

**Titles: Report on GB-06-0472 “Common General Assembly and General Synod 2013”**

**Origin: Time and Place Committee, Jon Lacey, Chair**

In 2006 the General Board took an action “to approve moving forward with plans for a combined session of the General Assembly/General Synod in 2013, including site selection in cooperation with the United Church of Christ.”

As Disciples leaders and staff responsible for planning meetings of our General Assembly have met with our counterparts in the United Church of Christ over the past two years seeking to implement this action, it has become increasingly clear that, in light of current and anticipated changes in structure and in key staff related to the planning and preparation of General Assemblies and General Synods in both churches in the coming four years, it would be best to postpone the 2013 “Common Gathering” to a later date. In our conversations about this action, leadership in both churches suggested that it might be more productive and helpful to our Ecumenical Partnership if we were to focus upon two or three smaller, more specifically identified joint events in the coming years – and then draw upon those experiences in our thinking about a “common gathering” of the General Assembly and General Synod in the future.

Recommended Actions:

- (1) Postpone the combined session of the 2013 General Assembly and General Synod;
- (2) ask the national Ecumenical Partnership Committee explore the potential and possibility for holding two or three smaller, more specifically defined common events in the coming 3-4 years (e.g., the General Board of the Disciples and the Executive Council of the UCC; the Team Leadership Conference of the Disciples and the Executive Staff event of the UCC; a joint young adult event, etc.); and,
- (3) recommend that the decision upon the site of our 2013 General Assembly be made at the 2009 meeting of the General Board upon recommendation of the Time and Place Committee of the General Assembly.”