

**Global Episcopal Mission Network
Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting
Friday, May 13, 2022 at 11:45 Eastern
Meeting on Zoom**

The meeting began at 11:45 with GEMN President the Rev. Dr. Titus Presler introducing all present. Special thanks were offered to Mary Louise Gothold from the Diocese of California, who was attending the Annual Meeting for the twenty-fifth time. With 34 people present, the President declared a quorum and invited all GEMN members and conferees to participate. He announced that the meeting would be recorded. Following an opening prayer, Titus reviewed the agenda for the meeting. GEMN Secretary the Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards reviewed the minutes of the 2021 meeting. The minutes will also be posted on the GEMN website in English and in Spanish.

President's Report – Titus Presler

Titus shared that the board's work in 2021 was to refresh GEMN's purpose, in light of changes in the mission landscape as a result of the pandemic. The board adopted core values of *humility, inclusion, and companionship*, and revised the GEMN purpose statement, with an emphasis on the networking aspect of GEMN's work:

The purpose of the Global Episcopal Mission Network is to gather, inspire, and equip people to participate in God's mission with humility, inclusion, and companionship.

The board also revised the Desired Future State vision document, with a focus on the near-term, through 2024. The themes of this vision are *Continue, Collaborate, Connect, Coordinate*.

He announced that GEMN is planning to have a booth at General Convention, though plans were on hold awaiting a decision about the scope of the convention. He thanked all board members and Molly O'Brien, recent Interim Coordinator, and Karen Hotte, former Executive Director, for their leadership. Reflecting on his seven years on the board and four years as president, he noted: God is the primary missionary to renew the cosmos. Our invitation is to join God in that movement.

Vice-President's Report – Patricia Martin

Ms. Patricia Martin also spoke about the board's work over the past year, noting that the many crises of this time led the board into deeper prayer and reflection on the purpose of GEMN. Current goals include membership recruitment and motivation for mission. She recalled Presiding Bishop Curry's address to the GEMN Conference in Puerto Rico, calling the church to lead a movement away from the nightmare of the world and toward the dream of God. She closed by asking those present to join GEMN and encourage their dioceses, congregations, and mission organizations to do the same.

Becoming a World Where Love is the Way – Grace Burton-Edwards

Grace Burton-Edwards shared a resource developed out of the collaboration of GEMN, the Standing Commission on World Mission, and the Office of Global Partnerships. *Becoming a World Where Love is the Way* is a four-week study guide for individuals and groups focused on the Standing Commission for World Mission's Guiding Principles for World Mission and Message to the Church. The resource is available as a free download in English, Spanish, French, and Mandarin at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/guiding-principles-for-world-mission/>

Financial Report – Bill Kunkle

Mr. Bill Kunkle, Treasurer, began by noting that, as with other mission organizations, GEMN's finances and operations changed in response to the Covid pandemic, but the mission remained the same. Thankfully, GEMN ended 2021 with only a \$4,000 deficit, far lower than the \$10,000 deficit that had been projected, with \$43,700 available at the end of 2021 in both restricted and non-restricted accounts. That included a \$1,000 gift to establish an endowment. So far in 2022, many conference attendees have joined or renewed their memberships, with a substantial number joining at higher giving levels. The 2022 budget projects \$49,088 in expenses, including a salary for a part-time Executive Director for ten months and presence at General Convention. A potential shortfall of up to \$15,000 is anticipated in 2022. However, given a later start time for the Executive Director position and the possibility of a shortened General Convention, the shortfall will likely be reduced. Bill thanked Assistant Treasurer the Rev. David Kendall-Sperry, Harquin Financial Services which handles bookkeeping, and the GEMN Board. He asked those present to encourage their dioceses and organizations to join or renew their memberships in GEMN.

Recognition of Retiring Board Members – Titus Presler and Patricia Martin

Titus recognized and thanked the Rev. Dr. James Boston for his many years of service with GEMN. Jim was a founding member of GEMN and served on the board in many decades. He edited the newsletter when it had to be printed and mailed. He also served as President for a season. Titus also thanked Mrs. Pam Boston who served GEMN over the years as Executive Director and Treasurer and helped lead the Mission Formation Program.

Titus recognized and thanked Mr. Bill Kunkle, now completing two terms on the GEMN Board. One of Bill's special tasks on the board was managing logistics for many in-person conferences. Titus thanked Bill for agreeing to continue serving as GEMN Treasurer.

On behalf of the Board, Patricia Martin then thanked President Titus Presler, also completing his second term as a board member, for his leadership, commitment, and inspiration.

Election of Board members – Titus Presler

Nominees for new board terms were introduced, and each shared a brief word with the gathering.

- Ms. Jenny Grant – Officer for Global Relationships and Networking with the Office of Global Partnerships. She served with YASC in Kenya and now lives in the Diocese of Western North Carolina. Jenny had been serving an unexpired term on the Board and was now nominated for her first three-year term.
- The Rev. Paul Rajan – Diocese of Newark. Paul began his ministry as a missionary priest in South India, where he worked with indigenous church planters to plant fifty churches. He served also with the Anglican Church in New Zealand before moving to the US. He is a graduate of the Mission Formation Program. He was nominated for his first 3-year term.
- The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe – Retired Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa. During his episcopate, Bishop Alan championed companion relationships with the Diocese of Brechin in Scotland, the Diocese of Swaziland, and the Diocese of Nzara in South Sudan. He is nominated for his first 3-year term.

Voting was by show of hands. This slate was elected by unanimous vote. An additional position will be filled by the board and affirmed at next year's annual meeting. Officers will be elected by board members at their next regular meeting.

2023 Global Mission Conference

Titus invited suggestions for the theme, location, and date of the 2023 Conference. Several ideas were mentioned in the chat, and additional input will be solicited in the post-conference survey.

Appointment of GEMN Executive Director – Patricia Martin

Patricia announced the appointment of a new Executive Director. For most of GEMN's history, GEMN has had a part-time staff person to manage and help lead the organization. Karen Hotte served from 2013 to 2020. Molly O'Brien served in an interim capacity in 2021. The board appointed a staffing team to develop a job description and consider the kind of leadership needed now. Aware that Titus's term on the board was ending, the board asked Titus if he would consider serving as Executive Director, and he agreed. He begins May 16. We thank Titus for his leadership and willingness to serve.

The meeting concluded at 12:45.

Submitted by Grace Burton-Edwards