

Agenda - Delegation Meeting
April 17, 10:00-12:00

Present on Zoom: Russ Abel, Greg Pimlott, Aleze Fulbright, Bishop Trimble, Matt Landry, John Lomperis, John Shive, Leah Padgett, Shannon Priddy, Dennis Adams, Larry Whithead, Shirley Dominick, Amy Land, Chris Hancock, Marti Lundy, Nathan Lundy, Mary Fridlund, Kim Arnott, Albert Hidalgo, Mike Womack, Meg Lassiat, Derek Weber, Brett Lloyd, Rob Fuquay, Duane Carlisle, Lisa Schubert Nowling, Chris Tiedeman, RC Muhlbaier, Carolyn Johnson

Worship: led by Greg Pimlott

Knowing one another:

Our covenant – Christian Conferencing Guidelines (read together) -Russ
o Accountability – How are we living this?

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Knowing our work:

“A time to speak and a time to listen” – Bishop Trimble and Aleze

- Giving thanks for Pastor Melissa Fisher’s witness as she cared for those awaiting news of their loved ones after the shooting at FedEx facility
- Continue to be in prayer and care for those affected in our community by gun violence
- remain missional, remember that we are disciples called to make disciples of Jesus
- children do matter most
- April 24 meeting with Bishops of delegation chairs
- What are 2-3 things that the bishops need to spend some time on or to hear from delegations, lay and clergy in this present moment?

*We’ve now postponed GC to 2022, so at what point do we think that GC still may not happen til 2024 and what that means for us?

- May be raised at the Council meeting
- What does it mean for us if we don’t have a GC?
- Special called session on May 8 that was canceled but we have several issues that need to be decided by a GC- now will not be resolved until next session or unless we find ways to work around it- what we think it easy is not in fact as easy as we think it to be
- What jurisdiction to Annual Conferences or Jurisdictional Conferences have if there is an additional postponement of GC?

*What are the opportunities that you see created by the postponed GC?

- to lean into the things that are going well
- magnify how to maintain online presence as well as in person worship as churches are beginning to go back beyond COVID

-What has church been changed to that we can claim and celebrate as people are going back into church buildings, vaccinations, fresh expression, building bridges, soul searching around what it is we can and cannot live with

*Would the Bishop be open to having a conversation with more traditional leaning delegates, building trust - Bishop Trimble received this request and indicated openness to further conversation.

-Russ Abel commented that we need more transparency and not having a conversation just reserved for traditional delegates- possibly an invitation for those in the conference who would want that conversation

*What are the effects of the postponement of the GC on the Protocol?

-for some people it's a time to breathe, have more conversation, and for others it's a time to continue to work with different caucus group and ask if this is the best way forward

*To what degree has the Council talked about looking at the post-gavel church after GC?

-acknowledging lament and loss, building trust

*Questions of how to be a pastor in this church with operational issues, young clergy especially in the future depending on the outcomes, itinerancy

-discussing more of what it means to be missional while at the same time acknowledging what it means to be called into ministry in this season

*Can you share your understanding and expectations of moratoriums on charges on clergy during this off non-annual conference time? What is your expectation of members of this delegation acting to push for charges against clergy?

-Bishop has not encouraged complaints, nor does he think that it is a good use of resources- can't stop a person from filing a complaint, but would discourage it, do more harm than good, this is a good time for us to really lean into what this delegation has voted on and decided to do, which is to have a sense of trust around not filing charges or complaints against one another

Others suggested: this is a good time for us to really lean into what this delegation has voted on and decided to do, which is to have a sense of trust around not filing charges or complaints against one another. Russ clarified that the decision of the delegation to not bring charges or conduct same gender weddings was overwhelmingly passed, but was not unanimous and not all of the delegation was present when that decision was made.

-Abeyance

-Abeyance

-Focus on Christian conferencing guidelines

Knowing our opportunities:

JamBoard:

If a Special Called Jurisdictional Conference were called in 2021, what would you hope would be accomplished?

What do you need to know right now as a delegate?

-as delegates, we can stay up on what's happening on UM news sites, what others are talking about, judicial council decisions

Updates from Caucus groups?

WCA- nothing really new aside from annual global gathering is 2 weeks from today in Montgomery, AL

-encouraging churches to wait for the Protocol

-WCA is not encouraging churches to withhold their tithe

Room for All- visioning for the church that we dream of, intersectional justice and inclusion, need some repentance in the church, creating a new vision for a future UMC

Jurisdictional Conference??

Meeting schedule

If JC is scheduled, monthly until JC

August on Zoom (others TBD)

November

Monthly beginning in February, 9-12

Meg L. will be charged with reminding and organizing for these future meetings

Other...

Would anyone be interested in having someone from the Christmas Covenant speak to us?

-Yes- Shannon Priddy will reach out to see if something like this could happen

-Sub group to coordinate guest speakers to be re-engaged

-Is there a concise way to explain to churches what is going on with United Methodism?

-Mary Fridlund offered that she has made an email message to let people know (if anyone would like to see what she has done with it)

Sending: Russ (in the spirit of worship, Benediction)

Next meetings:

August 14

November 20

February 5

At this point, all via Zoom and all 9:00-12:00.