

General Board Business Item No. GB-10-0695

Title: Inclusion of Geography as an Evaluative Criterion in Selecting Boards, Committees and Commissions

Origin: Governance Committee

Background and Information:

At the October, 2009 Administrative Committee meeting, the Administrative Committee reviewed nominees for committees and special task forces. During this review, it became evident that a geographic balance of the committees was not represented. The Administrative Committee forwarded a request to the Governance Committee to include “geography” as criterion for evaluation in like manner to clergy/lay, racial/ethnic, age, etc. balance.

The Governance Committee, at its February 28-March 2, 2010 meeting, approved the request and forwards the following business item to the General Board.

Business Item:

The Governance Committee recommends that the General Board add language in the evaluation criteria for membership on boards, committees, commissions, etc. to include geography. This would be determined based on membership from the five current regional clusters: SERF, NIRF, Heartland, ROSES and WRIM.¹ If approved, this business item then instructs the Governance Committee to review The Design, The Special Rules for Procedure of the General Assembly, The Standing Rules for the General Board, The Standing Rules for the Administrative Committee and other documents, forwarding business items to the appropriate bodies for amendment. Additionally, the Governance Committee will instruct the General Nominating Committee to further evaluate the geographic diversity of general ministry boards beginning in 2011 with a grace period.

The recommendation is that these boards, committees, commissions, etc., would have representation from each regional cluster. The Governance Committee recognizes that adequate representation will also take into account the relative population density of Disciples in the various clusters.

Recommended Action:

That the General Board approves the Governance Committee’s request to include geography as an evaluative criterion in the selection and review of boards, committees, commissions, etc.

¹ Regional Fellowships (Clusters) are gatherings of Regions in geographical proximity. They include: ROSES (Regions Of the Sun Equipping and Serving: Oklahoma, Southwest, and Great River); WRIM (Western Regions In Ministry: Arizona, Pacific Southwest, Northern California-Nevada, Oregon, Northwest, South Idaho, Montana, Central Rocky Mountain); SERF (SouthEast Regional Fellowship: Florida, Alabama-Northwest Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee); NIRF (Northeast Inter-Regional Fellowship: Canada, Northeast, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Capital Area, West Virginia and Michigan); HEARTLAND (Heartland Regional Fellowship: Nebraska, Kansas, Greater Kansas City, Mid-America, Upper Midwest, Illinois-Wisconsin, and Indiana).