Indiana General Conference Delegation
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2019
Mt Auburn UMC

Present: Mary Fridlund, Kim Arnott, Brett Lloyd, Chris Hancock, Adriane Curtis, Duane Carlisle, Ian Hall, Chiyona Bourne, Lisa Schubert-Nowling, Chris Nunley, Mike Womack, Ronnie Bell, Shannon Priddy, Albert Hidago, Shirley Dominick, John Shive, Amy Land, Aleze Fulbright, Kenneth E., Jill Howard, Nancy Stauffer

On ZOOM: Larry Whitehead, Greg Pimlott, Chris Tiedeman, Rob Fuquay, John Lomperis (late), Carolyn Johnson, Meg Lassiat, RC Mulbaier, Marty Lundy, Nathan Lundy

The General Conference and Jurisdictional delegates held their fourth meeting at Mt. Auburn UMC in Greenwood IN on December 7, 2019. Lisa Schubert-Nowling led the worship service following our first order of business.

First Order of Business:
Russ Abel opened the meeting with a note about transparency regarding an email from Tony Alstott about wanting to still submit his name for bishop endorsement and for him to come for an interview. Russ posed to the group a question, “Is interviewing Tony consistent with the decisions we made at the October meeting? If so, would it be acceptable that all candidate interviews be moved to January meeting to give both candidates time to prepare.”

Ian Hall made a motion that we interview Tony and Mary F. seconded. There was some discussion regarding support for a Bishop candidate coming from the delegation. References to past examples where Bishop candidates were elected that were not part of a delegation were cited. A friendly amendment from Adriane Curtis was made to interview both Tony and Aleze at January meeting. Discussion confirmed that Zoom options for the interview and voting would be available. Also, clarification points were made and accepted that the October meeting minutes confirm that we voted to interview 2 candidates. Chris Nunley called the question and the motion passed. Voting results: Unanimous, 4 online, one abstention.

Knowing one another:
Russ and Chris led us in a time of reflection with focus on Christian Conferencing Guidelines #7 - “Commit yourself to the unity of the Spirit seeking consensus whenever possible.” As time gets shorter before GC, we are encouraged to look for ways that creativity can go up and how do we stay in hopeful, with a positive mindset moving forward by keeping hearts open to one another.

Knowing our work:
North Jurisdictional Gathering:
Duane Carlisle gave an update on North Jurisdictional Gathering held in Chicago on November 8-9th. Some key points Duane presented as takeaways from the meeting were,

- Given current budget challenges, proposal presented that we may need to make significant changes as to how many bishops and how to fund them.
- Budget challenges have decreased across the board; presentation on proposed pension discussions.
- US Regional Conference proposal submitted by Connectional Table - implementation of 4 years or longer.
- Overview of the small group discussions (21 small groups) regarding the current theological atmosphere and brainstorming on vibrant ministry.
The meeting concluded with the creation of a non-binding statement which was previously published by organizers of the gathering.

Wesleyan Covenant Association Gathering:
Mike Womack gave a report on the WCA Gathering in Houston, TX on November 8-9th. Mike prefaced his report that he was speaking as an attendee and not for the WCA. He discussed that the WCA endorses the Indianapolis Plan; however, if this plan does not pass, then they will uphold the resolution to pass the rest of the Traditional Plan not passed at GC 2019 as their “plan B”. A draft Book of Doctrine and Discipline was presented and available. He spoke that if there is a new denomination formed at GC 2020, resources will be made available for congregations who wish to join.

UM Forward Gathering - Denver
Duane Carlisle gave a quick update from this meeting. He emphasized the group encouraged using language as liberation to be inclusive as possible.

Meeting Schedule/Location/Plans:
Russ discussed that East and West Ohio delegations may host a 3 or 4 way (including Michigan delegation) to interview episcopal candidates at the same time. That date is tentatively June 20, 2020 in Dayton, OH. If this comes to fruition, our Indiana delegation would join this special meeting in June and not hold the meeting currently listed on the schedule.

Episcopacy Committee
Deferred to January.

Strategy Team
Aleze presented an update from the committee meeting on Nov. 19th. This committee includes: Aleze, Meg, Kim, Albert, Mike W.

The committee proposed to invite members of different caucus groups to come and speak to our delegation on the proposed schedule:
   January: Darren Cushman Wood, Kent Millard for Indianapolis Plan
   Feb: Confessing/WCA/Good News
   March: Room for All/RMN/Mainstream

Time would be allotted to allow 30 minutes for guest group to present, 30 minutes for questions, and 30 minutes for private, internal group discussion. The purpose is for the groups to clarify their positions and what they support and why; and to allow our delegation to ask questions of them. This would not be a debate but information gathering.

Legislative Tracking Committee:
Adriane Curtis presented an update from this committee. Member of this committee include John L, RC M, and Meg L. Adriane presented that their committee is to inform and not influence. A survey was created by the committee for the delegation to share their interest with the committee.

Guest Speaker:
Ed Fenstermacher presented his perspectives on being a delegate from his many past years of experience. Ed gave great insight on what to expect, what was key to be attentive to, personal glimpses that were very beneficial to the group.

**Next Meeting:**
January 11th, 2020 – Broadway UMC Indianapolis – 10am-3pm