

GLOBAL EPISCOPAL MISSION NETWORK
Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 1 PM Eastern
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Tampa, Florida

The meeting began at 1:05 p.m. with GEMN President Ms. Ayda Patricia Martin welcoming all in attendance. She invited the Rev. Carola von Wrangle of Food for the Poor to pray. Almost all conference attendees were present in person, with more participating online, so a quorum was present. Simultaneous interpretation was available in Spanish. Materials available on the website included the Agenda, President's Report, Executive Director's Report, Treasurer's Report, Endowment Report and Statement, revised Bylaws, and information about Board Nominees. GEMN Secretary the Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards reviewed the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting, held online on May 13, 2022.

President's Report – Ms. Ayda Patricia Martin

Ayda Patricia delivered her report in Spanish, with English translation in the annual meeting booklet. She noted that Jesus valued friendship in mission. She reviewed activities of the previous year – Mission Thursdays, expansion of the Mission Formation Program, establishment of an endowment, revision of bylaws, and preparation for our first in-person conference since 2019. She thanked Board members and commended Dr. Martha Alexander for her work on the revision of GEMN's bylaws. She also thanked Executive Director, the Rev. Canon Dr. Titus Presler.

Executive Director's Report – The Rev. Canon Dr. Titus Presler

Titus thanked Bishop Douglas Scharf, who preached at the Conference Eucharist, for his homily about our theme for the Conference – Mission: Journey into Healing. He recalled the themes of past conferences, all “facets” of mission: reconciliation, evangelism, creation care, etc. He emphasized the core values of GEMN – sharing in mission with humility, inclusion and companionship. He said, “We repudiate paternalistic, colonialist, and domineering kinds of mission.”

Financial Report – Mr. Bill Kunkle, Treasurer

GEMN entered the year 2022 with approved expenses totaling \$49,088.75 and a projected shortfall of \$15,938.75 to be funded from previous reserves. The actual shortfall by the end of 2022 was \$13,980.36, which was better than projected.

The 2023 Budget approved by the board anticipated \$75,042.77 in expenses and \$63,908.00 in income, with an anticipated shortfall of \$11,134.77, to be covered by reserves. This includes \$50,000 in funding approved by General Convention to support the work of GEMN, to be allocated by the Office of Global Partnerships in equal amounts in 2023 and 2024.

Endowment Report – The Rev. David Kendall-Sperry, Endowment Committee Chair

The GEMN Endowment Fund was established by the Board of Directors in 2022 and funded in January 2023 from two gifts. Mr. Timothy Skimina, Diocese of Northern Indiana, had donated funds previously to encourage the creation of an endowment for GEMN. In 2022, following the unexpected death of the Rev. Beth Frank, Diocese of Ohio, it was learned that she had named GEMN as the sole beneficiary of one of her retirement accounts, a gift given with no restrictions.

The GEMN Board worked with the Episcopal Church Foundation to establish the Fund, relying heavily on their guidance and expertise. An Endowment Committee was created, with David Kendall-Sperry as Chair, and the Rev. Meredith Crigler and the Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe as members. The GEMN President, Treasurer, and Executive Director serve ex officio on the committee but are not voting members.

At the recommendation of the committee, 80% of the initial gift from Beth Frank was placed in long-term investments within an ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) portfolio with State Street Advisors. The balance of this fund as of March 30, 2023 was \$687,160.49. The remaining 20% was set aside in more liquid assets for use while the fund develops an investment record. The Endowment Committee is actively pursuing the recovery of over \$90,000 that was incorrectly sent to the IRS.

Presentation and Ratification of Revised Bylaws – Dr. Martha Alexander

For several years, the GEMN Board worked to revise GEMN bylaws to reflect current practices, especially practices that became necessary in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. The proposed revision also included GEMN's updated purpose statement and core values: *As a network of Episcopalians and Episcopal organizations, the purpose of GEMN is to gather, inspire and equip people to participate in God's global mission. Its core values are humility, inclusion and companionship.*

Martha Alexander chaired the team, which prepared the revision and worked tirelessly to find an attorney to review. She presented the revised bylaws to the Annual Meeting as a motion, with no second needed because they came from a committee. A vote was taken by show of hands. The revised bylaws were adopted as presented. Ayda Patricia thanked Martha for her work on this important document.

Recognition of Retiring Board Members

Ayda Patricia thanked retiring board members Martha Alexander and the Rev. Maurice Dyer. Martha served for two terms on the GEMN Board, in addition to her work with the Global Mission Commission in the Diocese of North Carolina and other ministries throughout the wider church. Her major efforts included the revision of the bylaws, work on the finance team, and leadership with the Mission Formation Program. Maurice, a priest from the Diocese of

Pennsylvania, served for one term and was particularly thanked for serving as emcee of the online Missio Conferences in 2021 and 2022. His new duties as a military chaplain made him unavailable to attend the conference or serve a second term. The GEMN Board and members present thanked both for their service.

Election of Board Members

Because the current President and Vice President of the GEMN Board were standing for election, Grace Burton-Edwards, Secretary, presented the slate of candidates and presided over the election. Each nominee offered a brief introduction.

Ms. Ayda Patricia Martin, from the Diocese of the Dominican Republic and current President, was elected to a second 3-year term.

Ms. Molly O'Brien, from the Diocese of Pennsylvania, former Interim Executive Director of GEMN and current Vice President, was elected to a second 3-year term.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Helen Van Koevering, from Diocese of Lexington and former missionary in Mozambique, had been appointed in 2022 to fill a vacancy on the Board. She was elected to fill the remaining two years of her initial 3-year term.

The Rev. Canon Walter Brownridge, Canon to the Ordinary for Cultural Transformation in the Diocese of Vermont and current member of the Standing Commission on World Mission, was elected to a first 3-year term.

One remaining vacancy on the Board was announced. With no additional nominations at the Annual Meeting, the Board will seek to fill this position and will present the person for election to the remaining years of the term at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

2024 Global Mission Conference

Titus invited suggestions for the theme, location, and date of the 2024 Conference. Several ideas were mentioned in the chat, and additional input will be solicited in the post-conference survey.

President Ayda Patricia asked if there was other business. The meeting concluded at 12:45 pm.

Submitted by Grace Burton-Edwards, Secretary