



Week of Compassion Board of Directors Spring 2020 Meeting

May 27 @ 10AM Eastern

Via Zoom

Online Site Documents: <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/boardaccess.html>

Wednesday, May 27

Present:

Board Members: Claretta Witherspoon, Cindy Kim-Hengst, Rebecca Smith, Judi Frost, Bill Lee, John Kuebler, Terri Hord Owens, Jake Caldwell, Cathy Myers Wirt, Milca Rivera, Kristine Culp, Patice Holland, Jess Kim

Staff: Vy Nguyen, Caroline Hamilton-Arnold, Erin Wathen, Suzie McKay

Invited Guests: Cyndy Twedell, DOM; John Goebel, Treasury Services; Gary Kidwell, Christian Church Foundation

10AM ET

Welcome and Introductions - *Cindy Kim*, Chair

Opening Devotion/Reflection - Cathy Myers-Wirt --Romans 5:1-5, 7 core competencies for resilience; ["We Are Not Alone"](#) by Pepper Choplin (as sung by Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute Singers)

Business Session

Approval of Agenda:

Moved: Jake Caldwell

Seconded: Judi Frost

Vote: [did not take a formal vote]

Approval of Minutes from Fall 2019 WoC Board Meeting:

Discussion:

- **EDIT to Fall 2019 Minutes: Remove Patice Holland from attendance; add Judi Frost to the attendance**
- *Cindy lifted up the point in minutes regarding self care for staff. The Executive Committee will continue that conversation as staff lives into the uncertainty and new patterns of this moment.*
- *Cindy and Vy noted that there were several policy discussions at the last meeting; those conversations are ongoing. Brief discussion of the importance of policies during times of economic uncertainty.*

Moved: Jake Caldwell, moves we approve the minutes as amended.

Seconded: Bill Lee

Vote: [did not take a formal vote]

Executive Director's Report- Vy Nguyen

Vy highlighted some key items in his report and changes in the global context since the board received the report: child mortality, food, disaster complications, refugee concerns. Working closely with other General Ministries.

Discussion:

- *Brief update on refugee and immigration ministries, DHM, and the impact of COVID-19 on refugee and immigration issues.*
- *Discussion of impacts of COVID-19 on domestic work, staff roles, and organizational structures and patterns.*

2019 Unaudited Financials and 2020 YTD Financials- *John Goebel presented the financial reports.*

Discussion: No questions on 2019 Statement of Financial Position

- *Majority of funds held at CCF are in Beasley Fund--Gary notes that the Beasley Fund was up 9% in April*
- *Vy: COVID-19 responses so far have come from the Compassion in Action line (undesignated). Noted the uncertainty of giving from now into 2021, and highlighted efforts to improve online and mobile giving options.*

Operating Reserve Policy

Discussion: Gary presented background information on the development of this policy, including ways he tested the policy against potential scenarios of loss. Gary noted the policy establishes a net asset balance target that would sustain Week of Compassion through 6 months. Reserves would be held in Church Extension notes, so they are less market sensitive.

- *Cindy asked about how this compares to other ministries' policies. John G: OGMP has a policy, but because so many partners rely on Week of Compassion support, it is appropriate to have a higher amount.*

Motion: Approve the Reserve Policy as presented.

Moved: Jake Caldwell

Seconded: Rebecca Smith

Vote: unanimous vote to approve

Update on DOM/WOC Dialogue - Cindy Kim and Milca Rivera

Discussion: Cindy provided some history, context, and places of intersection for the two ministries. Milca gave an overview of the meeting in January. Noted the shared values, mission and vision of the two ministries. Came out of the meeting with a

commitment to work together, to develop Memoranda of Understanding for SDG proposals and the GMI program, with drafts begun before fall Board Meetings. Also decided to have Board representatives at each other's Board Meeting once a year.

Sustainable Development Proposals - Jake Caldwell, Judi Frost and Milca Rivera

Discussion: Jake reviewed the summary document compiled by the team. Discussion of the impact of COVID-19 on all projects and of typhoon Vongfong on the project in the Philippines. Celebration of the shared funding represented in several programs, as well as the instances of sustained relationships with partners we have supported in the past.

- *Vy highlighted that the only ecumenical proposal we received was from Ag Mission, since it directly addresses the COVID-19 pandemic. We did not solicit proposals from other ecumenical partners given the uncertainty of development projects in COVID environment.*

Motion: Approval of grant applications as recommended by the committee.

Moved: Rebecca Smith

Seconded: Patice Holland

Vote: unanimous approval

COVID19 Response Proposal

Discussion: Vy presented the [proposal document](#): requesting up to \$800,000 from the unrestricted reserve in addition to funds available in the Compassion In Action fund. The staff are working to balance responding to COVID-19 while setting aside enough to continue responding to emergent disasters.

- *Rebecca asked about Board approval for use of undesignated funds. Vy noted that the previous standing rules included a policy, but the current standing rules do not have a limit as such. Rebecca requested that Vy communicate with Board members when he sends out disbursements to enable Board members to be good advocates. Vy: the general information is in the email newsletter (the responses map), and staff can provide the detailed spreadsheet of responses to the Board on a monthly or bimonthly basis.*

Motion: Accept the proposal as present

Moved: Bill Lee

Seconded: Jake Caldwell

Vote: unanimous

Executive Session (*added to agenda during meeting*)

12:55pm EST: Invited Cyndy to sign off, and thanked her for her presence. Board invited the Executive Director to stay for the Executive Session, while other staff signed off.

1:09pm EST: Staff returned

Future Meeting Dates

2020: Spring May 26-28 and Fall October 27-29
2021: Spring May 25-27 and Fall October 27-29
2022: Spring May 24-26 and Fall October 25-27
2023: Spring May 30-June 1 and Fall November 7-9

Closing Devotion - *Judi Frost*

Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm EST