

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
United Church of Christ Board
September 18, 2023
Via Zoom**

The United Church of Christ Board is the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ Board Corporation, Justice and Witness Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ). Each meeting of the United Church of Christ Board is a meeting of each of these corporations.

Members Present:

David Ackerman, Jean Avison, Kearstin Bailey, Joyce Bathke, Traci Blackmon, Brian Bodager, Judith Booker, Deborah Dee Brayton, Charles Buck, Cynthia Butts, Molly Carlson, Lorraine Cenicerros, Elly Chong, Jasmine Coleman Quinerly, Tom Croner, Sana Delcorazon, Daniel Doty, Jamar Doyle, Mark Dutell, Shernell Edney Stilley, Derrick Elliott, Gabrielle Fields, Julia Gaughan, Jimmy Gibbs, Darrell Goodwin, Dick Hom, Cean James, Marcia Keesee, Janese Murray, A.T. Ortiz, Michael Readinger, Lawrence Richardson, Bethany Ruhl, Gregory Sato, D'Angelo Smith, Karen Georgia Thompson, Elizabeth Walker, Katharine West, Kim Wood, Jeanette Zaragoza De Leon

Members Not Present:

Joan Bell Haynes, Tyler Connoley, Courtney Dobbins, Eric Jackson, Tracy Keene, Rushan Sinnaduray, Kylie Steever, Andrew Williams, Careina Williams

Staff and others present:

Donyale Copeland, Cynthia Gaffney, Heather Kimmel, Peter Makari

Roll Call and Declaration of a Quorum

Heather Kimmel, Secretary of the United Church of Christ Board, declared a quorum.

Jasmine Coleman Quinerly provided the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda

It was VOTED:

UCCB-23-09-01 To approve the Agenda.

(Supporting Document: UCCB-23-09-01 Agenda)

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Grant Voice Without Vote

**It was VOTED:
UCCB-23-09-02**

To grant voice without vote to Donyale Copeland, Cindy Gaffney, Heather Kimmel, and Peter Makari.

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Approval of UCCB June 29, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**It was VOTED:
UCCB-23-09-03**

To approve the minutes of the June 29, 2023 Meeting of the United Church of Christ Board.

(Supporting Document: UCCB-23-09-02 Minutes 06.29.2023)

MOVED: Molly Carlson

SECONDED: Karen Georgia Thompson

MOTION CARRIED

Abstentions: *Jean Avison, Judith Booker, Deborah Dee Brayton, Lorraine Cenicerros, Sana Delcorazon, Daniel Doty, Jimmy Gibbs, Cean James, Marcia Keesee, A.T. Ortiz, Gregory Sato, Kate West, Kim Wood, Mike Readinger, Shernell Edney Stilley*

Remarks of the Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair, Julia Gaughan, noted she was thankful to be meeting and that the committee meetings were getting underway. This is a special meeting to bring forward Shari Prestemon for appointment as Acting Associate General Minister. The Vice Chair, Jasmine Coleman Quinerly, said that she was thankful that God doesn't work in happenstance, and that it is a good time for us to be in service together.

Remarks of General Minister and President

The General Minister & President, Karen Georgia Thompson, noted that it was good to be together in this way.

Review of Process and Candidate Credentials

by Karen Georgia Thompson

The UCCB is required to appoint an Acting Associate General Minister, in consultation with the GMP. Peter Makari is serving as the Transitional Executive for Wider Church Ministries and has agreed to serve until the Acting AGM comes on board. The appointment of Shari Prestemon was recommended by the Executive Committee and is now before the UCCB.

The role requires an individual who knows Global Ministries and the UCC at every level, and someone with leadership experience. Shari is qualified. Because this is an appointment, there is not an open search. Peter Makari was asked to fill the position but declined, though he agreed to serve in transition. The candidate will relocate to Cleveland, resign her current position, and serve as AAGM through the next meeting of the General Synod. The UCCB will need to form a search committee for an AGM, and Shari will be eligible. By way of example, Traci Blackmon was appointed in 2015 and then elected in 2017.

Presentation by Rev. Shari Prestemon

Shari Prestemon was welcomed to the meeting. She described the importance of mission to the denomination and her calling to the position. She responded to questions about her international experience, her vision for the job, and the way she would balance passion and stability as an Acting AGM.

Shari was excused from the meeting.

**Report of the Executive Committee
By Julia Gaughan**

The Executive Committee met on September 11, 2023 and made the following recommendation:

To recommend that the United Church of Christ Board approve the appointment of Shari Prestemon to serve as Acting Associate General Minister until the election of the Associate General Minister at the Thirty-Fifth General Synod.

Discussion:

Board leadership noted that the information should be held confidential until Shari's employer was notified.

Board members offered positive statements about Shari's ability to manage financial situations, her inspiration to serve others, her capacity as an administrator, and that her colleagues in the CCM respected her.

Karen Georgia noted there would be a shift in the portfolios of the AGMs and that Shari was aware of this.

**It was VOTED:
UCCB-23-09-04**

To appoint Shari Prestemon as Acting Associate General Minister, effective January 1, 2024 or such other mutually acceptable date, until the election of the Associate General Minister at the Thirty-Fifth General Synod.

MOTION CARRIED

Supporting Document: UCCB-23-09-03 Prestemon Cover Letter

Supporting Document: UCCB-23-09-04 Prestemon Resume

The Executive Committee also recommended that Shari Prestemon be elected vice president of the United Church of Christ Board corporation, Justice and Witness Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ).

Discussion:

Julia and Karen Georgia discussed the importance of electing the AAGM to the position of Vice-President of the UCCB corporation and the Covenanted Ministries to facilitate the work of the AAGM including work that would be delegated by the GMP. One board member had a question as to whether this done for previous AGMs, which it has.

It was VOTED:

UCCB-23-09-05

To elect Shari Prestemon as vice president of the United Church of Christ Board corporation, with powers and duties as delegated by the President of the corporation, effective as of her first day of employment as Acting Associate General Minister.

MOTION CARRIED

It was VOTED:

UCCB-23-09-06

The United Church of Christ Board, sitting as the board of directors of Justice and Witness Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) elects Shari Prestemon as vice president of Justice and Witness Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), with powers and duties as delegated by the President of the corporation, effective as of her first day of employment as Acting Associate General Minister.

MOTION CARRIED

It was VOTED:

UCCB-23-09-07

The United Church of Christ Board, sitting as the board of directors of Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) elects Shari Prestemon as vice president of Local Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), with powers and duties as delegated by the President of the corporation, effective as of her first day of employment as Acting Associate General Minister.

MOTION CARRIED

It was VOTED:

UCCB-23-09-08 The United Church of Christ Board, sitting as the board of directors of Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ) elects Shari Prestemon as vice president of Wider Church Ministries (a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ), with powers and duties as delegated by the President of the corporation, effective as of her first day of employment as Acting Associate General Minister.

MOTION CARRIED

Karen Georgia offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.