

Title: Mission Review and Dialogue Process for the General Board

Origin: Mission Alignment Coordinating Council

Background Information

At the April 2008 General Board Meeting of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Mission Alignment Coordinating Council (MACC) was charged to make a report and present a plan for mission alignment to the General Board in 2009 (Item GB-08-0581).

As a result of its work as recorded in proposal #1 of the Report and Recommendations to the General Board (Item GB -09-0641) the MACC recommends that the General Board implement a mission review and dialogue process. This process would be undertaken through the General Ministry Covenantal Dialogue Committee of the General Board provided for in the new standing rules if adopted (GB -09-0639).

- While each ministry carries out its own distinct mission on behalf of the whole church, the General Board has the responsibility to discern and articulate the common mission of the church (with appropriate involvement of the wider church it represents.) The GB has the responsibility to work in collaboration with the various ministries to coordinate implementation of common mission goals and to allocate common funds for the work.

- The General Ministry Covenantal Dialogue Committee will develop a plan that will include:
 - i. A self-study model to include the following:
 1. Universal fiscal, personnel and reporting standards as well as areas of study specific to the distinctive work of the particular ministry
 2. Opportunity for two-way dialogue between the ministry (including its board and staff) and the General Ministry Covenantal Dialogue Committee.
 3. The procedure to be followed should a ministry not meet minimal standards or one that refuses to participate.
 - ii. Estimates of costs of the process to the general ministries
 - iii. A covenantal dialogue process including term overlaps, constituencies represented, conflicts of interest and other issues of balance and skill sets.
 - iv. A plan for training members of Covenantal Dialogue Committee , including costs, which will be included in the budget of the General Board
 - v. Implement a initial mission review in 2010. The GMCD will select the general ministry for the initial review.

- Other general ministries and offices will follow on a rotating basis. Eventually the process may be extended to the regions. The results of the initial review and suggested changes to the process will be reported to the 2011 General Board.

Recommended Action:

- 1) The General Board affirms its responsibility (on behalf of and in consultation with the wider church) to discern and articulate the common mission of the church. The Board collaborates with the various ministries to coordinate implementation of common mission goals and to allocate (within established policy) common funds for the work.
- 2) The General Board approves the assignment of a team from its membership to be trained in conducting a mission review and dialogue process. Results of the initial review are to be reported to the 2011 General Board, who will consider suggested changes to the process. The process is to continue in 2011 with other general ministries following on a rotating basis on a five-year cycle.