

UMMA Gathering — Day One

After a quick trip by VIP van from 475 Riverside Drive to the Marriott Airport Hotel in Newark and a few circles for the driver to decide where to drop us, the Steering Committee convened at 2:45 p.m. on October 3 to get acquainted among new and old members present.

Around 3:30 additional members joined us to address the routine business of a Gathering: treasurer's report, future nominations of Steering Committee members, current election of a new Administrative Council, and the report of the chair.

Scott Atnip, GbGM Director with responsibility for liaising with UMMA was present with us from 2:30 until about 4:30. We shared reciprocal thanks that so many positive changes have been made in salary and pensions.

Judy Chung, Associate General Secretary for Missionary Services was also with us from 3:30-5:30 and shared about current developments in missionary recruitment and plans to commission a larger class of new Global Missionaries at General Conference.

Members present included Katherine Parker (new chair), Alina Saucedo (new treasurer), Hillary Taylor (new secretary), Marilia Schüller (Brazil), Mary Escobar (Paraguay), Esther Gitubo (Cambodia), Larry and Kristy Schmitz, new MIRs, retirees Richard Vreeland, DarEII Weist (outgoing treasurer), Jim Dwyer (outgoing chair), Dakin Cook (chair of benefits task force), Hugh and Fritzi Johnson — have I overlooked anyone? Becky Harrell, new vice chair was unable to attend.

Despite requests from some to be included via Skype, we were not able to find anyone online. (If we overlooked you, please send an email with the times of your intended availability!