

MINUTES
United Church of Christ Board
July 10, 2025

The United Church of Christ Board is the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ Board Corporation, Justice and Witness Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ). Each meeting of the United Church of Christ Board is a meeting of each of these corporations.

Members Present:

David Ackerman, Jean Avison, Kearstin Bailey, Joyce Bathke, Judith Booker, Deborah Dee Brayton, Elizabeth Brunton, Charles Buck, Cynta Butts, Lorraine Cenicerros, Jasmine Coleman Quinerly, Tyler Connoley, Tom Croner, Lillian Daniel, Sana Delcorazon, Courtney Dobbins, Daniel Doty, Jamar Doyle, Mark Dutell, Derrick Elliott, Julia Gaughan, Jimmy Gibbs, Darrell Goodwin, , Richard Hom, Eric Jackson, Cean James, Tracy Keene, Marcia Keese, Dave Klassen, Janese Murray, A.T. Ortiz, Andrew Ponder Williams, Shari Prestemon, Michael Readinger, Lawrence Richardson, Gregory Sato, Rushan Sinnaduray, D'Angelo Smith, Kylie Steever, Karen Georgia Thompson, Elizabeth Walker, Kate West, Kim Wood, Jeanette Zaragoza De Leon

Members not Present:

Sheila Harvey, Shernell Edney Stilley, Careina Williams

Staff Present:

Joshua Baird, Donyale Chapman, Bentley DeBardelaben, Heather Kimmel, Tami Marinella, Olivia Risko

Roll Call, Declaration of a Quorum and Call to Order, and Welcome

Julia Gaughan, Chair of the UCCB, informs the Board that if they have not yet registered for General Synod, they should go to the convention center and do so. Kevin Peterson will meet with Committee Liaisons directly outside the meeting room at the close of the meeting. If new business is brought forward following the first plenary of General Synod, a Board meeting will need to take place.

Opening Prayer – Julia Gaughan

Approval of Agenda

Daniel Doty moves to approve the Agenda, Kate West seconds.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-01

To approve the Agenda.

Motion: Daniel Doty

Second: Kate West

Electronic Vote: Passes.

Supporting document: UCCB-25-07-01_Agenda_7.10.2025

Abstention: Richard Hom

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mike Readinger moves to approve the Consent Agenda, D'Angelo Smith seconds.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-02 To approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Mike Readinger

Second: D'Angelo Smith

Electronic Vote: Passes.

Supporting document: UCCB-25-07-02 Consent Agenda

Approval of UCCB June 17, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

Kim Wood moves to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2025 Meeting of the United Church of Christ Board, Deborah Dee Brayton seconds.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-03 To approve the minutes of the June 17, 2025 Meeting of the United Church of Christ Board.

Motion: Kim Wood

Second: Deborah Dee Brayton

Electronic Vote: Passes.

Supporting document: UCCB-25-07-03_Special_Meeting_Minutes 6.17.2025

Abstention: Liz Brunton, Cynta Butts, Tyler Connoley, Lillian Daniel, Daniel Doty, Jimmy Gibbs, Richard Hom, Eric Jackson, Tracy Keene, Kylie Steever, Jeanette Zaragoza De Leon

Chair and Vice Chair Remarks - Julia Gaughan and Jasmine Quinerly

Jasmine Coleman Quinerly, Vice Chair of the UCCB, states that it has been a pleasure working with Julia and that she always made room at the table; she thanks board members for committing to the work of the United Church of Christ.

General Minister and President/CEO Remarks - Karen Georgia Thompson

Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President/CEO thanks senior staff and board staff. She notes unified governance challenges the board faced, welcomes Dave Klassen to his first meeting, and notes an increase in collaboration with the affiliated and associated ministries and expresses hope for more.

Executive Committee Report - Julia Gaughan

Julia thanks Karen Georgia and Jasmine, and introduces the committee's business.

WCM Reserve Account Resolution

The Executive Committee moves to adopt the WCM Reserve Account Resolution.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-04

To adopt the WCM Reserve Account Resolution.

Motion: Executive Committee

Discussion:

A Board Member asks if someone can speak to the Motion. Julia explains the resolution ties up actions relating to transfers that happened in 2008, when the WCM Board authorized the transfer of money for the purpose of supporting the UCF gift annuities reserve, which is a requirement under New York law. Leadership engaged deeply with United Church Funds, there was an investigation and conversations, and now an awareness exists of where the money is and what it is being use for.

Electronic Vote: Passes.

Supporting document:

UCCB-25-06-ExCom-04_WCM_Reserve_Account_Resolution

UCCB-25-06-ExCom-05_WCM_Reserve_Background

Emergency Executive Leadership Policy

Julia states that if Karen Georgia or a future GMP is detained, ill, or out of the country and unable to return, this is a functional policy to be enforced during times of emergency.

Karen Georgia states that putting the policy in writing follows what is done in practice in the NMUCC. The Bylaws clearly speak to what happens if the GMP is incapacitated for long term. In that event, it is the Board who appoints an acting GMP. In the short term, if something is to happen, the policy will control.

The Executive Committee moves to adopt the Emergency Executive Leadership Policy.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-05

To adopt the Emergency Executive Leadership Policy.

Motion: Executive Committee

Discussion:

A Board Member asks why sixty days is the number that was chosen. Heather Kimmel answers by stating that there is no definition in the Bylaws of "unable to discharge responsibilities." Sixty days was meant to balance the amount of time that the Chief of Staff could balance the agenda of the GMP with the time and energy an AGM would need to expend to take on that role.

A Board Member asks if this decision in any way changes if our Bylaws amendments on the AGM position are not approved. Karen Georgia states that this would not affect the Bylaws, because the Bylaws are speaking to something different. If the Bylaws are approved, the Board is still responsible for determining in the long term if the GMP is incapacitated.

A Board Member asks what would happen if after sixty days, the GMP is still not able to perform. Julia states that at that point in time, the Board must take action to appoint an acting GMP.

A Board Member voices a concern that the Chief of Staff who answers to the GMP has access to files and voices concern with a lack of succession planning. When it comes to issues that pertain to staff, it is handled by HR.

A Board Member asks if the Chief of Staff and GMP ever travel together and could be detained together. Karen Georgia answers by stating that it is rare but leadership must consider what would happen in the event of an emergency.

A Board Member states that different GMPs have used the Chief of Staff role differently, and that the document uses a specified title. Is there a way to codify the role without explicitly naming it? Julia states that should that title change, should it be a different role, policies are easier to amend or adopt than Bylaws.

Karen Georgia closes the discussion by stating that the need for this is coming out of a particular place and time.

Electronic Vote: Passes.

Supporting document: *UCCB-25-06-ExCom-03_EmergencyExecLeadershipPolicy*

Abstention: Darrell Goodwin

Governance Committee Report – Janese Murray

Janese starts by stating that there are two separate recommendations to amend the UCCB Standing Rules. One is for amendments effective immediately, and the second one is for amendments that are contingent on the approval of certain bylaws amendments. Regarding the first vote, these amendments address the diversity of the Chair, employment of UCCB members, and committee schedules. The Governance Committee had a robust conversation on these amendments including the diversity requirements of the UCCB Chair. The Governance Committee recommends these amendments to the Standing Rules.

Amendments to United Church of Christ Board Standing Rules

The Governance Committee moves to adopt the amendments to the UCCB Standing Rules as shown on Supporting Document UCCB-25-06-GOV-14_Immediate_UCCB_Standing_Rules_Amendments.pdf.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-06

To adopt the amendments to the UCCB Standing Rules as shown on Supporting Document UCCB-25-06-GOV-14_Immediate_UCCB_Standing_Rules_Amendments.pdf.

Motion: Governance Committee

Discussion: None.

Electronic Vote: Passes

Supporting document: *UCCB-25-06-GOV-14_Immediate_UCCB_Standing_Rules_Amendments.pdf.*

Abstention: Jeanette Zaragoza De Leon

Janese continues by providing background on the second vote. These amendments ensure the Board's leadership structure is clear and that continuity of leadership exists. The Assistant to the Chair is meant to be a short term. The opportunity to serve as Chair is not exclusively open to those who are willing to extend their term.

The Governance Committee moves to adopt the amendments to the UCCB Standing Rules as shown on Supporting Document UCCB-25-06-GOV-15_Contingent_UCCB_Bylaws_Amendments.pdf, contingent on the approval of the UCC Bylaws Amendments to Paragraph 206(e), 229(a), and Appendix A (Director and GSNC Member Term Amendments), to be effective at the close of the Thirty-fifth General Synod.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-07

To adopt the amendments to the UCCB Standing Rules as shown on Supporting Document UCCB-25-06-GOV-15_Contingent_UCCB_Bylaws_Amendments.pdf, contingent on the approval of the UCC Bylaws Amendments to Paragraph 206(e), 229(a), and Appendix A (Director and GSNC Member Term Amendments), to be effective at the close of the Thirty-fifth General Synod.

Motion: Governance Committee

Discussion: None.

Electronic Vote: Passes.

Supporting document: *UCCB-25-06-GOV-15_Contingent_UCCB_Bylaws_Amendments.pdf*

Abstention: Darrell Goodwin, Jeanette Zaragoza De Leon

Sitting As The Business Committee Of The Thirty-Fifth General Synod

Beth Walker moves to move into Business Committee of General Synod, Eric Jackson seconds.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-08 To move into Business Committee of General Synod.

Motion: Beth Walker

Second: Eric Jackson

Vote: Passes by consensus.

Approval of General Synod Agenda

Kate West moves to approve the Agenda of the Thirty-Fifth General Synod, Janese Murray seconds.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-09 To approve the Agenda of the Thirty-Fifth General Synod.

Motion: Kate West

Second: Janese Murray

Discussion: None.

Electronic Vote: Passes.

Supporting document: *UCCB-25-07-06_GS_Agenda*

Grant Voice Without Vote to General Synod Resource Persons

Daniel Doty moves to recommend the General Synod grant voice without vote to the list of Resource Persons as shown on Supporting Document: *UCCB-25-07-05_ResourcePersons*, Kearstin Bailey seconds.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-10 To recommend the General Synod grant voice without vote to the list Resource Persons as shown on Supporting Document: *UCCB-25-07-05_ResourcePersons*.

Motion: Daniel Doty

Second: Kearstin Bailey

Discussion:

A Board Member inquires as to if there is another space to propose additional bodies have voice without vote, because UCC Media Justice did not make the deadline. Julia explains that the process is that people apply for voice without vote to the General Synod Administrator and that the Board acted on that in March.

The Board Member requests that the UCCB add the UCC Media Justice to the list of resource persons.

Heather Kimmel states that in the application process, the group must show that their interests are not already being represented. Jeanette Zaragoza De Leon and Freeman Palmer are on the UCC Media Justice board. The answer during application would have likely been no.

Karen Georgia adds that in the Committees, everybody cannot speak. A Committee Chair cannot invite an individual to speak to a Committee if voice has not been granted.

Jeanette Zaragoza De Leon moves to amend the list of resource persons being granted voice without vote to add UCC Media Justice. No second.

Electronic Vote: Passes.

Supporting document: *UCCB-25-07-05_ResourcePersons*

Abstention: Jeanette Zaragoza De Leon

Notice of General Synod Committee Liaison Appointments

Supporting document: UCCB-25-07-04_General_Synod_Committee_Liaisons

GS35 Credentials Committee Report

Darrell Goodwin moves to receive the GS35 Credentials Committee Report, Jimmy Gibbs seconds.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-11 To receive the GS35 Credentials Committee Report.

Motion: Darrell Goodwin

Second: Jimmy Gibbs

Discussion: None.

Electronic Vote: Passes.

Supporting document: *GS35_25_CC_06_Credentials_Committee_Report.pdf*

Beth Walker moves to move out of Business Committee of General Synod, Kim Wood seconds.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-12 To move out of Business Committee of General Synod.

Motion: Beth Walker

Second: Kim Wood

Vote: Passes by consensus.

Other Business

Julia shares a personal testimonial and states that she is proud of this board for having hard conversations and protecting vulnerability. She provided remarks honoring the class of 2025:

D'Angelo Smith, David Ackerman, Derrick Elliott, Kim Wood, Kylie Steever, Darrell Goodwin, Kearstin Bailey, Jeanette Zaragoza De Leon, Eric Jackson, Rushan Sinnaduray

Remarks by Incoming Chair and Vice Chair - Jasmine Coleman Quinerly & Cean James
Jasmine and Cean offered a prayer and remarks

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-13

To move into Executive Session.

Motion: Beth Walker

Second: Jimmy Gibbs

Discussion: None.

Vote: Passes by consensus.

Executive Session

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-14

To move out of Executive Session.

Motion: Joyce Bathke

Second: Tyler Connoley

Discussion: None.

Vote: Passes by consensus.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-15

To approve the March 7, 2025 Executive Session minutes.

Motion: Kearstin Bailey

Second: Beth Walker

Discussion: None.

Vote: Passes by consensus.

Abstention: Rushan Sinnaduray

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

It was VOTED:

UCCB-25-07-16

To adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Darrell Goodwin

Second: D'Angelo Smith

Discussion: None.

Vote: Passes by consensus.