

**Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
*Saturday, January 11, 2025*  
*10am – 12pm*

1. Call to Order – Duana Russell-Thomas, Board Chair
  - Prayer – Rev. Monty Jackson
2. Credentials Report – Rev. Tony Coleman, Secretary Pro Tem
  - a. 70 Churches
  - b. 141 Clergy and delegates
3. Consent Agenda – Duana Russell-Thomas, Board Chair
  - a. **Standing Rules and agenda accepted without objection**
  - b. Practiced Voting via Zoom poll
    - i. Katie established that visitors will be moved to a breakout room
    - ii. **Practice poll went live: “Is chocolate the best cake?”**
      1. **Yes: 62%**
      2. No: 29%
      3. Abstain: 9%
4. Presentation of Synod Delegate Nominees – Duana Russell-Thomas, Board Chair
  - a. Report on Slate Diversity (per UCC Constitution and Bylaws)
    - i. 20 delegates allotted
      1. 50% must be lay – we have 13
      2. At least 50% must be women/nonbinary – we have 11
      3. At least 20% must be racially, ethnically diverse – we have 5
      4. At least 20% under age 30 at time of nomination – we have 4
      5. Diversity in regional representation (per Conference common practice)
        - a. 6 from St. Louis
        - b. 7 from Western
        - c. 7 from Eastern
  - b. **Vote to Approve Nominating Slate of Synod Delegates** (from Board, so no second needed)
    - i. **Yes: 95%**
    - ii. No: 1%
    - iii. Abstain: 5%
    - iv. **Motion Passes, Synod Delegates are elected**
5. Presentation of Board Nominees – Duana Russell-Thomas, Board Chair
  - a. Report on Slate Diversity (Per Conference Bylaws)
    - i. See [document](#) for names

- ii. We have hit all demographic markers, at this point, except for representation by members under age of 30
  - iii. All new nominees would need to be from the Eastern Association, however.
- b. Discussion
  - i. Richard Oberle: Nominates Alysha Petry, Zion UCC in Union, MO, as member-at-large for board (*who seconded?*)
- c. Vote to **Amend Slate, adding Alysha Petry as Member-at-Large** – Duana Russell-Thomas
  - i. **Yes: 128 (96%)**
  - ii. No: 2 (1%)
  - iii. Abstain: 4 (3%)
    - 1. NOTE: Alysha has accepted the nomination
  - iv. **Motion passes**
- d. Call for **Vote to Approve Nominating Slate of Board Members As Amended** (from Board, so no second needed) - Duana Russell-Thomas, Board Chair
  - i. **Yes: 123 (92%)**
  - ii. No: 5 (4%)
  - iii. Abstain: 6 (4%)
  - iv. **Motion passes, Board Members are elected**
- 6. Presentation of Resolution of Ratification – Curtis Filer, Member of MMSC Board
  - a. Discussion
  - b. Request for Motion to Call the Question – Duana Russell-Thomas, Board Chair
    - i. Motion to Call the Question – Tracey Harris
    - ii. Seconded – Steve Price
  - c. **Vote to Call the Question** (passage requires 2/3 of all votes)
    - i. **Yes: 124 (92%)**
    - ii. No: 8 (6%)
    - iii. Abstain: 3 (2%)
    - iv. **Motion to end debate/call the question passes**
  - d. **Vote to Approve Resolution to Ratify Search and Call Process**
    - i. Yes: 55 (41%)
    - ii. **No: 70 (52%)**
    - iii. Abstain: 10 (7%)
    - iv. **Resolution fails needed 51%**
      - 1. TECHNICAL ERROR: Breakout Rooms did not open correctly and so visitors did not move into breakout rooms
      - 2. Vote called again
  - e. **2<sup>ND</sup> Vote to Approve Resolution to Ratify Search and Call Process**
    - i. Yes: 50 (39%)
    - ii. **No: 69 (54%)**
    - iii. Abstain: 9 (7%)

**iv. Resolution fails needed 51%**

7. Motion to Adjourn – Duana Russell-Thomas, Board Chair
  - a. No objections: meeting is adjourned at 12pm**
8. Closing Prayer – Rev. Mary Nelson, MMSC Transitional Conference Minister
9. Celebration and Installation of the Newly Elected Synod Delegates and Newly Elected Board Members