

Title: Extending the Term of the Mission Alignment Coordinating Council

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 #9 of the Report and Recommendations to the General Board (Item GB -09-0641), it is recommended that the term for MACC be extended by one year to allow a broader conversation with key ministry partners, particularly about the adaptive changes required for domestic ministry in the 21st century. These discussions are expected to consider the most appropriate and effective grouping of functions currently assigned to Disciples Home Missions (DHM), Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM) and possibly some of the functions of Church Extension (CE). It is the hope of MACC that during this year, all ministries and offices of the church identify and act upon points of commonality around tables representing our priorities of New Church, Transformation, Leadership Development and Pro-reconciliation/Anti-racism.

The proposed timeline for extending the mission alignment process is:

May 2009 – MACC convenes an expanded gathering including representatives of regions, general ministries and their boards, racial/ethnic constituencies, staff and others to name questions about the nature and need of Disciples congregations. This group would identify the role and functions that the general church needs to fulfill in order to equip congregations for mission. This information would inform MACC'S work of making recommendations about realigning our ministries to better equip congregations.

June/July 2009 – Seek feedback from the May gathering and gather more information from selected congregations and through one or more focus groups or conversation models during General Assembly

September 2009 – MACC meets with the larger gathering from May 2009, to review survey results; make action recommendations

Fall 2009 – meeting of MACC

November 2009 – Additional feedback period as necessary

January 2010 - compile report and action plan for General Board 2010.

April 2010-April 2011 – continue work as appropriate: implementation, further planning, etc.

Recommended Action:

The General Board extends the term of the Mission Alignment Coordinating Council for one year in order to broaden the conversation with key ministry partners about the adaptive change required for domestic ministry in 2010. The General Board agrees to the proposed timeline contained in proposal #9 of the Report and Recommendations to the General Board (Item GB-09-0641) and referenced previously in this business item, understanding there may be some adjustments to it to accommodate the work to be accomplished.