

Report to the Board of General Ministries from the Special Director to International Ministries – June 2023

The Board of International Ministries (IM) has met once via Zoom since I began my service in January 1, 2023. The meetings consisted of 2 days of orientation, followed by 2 days of general board meetings.

Since I am a new director, the first sessions were an orientation to IM's Mission and Values, Organizational Structure, the role of Global Servants, and Strategies used to assess risks and take advantage of opportunities. I had been given access to the IM director's website and was able to review and learn much about the organization prior to the meetings.

The president gave an overview of the meetings and activities for the Biennial in Puerto Rico. I have volunteered to be part of an on-stage IM presentation Friday evening.

The IM treasurer gave an overview of the complexity of international finance. There are presently 126 full/part time missionaries and about 1700 short term missionaries. They partner with over 200 partner organizations in 70 countries. The operating budget was explained. The major source of funds for missionaries comes from their Missionary Partner Teams. United Mission currently only provides about \$7K in yearly funds, and this amount is shrinking every year.

As in the BGM, each member of IM is assigned to be part of a committee. I was assigned to be a member of the IM Mission Program and Personnel Committee.

After the orientation meetings, we met as a full board. I was welcomed as the new director succeeding Maryjane Kiley on the IM board. We heard from Global Servant Carmella Jones, who gave a moving talk on her work in Hungary with refugees from Ukraine that were caught in the raging war.

A detailed document entitled "Child Safety Protection" was presented for review of the board. This document was developed to provide defined policy for the treatment/safety of children served by IM work throughout the world and detailed policies for reporting abuse.

Sharon Koh has been granted a sabbatical and will be traveling to China in the future. It was noted she has been the CEO since 2016 and guided the IM team through the trials and challenges of the pandemic.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the BGM representative to the IM Board.

Bruce Van Der Beek

BGM representative to International Ministries