

CARIBBEAN UNION SPECIAL SESSION
Held At The University Of The Southern Caribbean
On Monday, 31st January, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kern Tobias (Ch), Johnson Frederick (Sec), Bertie Henry, Exton Clarke, Debra Felix, Kerwin Felix, Danforth Francis, Anthony Hoyte, Rene Rudder, Clinton Lewis, Cassandra Strachan, Exton Clarke, Shaunna Sooknanan, Onesí La Fleur, Fanella Francis, Le Roy Hill, Richard Reid, Hilary Venton Charles, Larry Harrow, Terry John, Paul Philbert, Yvette Peters, Marlene Edwards, Fay White, Drason Browne, Jeresine Rogers, Shorn Wilson, Lloyd Jacott, Norine Roseval-Kirk, Nicola English-Newsam, Hayden Lorde, Colwick Wilson, Marisa Nimrod

By Invitation:- Toney Mapp,

Virtual Attendance: Dr. Elie Henry, Dr. Leonard Johnson, Dr Fernando Verduzco

Session began at 09:20 a.m. with an opening prayer and song service by Br. Kerwin Felix

DEVOTION

The devotional homily was presented by Dr. Colwick Wilson with a subsequent prayer of consecration by Pr. Danforth Francis

REMARKS AND CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman, Kern Tobias, called the session to order at 10:14 a.m.

Dr Elie Henry, President of the Inter-American Division, delivered remarks.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

The quorum of 31 (100%) persons was confirmed by the Executive Secretary, Pr. Johnson Frederick

DECLARATION

Dr. Kern Tobias declared the special session opened.

RATIONALE FOR SESSION

The rationale for the session as voted by the Executive Committee was that, due to the Covid pandemic, a special session be called to amend the constitution to provide for a virtual session as per motion below:

SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING

WHEREAS, the regular quinquennial constituency meeting was scheduled for July 21-23, 2021, but due to the restriction on travel and large gatherings because of COVID-19 regulations, the session was postponed to July 20-22, 2022; and

WHEREAS, vaccination rates are low in certain state jurisdictions and public gatherings are still limited, and travel is still a challenge; and

WHEREAS, there is uncertainty regarding how long these restrictions will be in place; and

WHEREAS, the current bylaws, Article II, Sec. 2., Special Meeting allows for the Executive Committee to call a special constituency meeting; it is

RECOMMENDED:

1. To call a special constituency meeting for the sole purpose of amending the current bylaws to allow for delegates to attend a regular constituency meeting by means of electronic conference.
2. That the union forego the representational formula outlined in **Article 111 Sections 1 & 2**, and allow for a reduced, proportional representation for fields, institutions, executive committee members, and union staff to facilitate the convening of the special session.
3. That the special constituency meeting be scheduled for January 31, 2022 on the USC campus in Trinidad.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: ARTICLE 2 SECTIONS 3, 7 & 9

VOTED: To amend the constitution and bylaws to provide for virtual attendance at the proposed Caribbean Union Conference Session to be held on July 20-22, 2022, as stated below in Sections 3, 7 & 9.

Sec. 3. Virtual Attendance at Constituency Meetings: Generally, regular and specially called constituency meetings are to be held in person and onsite. However, delegates when requested by the executive committee, and if permitted by local law, may participate by means of an electronic conference or similar communications by which all persons can hear each other at the same time, and participation by such means shall constitute presence in person and attendance at such a meeting.

Sec. 6. Section 7. Proxy Voting: All delegates must be present in person at any constituency meeting, or participating by electronic means, in order to be eligible to vote. There shall be no voting by proxy.

Sec. 8. Section 9. Voting: The voting on matters of business shall normally be by *viva voce*. The chair may call for the vote by other means, including a secret ballot, when it is deemed advisable or is requested by the membership. Votes cast remotely shall have the same validity as if the delegates met and voted onsite.

CLOSING REMARKS—ELIE HENRY

Dr. Elie Henry offered closing remarks.

VOTE OF THANKS-BERTIE HENRY

Pr. Bertie Henry gave the vote of thanks.

CLOSING SONG/BENEDICTION

The Closing Hymn (#251) was sung and Pr. Henry gave the benediction.

ADJOURNMENT

The Special Session was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Kern Tobias (Chair)

Johnson Frederick (Secretary)

Gail Smith-Anthony (Recording Secretary)