Report of the Results of LBMC Investigation into Alleged Voting Improprieties
At 2019 General Conference
Commission on the General Conference Meeting
August 7-9, 2019

Scope of investigation:

- A task force was created to investigate possible improper voting at the 2019 General Conference.
- The task force engaged LBMC to conduct an investigation and Bass, Berry & Sims to provide legal advice regarding process and results of the investigation.

Investigative steps:

Among other things, LBMC took the following actions:
- Met with Commission on the General Conference (COGC) personnel to examine credentialing and attendance processes utilized in conjunction with 2019 General Conference
- Reviewed all available documentation, including voting lists, attendance lists, attendance forms, visa information, delegate cards, and travel reimbursement
- Considered all emails/communications alleging improprieties that were submitted to the COGC, its staff, or members of the task force
- Interviewed persons with information concerning specific allegations

Investigative findings:

- LBMC’s investigation revealed credible, objective evidence supporting the conclusion that four votes were cast at the General Conference by persons who were not authorized or properly credentialed delegates.
- During the investigation, LBMC and Bass reviewed allegations concerning potential issues with the manner in which conference delegates were elected and directed to vote by conference leaders. Such issues are beyond the scope of the task force’s charge and the authority of the COGC. Investigation into such matters may fall within the purview of the Council of Bishops.

Implications of findings:

- Rule 43 of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order for the General Conference (adopting Robert’s Rules of Order): if there is any possibility that invalid ballots might affect the result of a vote, the entire ballot vote is null and void.
  - Number of improper votes is not large enough to affect the Traditional Plan vote (438/384).
  - But, it is large enough to affect the substitute the minority report vote (402/400), which in turn may affect the disaffiliation vote (420/390).
Actions taken by Commission on General Conference following review and discussion of report and findings:

Recommendation #1—unanimously passed

The COGC finds that there is sufficient probative evidence that there were four invalid votes cast in the vote to substitute the minority report [DCA page 521] due to improper credentials and that, as a result, pursuant to rule 43 of the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order for the General Conference, which incorporates Robert’s Rules of Order, including Section 45 thereof, that vote is invalid.

The COGC shall ask the Council of Bishops, pursuant to Paragraph 56, Section 4, of the Discipline, to consider referral to the Judicial Council to examine the impact of this determination on the disaffiliation vote [DCA page 523].

Recommendation #2—unanimously passed

The COGC shall refer to the Council of Bishops allegations concerning delegate selection issues that the task force received from members of the Church, but which were beyond the scope of the task force investigation or the authority of the COGC under the Discipline.

[other information shared with Council of Bishops regarding further investigation of this matter not for public release at this time]

Recommendation #3—unanimously passed

The COGC shall propose a collaborative conversation with the Council of Bishops and the General Council on Finance and Administration on membership statistics and the qualifications of and manner in which people are recorded as professing members.

Recommendation #4—unanimously passed

The COGC affirms new General Conference procedures relating to registration and voting as proposed by COGC staff with input from LBMC.

Actions that have been preliminarily identified for further review and possible implementation include:

- COGC personnel should ensure that consistent names are used on the list of authorized delegates.
  - Name must match government ID in delegate profile
  - Credential cards
  - Attendance records
  - Visa tracking sheet
  - Voting records
- COGC personnel should communicate to all individuals attending General Conference that only elected delegates or properly seated reserve delegates are authorized to vote.
• COGC personnel should ensure that only votes are considered valid that are properly supported by attendance records, properly completed credential cards, and visa information (if applicable).
• Electronic voting technology should be utilized as much as possible to help ensure that only authorized delegates vote on GC matters.
• Name tags should include delegate pictures to help ensure that only authorized delegates vote on GC matters.
• Secretary of GC will perform initial approval of certificates of elections.
• Change delegate database software and incorporate with all other systems.
• Relocate registration to a lockable room.
• Must present Government ID and credential card to enter registration (primary and reserve delegates).
• Each primary or reserve delegate will register individually at the registration station. There will be no group or delegation registration.
• If interpretation is needed at registration, it will be provided through interpreters provided by the General Conference.
• ACH distribution of reimbursement funds will be verified by the ACH application process (or check to individual if ACH is not possible).
• Cash distribution must be verified by the presentation of a government issued ID and a GC name badge with verification the identities match.
• Finance teams will enter all reimbursements into delegate profile.
• Advance disbursement process to be reviewed with LBMC.
• Dedicated entry points to plenary room.
• Dedicated check-in table area for reserve delegates.
• Classroom table arrangements in plenary.
• Assigned seats within delegations.