

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes **August 8, 2023, 2pm EST**

Present: Garland Pierce (chair), Lindsay Black, Carmichael Crutchfield, Jane Ann Kenney, David Maxwell (clerk), Tanae Murdic, Adrian Nelson, II, Steve Osborn, Tammy Wiens (director)

Key actions summary: Note that the discussion at this meeting (along with reviewer feedback in the Google doc version) informed Tammy's further revisions to Sections 1 and 2 of the updated CUS Handbook.

Next meetings: September 26, 2pm EDT via Zoom
November 28, 2 pm

- 1) Garland opened the meeting with prayer.
- 2) Tammy led us through Section 002 of the Handbook.
 - a) Should there be any distinction between denominational publishers who are members of the NCC and independent publishers?
 - i) Adrian mentioned if there is some benefit to membership in the NCC then there should be name distinction.
 - b) These questions came up in the meeting and the parenthesis show how they were subsequently resolved in the updated Handbook going to the NCC governing board in October. Further opportunity for review is offered prior to the September 26 mtg:
 - i) Should there be membership distinction in terms of membership communions of the NCC and others? (The distinction is resolved by the type of license agreement that you sign. You are either an independent publisher and pay a royalty fee or you are a denominational member and pay based on the size of your denomination.)
 - ii) Should there be membership distinction in terms of who participates in CUS and who does not but wishes to purchase curriculum? (The 2013 handbook makes this distinction for independent publishers but has not made the distinction for denominational members. The 2023 handbook will recommend that denominational members are assessed an additional 10% to the contribution for non-participation.)
 - iii) Should there be perks of being on the executive committee? (The positions descriptions CUS approved in 2020 suggested that CUS executive committee members would have an annual meeting registration waiver and CUS pre-meeting meals. The updated handbook retains these benefits.)
 - iv) Tammy moved that the discussion focus on questions of nominating CUS chair candidates who are not from communion members. Garland would like this discussion to be part of an agenda of another meeting. Tammy countered that this discussion could not be tabled because our proposal needed to be presented at the October NCC governing board meeting. Executive committee members proceeded to

weigh in on the issues pertinent to opening the chair position to independent publisher participants. (The suggested proposal will go to the executive committee meeting on September 26 and then forwarded to the NCC governing board for its ratification at their October meeting.)

- 3) Committee members had a lengthy discussion and when executive committee members review these minutes, they are encouraged to add comments they feel should be part of the minutes for revision to have a record that reflects our discussion. Some of the comments recorded include the following:
 - a) The will of the group is that affiliate members could fill the position of chair with the concurrence of the NCC executive committee. Lindsay wonders if making that change would catalyze any member communions to leave the NCC. Steve thinks we should send this decision, if we make it, to the NCC with our reasons.
 - b) Steve said Governing board needs to understand there is a dwindling pool of people willing to do the work and that's part of why we need to do this.
 - c) At one point Tammy invited everyone to take two minutes and email or direct message her with any concerns they have. In the direct messages received, no one disagreed that we open up the position of chair so that NCC nonmember partners can serve. Tammy will work to edit the document to reflect that and make sure the NCC is aware of it.
 - d) Garland shared some history of why there was previous concern about inviting independent publisher participants or non-NCC communions to chair CUS.
 - e) There was discussion about whether these concerns are relevant to our discussions in 2023.
- 4) Tammy suggested that the Executive Committee's work on updating the Handbook will continue with Section 3 in advance of next year's annual meeting. Section 3 will update the CUS Style Guide to reflect changes implemented in Cycle 25, which begins with the 2026-2027 Guide and HDBR. Each quarter in the new cycle will begin with a "Biblical, Theological, Pastoral Essay," giving writers greater context for the biblical passages used in the Lesson Outlines. Also, the Scripture matrix is changing title to "Biblical Background and Analysis" but will continue to serve the same purpose in the Guide. "Learning Objectives to Guide the Curriculum Writer," are grouped according to knowing, loving, and serving objectives. Instructional Strategies will also be organized by the three learning objectives.
- 5) Tammy asked who is finding the Learning Objectives and Instructional Strategies useful and how much of the material is used by curriculum writers. Adrian uses the biblical material. The teaching strategies are helpful. The others aren't used much but they make sure teachers go in the right direction. David shared that they only use the outline and scope and sequence and the scripture matrix statement. Garland says the outlines frame the curriculum. He can tell that all writers use the outline in some ways. It helps give a uniform principle as they use it across the age levels. If they didn't have this, they would have to use the time to create something on their own and it wouldn't be the same quality. Steve agrees. It provides help for

writers, although they use different pieces. They only produce an adult curriculum.

- 6) Tammy gave thanks to everyone for their review of the position descriptions in Section 2 of the revised Handbook. The feedback was written and gives updates to how we are working today compared to what the CUS approved in 1999-2000.

Next meetings September 26 and November 28, Tuesdays at 2 pm Eastern