

**MEETING MINUTES  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD  
MARCH 3-5, 2023  
THE WESTIN CLEVELAND DOWNTOWN  
CLEVELAND, OHIO**

**FIRST BUSINESS SESSION**

**Members Present:**

David Ackerman, Joyce Bathke, Cameron Barr, Traci Blackmon, Emma Brewer-Wallin, Charles Buck, Molly Carlson, Rachel Chapman, Elly Chong, Jasmine Coleman Quinerly, Tyler Connoley, Tom Croner, Edward Davis, Courtney Dobbins, John Dorhauer, Jamar Doyle, Mark Dutell, Shernell Edney Stilley, Derrick Elliot, Gabrielle Fields, Julia Gaughan, Darrell Goodwin, Kevin Graham, Tim Hachfeld, Dick Hom, Eric Jackson, Gloria-Ann Muraki, Shari Prestemon, Gordon Rankin, Lawrence Richardson, Bethany Ruhl, Bob Sandman, Rushan Sinnaduray, D'Angelo Smith, Kylie Steever, Paul Tch , Karen Georgia Thompson, Elizabeth Walker, Marsha Williams, Jeanette Zaragoza-DeLeon

**Members Excused and present by Zoom for Conversations with Karen Georgia Thompson and/or GMP Nominee vote:** Brian Bodager, Hannah Cranbury, John Folk, Tracy Keene, Onyx Kuthuru, Careina Williams

**Members Excused:**

Keastin Bailey

**Staff and Other Present:**

David Anderson, Donyale Copeland, Sharon Fennema, Cynthia Gaffney, Charles Jefferson, Heather Kimmel, Alisa Lewis, Tami Marinella, Walter Reyes, Kent Siladi, Cheryl Williams, Yvette Wynn.

**Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum**

Heather Kimmel, Secretary of the United Church of Christ Board, declared a quorum.

**Welcome By Chair and Vice-Chair**

Julia opens the meeting with striving toward openness and being together. Cameron opens his comments with gratitude for this in-person meeting.

**Approval of Agenda**

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-01** To approve the Agenda as revised.

**MOTION CARRIED**

### Approval of Consent Agenda

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-02**

To approve the Consent Agenda.

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-02-02a-I Consent Agenda*

### MOTION CARRIED

**UCCB-23-03-02a:** to grant voice without vote to the following staff, guests and others making presentation to the UCCB: David Anderson, Donyale Copeland, Sharon Fennema, Cynthia Gaffney, Charles Jefferson, Heather Kimmel, Alisa Lewis, Tami Marinella, Walter Reyes, Kent Siladi, Cheryl Williams, Yvette Wynn.

**UCCB-22-03-02b:** to adopt the Governance Committee's recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board adopts the FINAL Group Exemption Compliance Report as set forth in Supporting Document UCCB-23-02-GOV-03 FINAL Group Exemption Compliance Report.

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-02-GOV-03 FINAL Group Exemption Compliance Report*

**UCCB-23-03-02c:** to adopt the Governance Committee's recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board release UCCB executive session minutes from February 2021 First Session; February 2021 Second Session.

**UCCB-23-03-02d:** to adopt the Governance Committee's recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board continues to hold the following UCCB Executive Session Minutes as confidential indefinitely due to a personnel matter: October 27, 2019; March 27, 2020; October 2, 2020.

**UCCB-23-03-02e:** to adopt the Governance Committee's recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board continues to hold the following UCCB executive session minutes confidential until further review: March 2021 (legal matter); July 2021 (legal matter); October 2021 (legal matter).

**UCCB-23-03-02f:** to adopt the Governance Committee's recommendation that the United Church of Christ Board continues to hold the following UCCB executive session minutes confidential permanently (personnel matter): October 2021.

**UCCB-23-03-02g:** to recommend that the United Church of Christ Board approve Emily McKenna, Rev. Freeman L. Palmer, and Charles Jefferson as nominees to the Board of Directors of UCC Media Justice Ministry (a.k.a. Office of Communication, Inc., OC Inc.), all for three-year terms.

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-02-GOV-07-UCC Justice Media BoD Nominees*

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-02-GOV-08 UCC Media Justice Bd Demographics*

**UCCB-23-03-02h:** to recommend to the General Synod Business Committee and on to the General Synod that the following group be accorded voice without vote at the 34th General Synod, under provisions of Rule 10 of the General Synod Standing Rules: Wellness Ministries

*Supporting document: : UCCB-23-02-GOV-06\_Wellness\_Ministries\_Voice\_App*

**UCCB-23-03-02i:** to receive the minutes and written reports from the following Committees and Task Forces:

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-03-MKT-01 Report*

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-02-IE-02 Minutes of February 07,2023(89)*

### **October 2022 Minutes Approval**

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-03** To approve the UCCB October Meeting Minutes.

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-03-03 draft 10.21.2022 UCCB Meeting Minutes*

**MOVED:** Cameron Barr

**SECOND:** Julia Gaughan

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Governance Committee First Report: Election of New UCCB Members to Unexpired Terms By Marsha Williams**

There have been several resignations recently for health and time constraints and not being able to focus on the board responsibilities.

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-04** To approve the election of Cynthia Butts to fill unexpired board terms for the Class of 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-05** To approve the election of Janese Murray to fill unexpired board terms for the Class of 2025.

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-02-GOV-04-Cynta-Butts-and-Janese-Murray-Bios*

## **MOTION CARRIED**

### **GMP Search Committee: Process Discussion**

By Emma Brewer-Wallin

Emma reviewed the GMP Search Committee's process. The release of the name of the selected candidate prior to the board meeting has created the need for further discussion as to trust and process. Confidentiality of names of the other candidates will remain.

Six candidates emerged as most aligned. In the winter of 2022, our semi-finalists emerged and then the finalist was determined.

Emma then took questions from members.

#### **Can you share a general profile of the six candidates?**

They currently serve in multiple settings of the Church. They represented well our commitments to uplifting women and people of color.

#### **Who served on the search committee?**

Information is available on the GMP search site.

#### **What was the role of the search firm in the listening sessions and in support of the committee?**

The contracted consultant, Isaacson Miller, served as staff to the committee, assisted in formulating questions and with record keeping. They assisted in drafting the position profile. The committee was responsible for the actual decision making. Once the nomination invitation period was open, Isaacson Miller individualized the outreach to potential candidates. Some candidates submitted their materials, and some were invited to apply. The consultant was the liaison with the 34 candidates, with whom they had a range of engagement. They held phone conversations and served in the first-round interview function. The committee received the information and decided how to proceed.

#### **How did the committee use the information? What kind of rubrics did you use to say people were not going to be qualified, and did you have any interviews with those who were not part of the final six, or any interactions?**

The committee used the information they received to determine which candidates were equipped to meet the challenges. Of the 34 candidates, 28 were not interviewed personally by the committee. Some left the process early. Semi-finalist interviews were held over Zoom and the primary rubric was closely aligned to the opportunities and challenges of the position as well as to the primary job description. The candidates were asked about leadership, financial knowledge, and previous experience in these roles. The opportunities and challenges were the key issues at this stage. The finalist stage was in-person and had four components – a meal, leading worship; sharing a significant accomplishment; and sharing their vision.

There was additional discussion about the rationale of not sharing the number of finalists.

The decision to release the name of the candidate before the vote came about with consultation with the Board Chair, the Office of General Counsel, and Human Resources. The intent was to set the candidate up for success. We anticipated that the candidate would meet with the CCM and heads of financial ministries, and that the National Setting would be notified. It got to a place of recognizing how many people would be on the inner circle. More than 100 people was significant and we wanted to eliminate rumors. The decision was motivated by clarity about who would know and when they would know.

**Was there bias training? How did you discern the nuances, like what kind of worship experience the church needs?**

The Search Committee had bias training with Velda Love, held listening sessions, and received additional training before any candidate applications were received. There was an emphasis on racial justice, but also brought in other bias issues. The committee discussed the subjectivity of the worship experience; the conversation included how we are showing up in the conversation.

A question was raised about not giving the Board the details it needs and further perpetuating distrust. The reply noted that the confidentiality of the other candidates, identity and number, was about the commitment the committee made to the candidates and those will not be revealed.

**How did you mitigate familiarity bias so the decision could be neutral?**

There were candidates that many of the committee knew and some that we did not know. Knowing the person was part of the discussion and was shared – we collectively held each other accountable on the clouding of personal experience.

**Was the decision unanimous?**

The process was as close to consensus as possible. In the end, everyone had the ability to live with and support the candidate. It was not unanimous as the first choice, but everyone was supportive of the candidate.

**What was your prayer life like during this time? How did the Spirit show up in this process?**

We frequently held candidates and members in prayer; it was part of our practice together. The Spirit showed up in the ways we were surprised – through conversation feeling us being moved and the level of honesty shared with the committee. It also showed up in the way the committee members were pastored by our candidates.

**Were members of the search committee on the same page? Did everyone feel their opinion was valued?**

The committee did not come to the decision lightly. All the finalists could have done the job well. We made sure everyone was heard. We went through the materials and conversations multiple times. We had conversations with committee members to ensure they could support the candidate.

**What did you find was the benefit of using the search firm and were there any places where the committee experienced it as challenging?**

The search firm had to understand the United Church of Christ. Isaacson Miller constituted part of the leadership team of the committee. The senior partner originally trained as a Baptist minister which has similar polity. The search firm were additional facilitators in the room and provided guidance. One challenge was that the committee took a while to feel they were steering the “ship” and the search firm provided guidance.

**Was there training about dual role relationships?**

No; it was a part of our internal culture we shared with one another.

**If this candidate is not approved, what is the process? How do we mitigate the tension?**

It depends on the nature of the conversation with this Board. We will continue to be in discernment with one another.

Questions were raised regarding the multiple step deliberative process.

The final decision is not simply relying on the search committee. There are multiple opportunities to discernment. There is the search committee, the Board, and then General Synod.

Questions were raised about when to release the candidate’s name.

Nearly all the work of the Board is public. A “no” vote would have been public information. In the most recent GMP search process, when John Dorhauer was nominated in 2015, we used a similar announcement timeline. The candidate's identity was revealed publicly between the search committee's decision and the Spring meeting of the UCCB.

**SECOND BUSINESS SESSION**

Shernell Edney Stilley opened the session with a devotional.

**General Minister and President Report**

By John Dorhauer

John Dorhauer began by saying that he is now in a season of transition; he continues to work on the foundations of his ministry as he transitions to next GMP. Highlights of his term include Three Great Loves and Join the Movement campaigns, a pandemic informed church, the sale of hotel and office building, and the newly built office areas. The Adese Fellowship is a collaboration between Church Building & Loan Fund and FaithINFO. We also experienced our first virtual General Synod, introduced weekly Tuesday and Thursday webinars, and held live worship services when the situation warranted. Frontline Faith was built, and UCC Everywhere was made available to congregations and Conferences. We eliminated medical debt, and formally engaged in coordination with the United Nations. We have envisioned new pathways. He noted Mel Toomey’s leadership and coaching: register the accomplishments and notice the difference they made.

He gives thanks for the last eight years which bears witness to the fact that we matter. Personally he gave thanks to his family, National Setting Senior Leadership, Conference Ministers and Board Chairs and National Setting staff.

**Presentation Of GMP Candidate And Q&A Session**  
By Emma Brewer-Wallin and introducing Karen Georgia Thompson

Emma Brewer-Wallin introduced Karen Georgia Thompson as the nominee for General Minister and President. This is a non-verbatim summary of her presentation. She detailed her 14-year history as staff of the National Setting. The UCC is in a period of declining membership. By 2070 Christianity will be a minority religion. What lies before us as UCC. Her vision for UCC is to be a denomination spiritually engaged and diverse to welcome those marginalized due to their beliefs. Spiritual diversity should be added to what we welcome. There is a rise of the “non’s” – those who are spiritual but not claiming any particular religion or practicing one religion, including those who identify with more than one religious tradition. Decolonization Only one way to God. Can the church accommodate those who do not share expectations of membership, attendance and baptism? We have done this during the pandemic. We need to be present for those seeking and searching but not willing to make a permanent home. Mission – being mission minded – mission about accompaniment and presence. Connect the love of neighbor as the love for all. Mission allows us to be the justice seekers we are. Being church is locally rooted and globally engaged. Justice is the heart of UCC. Theological education is the grounding. We are justice focused. Mission and justice journey together. Decolonizing the church on all levels is a priority. We have work to do in the reframing.

**Questions and Answers**

**What is the vision for the Board and relationships with it?**

Cultivating and nurturing is another layer of relationship in the GMP position. We need to find ways to collaborative work together. Relationships facilitate the hard work to be done.

**How do we grow the church and not alienate those not willing to change or where diversity does not exist?**

We need to listen to where they are and consider the conversations we need to have. We need to create space for divergent opinions and that comes in a multiplicity of ways. We need to make space for diverse conversations. How do we make space for the ends of the bell curve – hold to core values and hold space and respect in the moment?

**What is your vision for expanding with partners around the world?**

We are working with Disciples of Christ and partners. We have 290 partners in 90 countries. We need to be aware of who our partners need to be and we will take recommendations from Global Relations Ministers.

**How will you address the disparity of women in ministry?**

Just showing up in spaces in a position of leadership speaks volumes. There are challenges in the placement in women. There are still places in which women are not ordained. There are critical issues around equity and value.

**The GMP and JLCM have been the face of prophetic voice in the U.S. – what is our prophetic voice in the U.S. going to look like now?**

Karen Georgia Thompson has had her voice in international issues and places. John Dorhauer and Traci Blackmon are the domestic voices. Moving into the GMP role will mean expanding domestic public theology.

**What may the board of the future do to support the role of GMP?**

Time and space for self-care is important. Prayer. We make space to listen to each other with mutuality and respect. Open communication. Avoid being paternalistic to women's leadership and black leadership.

**What is your vision for Local Church – how do we prepare clergy for churches, sustainability, bi-vocational ministries, changing ministry in the Local Church?**

Small churches are a significant part of who we are. The Conference Ministers are a significant part of the vision for Local Churches. They can name the different resources that may be needed and address issues in their context.

**What is your vision for the UCC endowment?**

We need to determine how to grow them over time and determine how are they working for us. Some funds are no longer serving mission and purpose. We also need to look at our relationship with UCF. There is a lack of endowed funds for OGMP; we have not yet found a reasonable way to about administration as ministry.

**What do you see as ways to strengthen leadership and how can the National Setting support our Conferences and Associations and our clergy who feel called to serve the church but not in a Local Church?**

We need to have everyone at the table and recognize who is not there and who is marginalized.

**How do we get youth and young people back at the table?**

We need to recognize that they are not an "add-on" and space needs to be made for them. We need to be willing to fund it.

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-03-GMP Search-01 Recommendation to UCCB*

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-03-GMP Search-02 Isaacson Miller Report*

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-03-GMP Search-03 KGT Cover Letter*

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-03-GMP Search-04 KGT Resume*

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-03-GMP Search-05 KGT Doc*

**Subcommittee On Disposition**

By Shernell Edney-Stilley and David Anderson

Seventeen resolutions have been submitted. Fifteen are Resolutions of Witness and two are Prudential Resolutions. The Resolutions of Witness will go to committees and then go to the plenary floor. One of the Prudential Resolutions can go directly to the General Synod floor and the other to the implementing body which is MESA. MESA is already taking on this work to amend the Manual on Ministry.

Two resolutions have similar titles. It is possible that the same committee will work on them.



Sending a resolution to the implementing body does not create controversy. General Synod will have it before them, but it does not go to committee since Synod has already spoken on this in the Bylaws.

**It was VOTED:  
UCCB-23-03-06**

Sitting as the General Synod Committee on Disposition, to adopt the Report of the Subcommittee on Disposition.

*Supporting document: UCCB-23-03-SoD-01 Report of the SoD*

**MOTION CARRIED**

***Abstentions***

Bob Sandman

David Anderson asked for fourteen board members to serve as liaisons to the Committees that will be reviewing the resolutions, and he will be in touch with board members on this.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive Committee**

By Cameron Barr

The minutes of the latest Executive Committee meeting are in BoardEffect. There is no major action before the committee.

**Governance Committee Second Report**

By Marsha Williams

**It was VOTED:  
UCCB-23-03-07**

To nominate for election by the General Synod to the General Synod Nominating Committee Class of 2029 Andria Davis.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**It was VOTED:  
UCCB-23-03-08**

To nominate for election by the General Synod to the General Synod Nominating Committee Class of 2029 Stephanie Perdew.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**It was VOTED:  
UCCB-23-03-09**

To nominate for election by the General Synod to the General Synod Nominating Committee Class of 2029 Rebecca Sausser.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-10** To nominate for election by the General Synod to the General Synod Nominating Committee Class of 2029 Amy Roon.

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Supporting Document UCCB-23-02-GOV-05 GSNC Nominee Bios amended 02.23.2023*

**Ministry Committee**  
By Emma Brewer-Wallin

The Committee maintains the relationship between the Manual on Church working group. There have been periodic updates and updates from AM21 and integrating feedback. General Synod will receive an update this summer. The intention to bring the current working definition of the Local Church and the draft version of the marks of faithful and vital churches. Neither require action by General Synod. A board game has been developed to help local congregations to engage in a relational way. It will be available for purchase at General Synod.

**THIRD BUSINESS SESSION**

**Racial Equity Advisory Task Force**  
By Traci Blackmon and Yvette Wynn

In the last biennium we began to look into the history of racism with surveys and deep listening. We began by framing the work and being grounded in our statement of faith. Our goal was to build capacity for overcoming racism and be a model for local settings of the church. Our action plan included leveraging our cultural assets in the community and training; making vendor selections which take into consideration of the racial equity work; making sure we are transparent and build trust relationships by being in better communication with local church with a newsletter. There is still work ahead.

Yvette Wynn and Traci Blackmon provided a comprehensive report on the Racial Equity Strategic Action Plan, which is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

**AMG Report: Justice & Local Church Ministries**  
By Traci Blackmon and Sharon Fennema

Justice & Local Church Ministries is actively involved with the Join the Movement campaign which is a hub of anti-racism stories. There are currently 2200 subscribers. We have 21 stories, 18 resources, and 12 commentaries posted. A youth curriculum launched in Wisconsin. We have community and global partners. There is also a JTM covenant to anti-racist practices as well as a social media campaign. We are offering a series, engagement videos, facilitated discussions, and a Juneteenth celebration. The focus at General Synod will be connecting generations.

Traci Blackmon provided a comprehensive report on JLCM's attention to the Strategic Priorities Initiatives through 2022, which is attached to these minutes as Exhibit B.

**Finance And Budget Committee**

By Derrick Elliott

Derrick Elliot described the various factors affected financials for 2022, including but not limited to: receipts for basic support continue to decrease, Pilgrim Press sales were under budget, various position vacancies, attrition of retired mission personnel and the new build out of the space.

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-11** To receive the preliminary and unaudited Combined Operating Income Statement and Balance Sheet for the year ended December 31, 2022, as presented.

*Supporting Document UCCB 23-02-FB-03 Prelim IS & BS as of 12-31-22  
Motion from committee*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-12** To adopt and recommend to General Synod for adoption:

1) A projected National Basic Support allocation of \$3.67 million for the budget year 2024 and \$3.49 million for the budget year 2025; and

2) That the percentage allocations for 2024 and 2025 be based on the recommendation of the United Church of Christ Board.

*Supporting Document UCCB 23-02-FB-04 Basic Support Projection*

**MOTION CARRIED**

***Abstentions***

Traci Blackmon  
Jeanette Zaragoza De Leon  
Bob Sandman

**General Synod Program & Planning Committee**

By Bob Sandman and Rushan Sinnaduray

Meetings of the General Synod Program and Planning Committee were held in September and February. We discussed the policy for the educational intensives for each Resolution of Witness.

The purpose of the intensives is to provide background information on the resolutions to the delegates. These will be held in person in Indianapolis. They will be neutral in perspective. There is interest in a consensus decision making process and are exploring how we can have consensus decision making at General Synod. There are 118 days to opening gavel; to date we have 267 total registrations.

**Additional Conversation with General Minister and President Nominee  
Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson**

Emma reminded board members that the search process had the core values of confidentiality and ensuring the success of the candidate.

Karen Georgia answered questions from board members.

**Can you unpack how you collaborate with multiple decision makers?**

The co-executives of the Common Global Ministries Board make decisions together and that requires collaboration and conversations with our counterpart, the Division of Overseas Ministries. On the other hand, DOM and WCM are structured differently, and decision-making within each denomination is done differently. We function as one staff but we are two denominations.

**There is a tension to being GMP; it is two jobs. How are you holding the tension?**

The General Minister is the public theological voice. As President, the position is the head of staff of the National Setting and has interaction with the Board. It is internal, external, and international. The position requires fluidity and not rigidity.

**This organization sometimes seems staff driven and we are not active as a board; what is your perspective on that?**

The Board is a governance board and that means something about the relationship that the board has with staff; the day-to-day work falls to the GMP and is held in conversation with the Board chair for reporting dynamics. There is a tension with a governance board as to how they engage programmatically and day to day.

**How do we build space for the ministers to be authentic and not follow the typical construct?**

We are spiritual people with a sense of heritage and culture – challenge as Christians – the heritage and culture were interrupted. We need to decolonize the church. The theology is very rooted in colonialism. We need to talk about what it really means. The United Church of Christ in the Philippines is making space in the recovery of practices of indigenous peoples and recognizes that there needs to be inclusion of their culture and spirit. We decolonize by deliberately including.

There was a brief discussion of the IEUPR Resolution and what it looks like for us to be in conversation with that independent denomination.

**What are the plans to establish collaboration with multiple stakeholders such as COREM & racial equity groups?**

We need to meet with the groups and attend to the support and hear them. The ongoing struggles are real and we need to hear from the groups. What commitments are being made to aid in collaboration?

**What is your perspective on the future financial sustainability of the UCC?**

For the future sustainability of the denomination, we need to start thinking differently about development and such a large portion tied to endowments. Can we diversify our funding stream by reaching out into grant funding? The larger change is the offering plate mentality. People want to engage differently. They want to know how it is spent and what difference it is making. We need to communicate better. Given a purpose, people will give.

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-13** To move into Executive Session (Board members only).

[Minutes were not kept for this session, which was a confidential discussion of personnel matters.]

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-14** To return to Regular Session.

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-15** To accept the recommendation of the GMP Search Committee to nominate Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson for election by the General Synod to the office of General Minister and President.

*Secretary's Note: UCC Bylaw 219 provides: "The candidate chosen by the search committee is confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the United Church of Christ Board before the candidate's name is placed before the General Synod."*

*The UCCB is constituted at 51 members.  
A two-thirds vote requires 34 affirmative votes.*

Results of the Election (conducted by anonymous ballot)  
39 in favor  
7 against  
3 abstentions

The candidate's name will be placed before the General Synod for election to the office of General Minister and President.

**FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION**

Shernell Edney Stilley provided closing worship.

## **AGM Report – Wider Church Ministries**

By Karen Georgia Thompson

In response to war in Ukraine, we visited four countries and partners working with refugees. Three million dollars were collected to assist the work in that area. Churches were opening their homes and building for the refugees. Church World Service created mini grocery stores for basic necessities and food items. We are contributing to refugee centers with access to services to develop skill training programs. We have raised \$70,000 to assist in the earthquake areas of Turkey & Syria. The need is greater than what has been raised. We work with those affected by the hurricane season and climate change disasters. We receive daily updates from partners on the ground. The provision of sanctuary and shelter to the homeless continues to be important.

We continue with Thursdays in Black campaign. We continue to work on ending gender-based violence and period injustice. Women and girls who do not have what they need to attend to their cycle.

Karen Georgia discussed some governance issues relating to the Common Global Ministries Board and this Board's responsibilities and noted that proposed changes would be forthcoming in the UCCB Standing Rules.

WCM owns properties in Japan, and a discussion of the possible transfer of the property will be brought to this Board.

## **AFFILIATED & ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES**

### **Pension Boards**

By Walter Reyes

The Pension Boards provided over \$2 million to post-retirement needy clergy. The Ministerial Vitality Financial Program is thriving. Generations provides financial resources for refinancing clergy debt. The Credit Union has been in discussion for some time as part of a General Synod resolution. We will be looking for more conversation at General Synod.

Pension Boards, United Church Funds and the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries provided comprehensive reports which are attached to these minutes as Exhibit C.

### **Council of Conference Ministers**

By Darrell Goodwin

The Council of Conference Ministers met in a spirit of welcome and inclusion. Half of the Conference Ministers are new Conference ministers. We are dedicated to being a collective voice for the local church. We have a commitment to be a Ministry of presence and partner with each other.

**Cameron Barr provided additional comments related to the AGM renomination:**

Karen Georgia Thompson has withdrawn her candidacy for Associate General Minister. While she is not presuming the action of General Synod, she cannot stand for two positions at one time. The leadership of the Board has discussed the vacancy. There isn't the time to fill it and the position will not be vacated (presuming) until General Synod. It is the intention in the months prior to General Synod that there will be an acting AGM for two years through the next biennia and then there will be an election for the position. This is consistent with what was done in the past.

The Board has authority the to appoint an acting officer. Further discussion is needed for the process.

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-16** To move into Executive Session.

**MOVED:** Cameron Barr

**SECONDED:** Beth Walker

**MOTION CARRIED**

[See separate minutes]

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-17** To move into Regular Session.

**MOTION CARRIED BY CONSENSUS**

**It was VOTED:**

**UCCB-23-03-18** To approve the minutes of October 21, 2022 Executive Session.

**MOVED:** Cameron Barr

**SECONDED:** Emma Brewer-Wallin

**MOTION CARRIED**

***Abstentions***

Cynthia Butts

Janese Murphy

**New Business**

Board leadership, on behalf of Kevin Graham spoke about the upcoming need for the next Chair & Vice-Chair for UCCB. All those interested should contact him. The Vice-Chair is traditionally elevated to Chair but the Committee is still looking for the Vice-Chair. The nominee would need to be in the Class 2025 and Class of 2027.

**Kent Siladi provided Join the Movement development training for the Board.**

**Adjournment**