

# Florida Mission Center Conference Minutes

November 12, 2022

Mission Center President/Financial Officer Chuck Petz called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m. Approximately 41 people were connected virtually through Zoom and about 40 were present at the Tarpon Springs church. Evangelist Cindy Campbell offered an opening prayer.

Apostle Barbara Carter shared greetings from Church Headquarters and updates on the upcoming 2023 World Conference. She will be retiring from world church employment in 2023 and is excited to engage more locally in the future.

Chuck Petz moved to approve the November 11, 2021, Conference Minutes as published on the FMC website. The motion received a second; the vote passed.

Apostle Carter read a letter she wrote regarding the resignation of the current Mission Center Presidents' Team. Chuck Petz will continue as Financial Officer for the first few months of 2023. She called for the mission center to prayerfully help in the search for new leaders.

President Mark Dixon shared the FMC Leadership Report for 2022. The printed report will be available on the FMC website. Mark recognized the current Mission Center Council for their support and asked for a vote to sustain them for 2023. Jim Brougher, Rachel Blakesley, Tracy Miller, Rick Jones, Phil Wiseley, and Janice Lotz were sustained to the 2023 FMC Council.

Chuck presented a call to the office of Seventy for Jim Brougher of Tarpon Springs. Rebecca Gray moved to approve the call; the motion was seconded. Jim shared his testimony of calling and then the conference was invited to show their support. David Payne, Marcia Brougher, Cindy Campbell, Peter Smith, Mark Dixon, Nanette Dizney, and others voiced their support for Jim's call. The conference voted in support. Jim was then ordained by President of Seventy John S. Wight, Apostle Barbara Carter, and Seventy David Payne.

Serena Tankersley shared the Youth Ministries Report with the mission center. A copy will be available on the FMC website.

Lorna Owens moved to approve the 2023 FMC Budget; the motion was seconded. Chuck Petz presented the budget and asked for discussion. No questions were asked; the vote passed unanimously.

Mark presented a survey that the world church has asked us all to consider regarding the prioritization of agenda items for World Conference. The survey links will be sent out this coming week for everyone to respond in the next 2 weeks.

Mark shared the current names on the World Conference Delegate Ballot and asked for other nominations. A total of 28 names were added to the ballot. The conference voted to accept all 28 nominees to serve as delegates for the FMC. Additional names can be added if others become available in the coming months, until we reach our max allotment of 42 delegates and 42 alternates.

Sam Nichols moved to consider the following resolution; the motion was seconded.

## **Resolution for Payment to Bridge of Hope Retirement Responsibility**

*Whereas*, the Community of Christ world church has committed to raise \$120 million by January 1, 2024, to fund the retirement responsibility for the Bridge of Hope, and has already fulfilled \$103.9 million dollars; and

*Whereas*, the Florida Mission Center is part of the Southeast USA Mission Field which has a Field Goal of \$5,306,750; and

*Whereas*, the Florida Mission Center has resources available in our Affiliated Investment Pool (AIP) fund which can help fulfill part of the responsibility to the Bridge of Hope goal; and

*Whereas*, the Florida Mission Center anticipates proceeds from the sale of property within the Florida Mission Center; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, the Florida Mission Center will contribute \$250,000 from its New Expressions Fund, which is held as part of the AIP, to the Bridge of Hope responsibility; and

*Resolved*, that proceeds from the sale of property in the Florida Mission Center will first go toward replenishing the \$250,000 into the New Expressions Fund; and

*Resolved*, that once the \$250,000 has been funded, further proceeds from the sale of property shall be divided between world church and the Florida Mission Center in alignment with current practices at the time of the sale.

Chuck Petz spoke to the resolution and then opened the floor for discussion. If the FMC passes this the Bridge of Hope goal for the Southeast Mission Field will be met and minimum balance restrictions on AIP accounts will be lifted. The conference voted to pass the resolution.

Lorna Owens moved to consider the following resolution; the motion was seconded.

## **Resolution to Pay 2023 Deerhaven Assessment to Congregations**

*Whereas*, the Pinellas Park church building was sold in 2022; and

*Whereas*, the Florida Mission Center received \$195,084.74 in proceeds from the sale of the property; and

*Whereas*, many congregations in the Florida Mission Center have experienced a reduction in offerings received and an increase in expenses; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, the Florida Mission Center will pay the 2023 Deerhaven assessment to congregations totaling \$37,476 from the proceeds of the sale of the Pinellas Park church building.

Discussion followed. The conference voted to pass the resolution.

Mike Barnett shared information about a promotional video being created to market Deerhaven Campground. He is seeking the skills of a videographer if anyone knows of someone.

Debbie Bartlett shared the dates for upcoming events, including the Youth Retreat, January 20-22, 2023, and Winter Reunion, January 28 – February 3, 2023. Both events will be at Deerhaven.

The Blakesley family of Tallahassee shared a sending forth.

The Conference was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Bartlett