

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PRESENTED BY
THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCHES FOR CONSIDERATION BY GENERAL CONFERENCE XXVII:

MOTIONS:

1. Commission on Pathway of Healing

Motion for the **incoming Moderator and** Governing Board to create a Commission to continue a pathway of healing and reconciliation in order to shine a light on elements that have fractured MCC relationships since General Conference 2016 and continues. The commission composition will include representatives from Governing Board, Council of Elders, Strategic Leadership Team, Intentional Transition Team, Laity, MCC churches, outside consultants, to name a few.

2. Committee to review Clergy House and Lay House

Motion for the **incoming Moderator and** Governing Board to form a committee to review and analyze the current Clergy House and Lay House delegate(s) structures; and make recommendations to the General Conference on viable alternatives for the 21st century MCC.

3. Assessment Rate for Emerging Churches

Motion to approve an assessment rate for Emerging Churches which is 50% of the approved Affiliated assessment.

Rationale: As UFMCC continues to expand its global outreach, Emerging Churches are expected to adhere to the assessment policy set forth in Bylaw Article IX part B. However, this bylaw does not provide for a set amount nor a percentage for the assessment. This motion identifies Emerging Churches as just beginning and is offered as a way for these churches to have a set rate to fulfill their obligation. The motion is written in way so that further adjustments are unnecessary when the affiliated church rate changes.

4. Commission on Conferences

Motion:

The incoming Governing Board and Moderator shall establish a Commission on Conferences to examine the General Conference purpose, structure, planning, frequency, location, implementation, costs, and realistic support between General Conferences. The Commission will make recommendations for innovation or adaption by engaging MCC members, research best practices within and outside of MCC. This commission should represent a wide array of MCC members, clergy and lay, and include MCC staff assigned to plan and execute General Conference. Commission recommendations will be presented to the Governing Board for review. Final recommendations from the Commission requires approval by 2/3 of the Clergy House and of the Lay House no later than General Conference 2022.

Rationale:

After the 2007 General Conference, MCC transitioned to holding General Conference every three years: 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019. Moving away from Regions, members started meeting in less-structured Networks, leaving all official business and voting to occur at our triennial General Conference Business Meetings, except in special cases where we have been able to implement virtual voting.

Total General Conference attendance tends to ebb and flow. In 2010 in Acapulco, there were 886 registrants. In Chicago, 1,275. In Victoria, 1,033.¹ For each conference, about 50% of attendees are voting Clergy or Lay Delegates.

Despite the desire to have more participation from outside of the US, especially in our outside of the US locations, attendance from outside of the US is fairly stagnant with 88-89% being from the US in the last few General Conferences.

Our average, the General Conference population has also aged. In Victoria, 25% of our conference attendees were 65+, 17% in Chicago, and 10% in Acapulco. All numbers in each progressive decade have been decreasing except the 26 and below category which has stayed fairly steady at 6%.

The last major factor affecting General Conference attendance is funding. For both Chicago and Victoria, about 70% of conference attendees were self-funded, this is a 10% increase from 59% in Acapulco.

Venues to host General Conference require multi-year planning. MCC has a Governing Board approved contract for a 2022 General Conference location,

¹ All statistics taken from registration and optional survey data collected after each General Conference

which will be in the United States. By September of 2019, work begins to identify a location for the 2025 General Conference.

Conferences, gatherings, and other meetings are a way for people to connect, share struggles, brainstorm ideas, and create meaningful relationships. At their best, conferences and gatherings reduce isolation and help us to vision together to discern where God is calling MCC to focus our attention.

Key questions for the Commission include but are not limited to:

- What main goals should General Conference accomplish?
- How can we imagine new ways of conducting conferences or meetings around the world?
- How can we best meet the physical and financial needs of conference attendees given shifting demographics?
- How do networks, affinity group meetings etc., fit into the conference structure?
- Are there innovative ways we can seek to build new partnerships when planning conferences, network gatherings, affinity group meeting, skills-based learning etc.?
- With rapidly changing technology, are there ways to make meaningful connection more accessible and equitable?

5. Commission on MCC Sacraments and Rites

Motion

General Conference authorizes the incoming Moderator and Governing Board to appoint a special task force to review, renew, and update the MCC Sacraments and Rites in Article III. A and B of the UFMCC Bylaws. This Commission will include representatives from the Council of Elders and Theologies Team, alongside persons representing the theological, cultural, and global diversity of MCC. It will also seek consultation from resources inside and outside of MCC, including but not limited to UFMCC staff members. The document they bring forth requires approval by 2/3 of the Clergy House and of the Lay House of the General Conference of MCC, at the soonest, by General Conference 2022.

Rationale

The 2012 International Task Force (ITF) report noted diversity in sacramental practices, including virtual communities and church membership. Research and recommendations of the ITF led to the Commission on the Statement of Faith, which presented a new core document in 2016 for MCC churches. Building upon the ITF report and the Commission on the Statement of Faith, a new Commission on Sacraments and Rites would address current language and

theological understandings in order to reflect the global practices of MCC. The work of the new Commission includes consideration of moving the Sacraments and Rites from the Bylaws into a separate core document.