

MACC Café “Big Issues”

OBSERVATIONS MADE/OPINIONS SHARED IN TABLE CONVERSATIONS

Acknowledgment Of Amount Of Work Accomplished By MACC Because Of Their Intentionality

Understanding and appreciation for the MACC dealing with systemic issues, not personalities

This is an Approach-Avoidance Document

Evolution of church has to happen and has been held back

This seems like a technical fix vs. a mission-driven fix

- Involvement of regional ministries in (ongoing) MACC
- Conversations and ideas seem informed by past structure not current and future mission

Began with a theological basis, but it seems to have lost it's theological underpinnings, and needs to get them back.

Seems like an indirect effort to shut down DHM.

Seems punitive to NBA

Need for significant conversation about domestic ministries...

To be effective we need relationship, trust and accountability

Turf protection diminishes ministry.

Number 8 seems to place New Church under the wrong desired outcome. It should be part of number 2, regarding wholeness and diversity

We need bolder vision and bolder action

- Is this an approach/avoidance document? Why do we rush to implement change? (minority report) Do we want a single umbrella?
- Let us move beyond listening to ACTION! Don't be faint of heart!
- It's a *perigradio* not a pilgrimage- not a specific destination but a journey of trust in God.

Change brings conflict: BE BRAVE

- How does this proposal resource the REGIONS to move the church toward wholeness?

- No, really... WE have to change!
- Change brings conflict and these proposals bring major change. Let us walk through conflict with courage.

Are we talking things to death? Will there really be change?

Extension of Time for more conversation feels wise

- More intentional connections and accountability
- We need to understand our various constituencies to know how best to move forward
- Need for greater understanding of *history*, specifically racial/ethnic ministries, Disciples identity, formation of general units (ministries)
- Need more time
- This proposal is initial steps. Much still to be defined and done. What's the road map?
- Do congregations want to be involved in the extended dialogue? Do they care? Who needs to be engaged?

ISSUES OF CLARITY RAISED IN TABLE CONVERSATION

Need For Clarity: What Can General Board Recommend Vs. Mandate?

Who Is At The Pastoral Table? Where's Everyone Else?

- Pastoral Table: Who is at the table? Are we lacking in 2009 agreements? What is the place of women and regional ministers and Haitians?
- Dialogue
- Pastoral table that is more truly centered in diversity
- Let us be proactive about welcoming other constituencies as equals that we may not yet know
- How are regions at the conversation table? (and others who don't seem to be present?)

Concern About How Many Next Steps/How Much Work Is Lodged In The OGMP. Is This Too Much For ONE Office And Too Centralized?

- Is centralized power, authority and accountability in the OGMP appropriate?

What's next? Who's accountable to whom? What happens after General Board?

- What power does the GB actually have?
- Are General Ministries accountable to the General Board?
- Continue the Anti-Racism effort

What is expected outcome for justice/advocacy? What are the next steps?

Should we be asking the individual entities to come up with their own structures?

- Heightened sense of importance of identity in Christian Unity.

Perhaps MACC didn't ask the question about whether the ministries are meeting the local congregations' needs.

- We can't determine the structure of domestic ministries until we have significant conversation about what the content of those ministries needs to be.
- People in the pew need to be heard: Town Hall meetings?

Concern: Is the purpose of the pastoral table fulfilled by being race-based in composition only?

- Affirmation of shift of NAPAD location

Other Topics Discussed

INCLUSION

- (Applaud) the amount of work accomplished because of the intention to include all persons
- Need wider conversations on these topics
- Constituency-driven vs. vision-driven. (i.e., general ministries looking out for their constituencies vs. looking out for the whole church?)
- The ELEPHANT: what does COVENANT mean to us for REAL?

FUNDING

- Where do the dollars and cents play into this MACC process?
- Implication of redistribution of DMF
- General Ministries Escrow
- Restructure was undone or unfinished because the money was not all on the table. Where is the money?
- Best way to use CGM Escrow Money

WHAT CHANGES?

- Does MACC envision CCU continuing the CURAJ discussion or does it advocate a new dialogue with OGMP?
- Proposed change but not specific changes yet

MISSION

- It is a good thing to be moving to a structure that has authority and accountability around mission

RELATIONSHIP

- The relationship of regions to congregations and to general expressions of church