



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CALL to ACTION : FOR THE RECORD

More Effective General Church Program Support by Consolidating Several Boards for Governance and Executive Administration

Benefits of a Smaller Governing Board

- *Smaller boards can meet more frequently, provide more in-depth oversight and interact closely with staff executives*
- *By consolidating program work under one focused and nimble board the church will better align resources, and unify staff work to achieve strategic outcomes.*
- *Cost savings from reduced board sizes & increased agency efficiencies makes more funds available for mission, ministry and programs.*

The Call to Action is a call for every United Methodist to engage in the vital mission of the United Methodist Church: *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*. All of us are invited to reorder priorities and concentrate on cultivating and maintaining an increasing number of vital congregations.

The Connectional Table Legislation

The Connectional Table proposes to consolidate nine program and administrative agencies into one organization. The new Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry (CCMM) would be governed by a diverse and representative board of 15 directors. General agencies included in the CCMM would be: the General Council on Finance and Administration, the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministries, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Commission on Archives and History, the General Commission on Communications, the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns would become an office of the Council of Bishops.

In recent years there has been much research into what constitutes good oversight for non-profit organizations such as hospitals, universities, and churches. Smaller boards are more effective for mapping strategy, caring for fiduciary responsibilities, and selecting and holding executive leaders accountable for achieving results. The consolidated approach saves millions in redundant overhead expenses and in board meeting and travel costs.

Just as a multi-staff congregation needs a senior pastor and every annual conference cabinet needs a bishop to lead the work, our general agencies need a chief executive who can be held accountable for keeping all staff focused on the shared mission with an emphasis on achieving results. It is rare to find a well-functioning organization anywhere in the world that does not have a designated leader with this kind of accountability.

Board Membership Proposed in CT Legislation

New merged	
9 agencies:	15
GCSO:	45
Youth and Young Adult Advisory Committee:	54
UM Men:	20
UMW:	50
GBOPHB:	26
UMPH:	35
COB Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships:	11
Total Under New Proposals:	256

Current Board Numbers

GCFA:	40
CT:	60
GBCS:	63
GBOD:	58
DMYP:	54
GBGM:	91
GBHEM:	64
GBOPHB:	40
UMPH:	44
GCAH:	24
GCOM:	28
GCCUIC:	38
GCORR:	43
GCSRW:	43
GCUMM:	25
Wm's Div:	50
TOTAL:	765

Does this proposal create an overly corporate structure guided by a group that is too small?

If good oversight is measured by the number of people sitting on boards and traveling to meetings once or twice year, the answer is yes. If the church wants effective presentation, articulation of various viewpoints, and careful deliberation to determine strategies and performance expectations, the answer is no. The critical need is for effective input for decision-making by a group that is competent, diverse, and inclusive. Those criteria are met in the proposed plan.

This proposed church structure borrows from best practices that are widely followed in both the for-profit and not-for-profit worlds, including United Methodism. The plan makes it imperative that the program agencies work together as **one body** to serve local churches and annual conferences.

The proposed 15-member CCMM board would be selected by a General Council for Strategy and Oversight (GCSO). Chaired by a lay person, the CCMM would elect the executive general secretary who may be clergy or lay.

The proposed 45-member GCSO would be comprised of diverse representation, as currently exists on the Connectional Table:

- 21 members selected through the US jurisdictional process;
- 7 members selected through the central conference processes;
- 5 bishops appointed by the Council of Bishops, one to serve as chair;
- 5 members, one from each of the 5 official UM racial ethnic caucuses;
- 3 members chosen by the Advisory Committee on Ministries with Young People;
- 4 (voice, no vote) top executives of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, the United Methodist Publishing House, United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men.

Aligning leaders and resources for the urgent work of creating vital congregations gives the church a new future where millions of people in local congregations reach out to more children and youth; embrace immigrants in their communities; and involve new people in vibrant worship and life-changing small group study and prayer. Members of these communities of faith would encourage and hold each other accountable for growing in love and grace. They would invest in bold mission and love their neighbors at home and around the world.

For more information about the Call to Action and recommendations being made by the Connectional Table to the 2012 General Conference visit www.umccalltoaction.org.