board Members Present:

David Ackerman, Jean Avison, Kearstin Bailey, Joyce Bathke, Joan Bell Haynes, Judith Booker, Deborah Brayton, Elizabeth Brunton, Charles Buck, Cynthia Butts, Lorraine Cenicerros, Tyler Connoley, Tom Croner, Sana Delcorazon, Daniel Doty, Jamar Doyle, Mark Dutell, Shernell Edney Stilley, Derrick Elliot, Julia Gaughan, Jimmy Gibbs, Darrell Goodwin, Sheila Havey, Dick Hom, Cean James, Tracy Keene, Marcia Keesee, Janese Murray, A.T. Ortiz, Shari Prestemon, Jasmine Coleman Quinerly, Michael Readinger, Lawrence Richardson, Andrew Sinnaduray, D'Angelo Smith, Kylie Steever, Karen Georgia Thompson, Elizabeth Walker, Katharine West, Andrew Ponder Williams, Kim Wood

United Church of Christ Board Members Not Present:

Brian Bodager, Eleanore Chong, Lillian Daniel, Courtney Dobbins, Eric Jackson, Gregory Sato, Careina Williams, Jeanette Zaragoza-De Leon

National Staff

Bentley De Bardelaben
Donyale Chapman
Heather Kimmel
Alisa Lewis
Tami Marinella
Olivia Risko

A quorum was declared.

Opening Prayer

Julia Gaughan provided the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda

Supporting Document: UCCB-24-12-01 Agenda

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-12-01 To approve the Agenda.

MOTION: Jimmy Gibbs

SECOND: Beth Walker

MOTION CARRIED.

Grant Voice Without Vote

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-12-02

To grant voice without vote to Heather Kimmel, Donyale Chapman, and Olivia Risko, and other National Staff.

MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of UCCB October 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Supporting Document: UCCB-24-12-02 Minutes 10.18.2024

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-12-03

To approve the minutes of the October 18, 2024 Meeting of the United Church of Christ Board.

MOTION: Mike Readinger

SECOND: Deborah Brayton

ABSTENTION: Mark Dutell, Janese Murray, Kim Wood

MOTION CARRIED.

Remarks of the Chair and Vice Chair

Julia noted the formation of a UCCB Standing Rules Task Force in the spring.

Remarks of the General Minister and President/CEO

Governance Committee Report

OC, Inc. Board Nominee

Supporting Document: UCCB-24-12-GOV-03 Rev. Eric S. Anderson bio

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-12-04

To approve the election of Rev. Eric S. Anderson to the Board of UCC OC, Inc. for the board term of three years.

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: None.

PAAM Sunday Resolution

Supporting Document: UCCB-24-12-GOV-06 PAAM Sunday Resolution FINAL

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-12-05

Acting as the General Synod of the United Church of Christ ad interim, to adopt the Prudential Resolution submitted by Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries, as set forth on Supporting Document UCCB-24-12-GOV-06 PAAM Sunday Resolution Final.

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION:

A member of the UCCB asks if the date is moving from April to May. This is confirmed by another member of the UCCB.

Resolution on Geographic Boundary Changes for Florida and Southeast Conferences – Western Panhandle

Supporting Document: UCCB-24-12-GOV-06 Boundary Changes Southeast Conference

Supporting Document: UCCB-24-12-GOV-07 Boundary Changes Florida Conference

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-12-06

Acting as the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, in accordance with the United Church of Christ Constitution paragraph 53, approve the adjustment of boundaries between the Florida Conference and the Southeast Conference as determined by these Conferences, as described in the Supporting Documents.

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: A UCCB member who belongs to the Southeast Conference states that this Resolution would make things more holistic within the Conference. Another member inquires about a comparable situation regarding another Conference, and it was explained that the church was in a different Conference due to the closeness it felt to other surrounding churches.

United Church of Christ Bylaws Amendments

Supporting Document: UCCB-24-12-GOV-08 UCC Bylaws Amendments-UCF

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-12-07

To recommend to the General Synod for its approval amendments to the UCC Bylaws as shown on Supporting Document: UCCB-24-12-GOV-09 Bylaws Amendments-UCF.

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: General Counsel indicated that this change deals specifically with the bylaw pertaining to UC Funds and that when the General Synod term was changed to three years, the change adversely affect the governance of UC Funds. No reason exists for UC Funds' director term to be tied to General Synod because General Synod does not elect UC Funds' directors.

Evangelical Church of Germany Full Communion Agreement Resolution

Supporting Document: UCCB-24-12-GOV-09 EKD Resolution

**It was VOTED:
UCCB-24-12-08**

To approve the Resolution On Full Communion Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and Evangelische Kirche In Deutschland, as described in Supporting Document UCCB-24-12-GOV-09 EKD Resolution, and submit the resolution to the Thirty-Fifth General Synod.

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: The General Minister/President and CEO states that this is a relationship that has existed for many years. This resolution is meant to finalize the relationship that has already existed. The General Minister/President and CEO further states that the EKD is the larger body of the Union of Evangelical Churches in Germany (UEK) and the relationship is active. A UCCB member inquires as to what the process looks like for the EKD and the General Minister/President and CEO states that although their process is a bit different than the UCC's, the partnership agreement comes into effect through the mutual signing of a document.

Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico Full Communion Agreement Resolution

Supporting Document: UCCB-24-12-GOV-10 IEUPR Resolution

**It was VOTED:
UCCB-24-12-09**

To approve the Resolution on Full Communion Relationship Between the United Church of Christ and Iglesia Evangelica Unida Puerto Rico, as described in Supporting Document UCCB-24-12-GOV-10 IEUPR, and submit the resolution to the Thirty-Fifth General Synod.

ABSTENTIONS: Darrell Goodwin, Sana Delcorazon, A.T. Ortiz, Lorraine Cenicerros

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION: The General Minister/President and CEO states that this relationship is historic and that a separation occurred in the early 2000s. Additionally, in 2019, there was a General Synod resolution that created an ecumenical partnership with IEUPR and the two churches were asked to the future relationship they wanted moving forward. The General Minister/President and CEO further states that both want to have as close of a relationship as possible without a merger. A UCCB member inquires as to the IEUPR's stance on same sex marriage and reconciliation with our

ordained ministers who are in same sex marriages and the General Minister/President and CEO states that the conversation is ongoing.

Discussion: Common Global Ministries Board Standing Rules Update

A member of the Common Global Ministries Board voices a common concern of the CGM Committee. The CGM Committee members have begun questioning their role due to their votes having to be approved by the UCCB. The CGM Committee feels as though they lack autonomy and that this breaks the covenant with the Disciples Overseas Ministries, and is not in keeping with the equal partnership of thirty years. Additionally, it was stated that since the UCCB can veto anything that the CGM Committee votes on, that they hold no real power. The General Minister/President and CEO states that she would like to point to the need to revise the CGMB standing rules and that this issue remains an important part of her ministry. Several members of the CGM Committee board spoke to the issue, as did Shari Prestemon. Heather Kimmel noted the corporate relationships now differ. Julia noted this discussion was a heads up for action on the CGMB standing rules.

Executive Session: Audit Committee Report: Conflict of Interest Report

Supporting Document: UCCB-24-12-AU-01 Conflict of Interest Report 10.10.2024

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-12-10 To enter Executive Session.

MOTION: Kim Wood

SECOND: Deborah Brayton

MOTION CARRIED.

See separate executive session minutes.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-24-12-11 To enter Open Session.

MOTION: Beth Walker

SECOND: Darrell Goodwin

MOTION CARRIED.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

ADJOURNED BY ACCLAMATION.