

forcing central conferences to create independent, parallel structures, and shall weigh the wisdom of such arrangements and recommend transferring some to USA central conference control, while expanding the duties of others to include non-US needs.

Schedule and Reporting. The task force's initial report shall be published by January 31, 2014. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall be the clearinghouse for feedback from across the Church concerning this initial report. The task force shall make its final recommendations incorporating this feedback, where relevant. These recommendations shall take the form of General Conference petitions made in accordance with ¶ 507. Task force members shall be available for interpreting their recommendations at the 2016 General Conference.

Dissolution. The task force shall dissolve at the adjournment of the 2016 General Conferences. Its records shall be deposited with the General Commission on Archives and History.

Rationale:

The principle is downsizing. A USA central conference (first proposed in 1999), replacing the jurisdictions, would cut bureaucratic expenses. The Jurisdictions (born in racism) entrench and empower a divisive, anti-Wesleyan minority. Wesley taught that social and personal holiness are inseparable; therefore, Church and Society and Discipleship should merge.

Petition Number: 20976-GA-NonDis-G; Juergensmeyer, John - Elgin, IL, USA.

Basic Principle of Equality

The Council of Bishops, The Connectional Table, and the Committee to Study the Worldwide Nature of the UM Church or its successor, in any "proposed new model" for a Worldwide UMC, shall propose any Constitutional Amendments for consideration of the 2016 General Conference only according the following concepts of fundamental equality:

1. All UMC members and churches worldwide shall have equal representation and vote in the General Conferences and Annual Conferences of the UMC, and all geographical areas shall have the same Annual Conference and Jurisdiction Conference structure, organization and regulations.

2. All aspects of the Book of Discipline and Resolutions shall apply world-wide, equally, to all UMC churches and members. There shall be no separate Book of Discipline or Resolutions for different geographical regions of the UMC.

Rationale:

The Council of Bishops has established a Worldwide Nature of the Church Study Committee, which is reporting to this 2012 General Conference, and has proposed a "new model" for a Worldwide UMC.

We are already a "Worldwide UMC"; our 2005 statistics showed 3,227,162 professing UMC members in Africa, and 3,316,955...

Petition Number: 20979-GA-NonDis-G; Hopkins, John - Evanston, IL, USA for Connectional Table.

Reallocation of Funds by Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry Board

The General Conference shall authorize the Board of Directors of the United Methodist Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry to determine and revise during the 2013-2016 quadrennium the most effective ways to fulfill the mission of the UMC including general church programs and spending plans:

- The Board shall evaluate spending across the seven general church funds to assess work in order to identify significant opportunities for improved effectiveness and for achieving efficiencies and economies, reducing spending wherever feasible.

- The Board shall recommend methods and allocations in light of cost-benefit assessments and to support the transition of general agency functions through the formation of the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry and to support the ministries of all annual conferences (in both jurisdictions and central conferences).

- Following their assessment and evaluation, the Board of Directors shall recommend for joint approval by the General Council for Strategy and Oversight and the Council of Bishops a plan for reallocation of spending within each of the seven general church funds with the goal of redirecting spending plans for a sum up to \$60 million in the 2013- 2016 quadrennium for purposes related to the overall work of the UMC and to increase the number of vital congregations.

- The first \$5 million shall be allocated to young people's lay leadership development, administered through the Division on Ministry with Young People or its successor body.

- The second \$5 million shall be allocated to Central Conference theological education, administered through the GBHEM Global Theological Education Fund or its successor body.

- Additional funds shall be invested for recruiting and training United Methodist ministerial students under the age of 35. A goal is to fund their seminary education

at UM seminaries, thus reducing the student debt obligation.

- Additional funds may also be used for other work to increase the number of vital congregations as determined by the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry Board of Directors, the General Council for Strategy and Oversight, and the Council of Bishops.

Rationale:

To implement Call to Action recommendations endorsed by the Connectional Table and Council of Bishops that reorder general church resources, governance and structures giving increased focus, flexibility and efficiency for work supporting annual conferences to increase and sustain the number of vital United Methodist congregations.

Petition Number: 20984-GA-NonDis-!-G; Brim, Jay - Austin, TX, USA.

Program Agency Transition Team - Implement Call to Action Proposal

The Program Agency Transition Team, composed of a convening chair-bishop selected by the Council of Bishops, three General Conference delegates selected by the current Connectional Table membership, and three members of the current General Council on Finance and Administration, shall organize immediately following General Conference 2012 and begin assisting all of the boards which will be winding up their affairs as a result of legislation passed by General Conference 2012.

The Program Agency Transition Team is authorized to employ legal counsel to assist it in its work and the Team is authorized to provide direction to each of the program boards concerning the termination of their activities.

The Program Agency Transition Team, on behalf of General Conference, shall insure that all necessary legal steps are taken before January 1, 2014, to complete the transition of all authority from the program agency boards to the Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry and the General Council for Strategy and Oversight, as appropriate.

Rationale:

The changes proposed by the Call to Action recommendations will need to be overseen by a team put together just for that purpose, to insure that all legal and technical problems are solved expeditiously and in conformity with the will of General Conference.

Petition Number: 21083-GA-NonDis-!-G; Williams, Joe - Tullahoma, TN, USA.

Instructions to Connectional Table Pending Passage of Proposed 16.16

Upon receiving certification from the College of Bishops of the passage of new ¶16.16 Constitutional Amendment the Connectional Table shall carry out the specific restructure and reorganization changes authorized by the 2012 General Conference and shall have authority to proceed as determined in the best interest of the church in the following matters:

- 1 Form a Transition Team to guide the actions under the supervision of the CT. This team shall be composed of a lay member chair who is a present member of the CT plus 2 clergy and 2 laity who are not presently members of any agency board, the CT or COB. All members shall have experience and knowledge of the structure and operations of The UMC.

- 2 Oversee the merger of GCAH into GCFA.

- 3 Oversee the merger of GCSROW and GCORR into GBCS.

- 4 Oversee the merger of GCOC into GCFA.

- 5 Oversee the merger of GCCUIC into COB.

- 6 Oversee the transfer of CFO to COB.

- 7 Transfer HEALTH PROGRAMS of GCOC to GBGM.

- 8 Transfer all general church higher education scholarship programs, such as, but not limited to, those currently operated by GBGM and GBOD to GBHEM.

- 9 Transfer GBGM ecumenical programs to COB.

- 10 Transfer GBGM church growth programs as appropriate to GBOD.

- 11 Bring about as quickly as feasible the consolidation of general services on a fee basis for all organizations of The United Methodist Church as determined to be advantageous in areas such as travel, procurement, human resources, legal, accounting and reporting, investing and insurance.

- 12 Establish UMM and UMW as associations of The UMC.

- 13 Transfer audit committee from GCFA to CT

- 14 Study the possible transfer of UMDF to GCFA.

- 15 Review the organizational structure and business models of UMPH, the Upper Room and GBPHB to determine the optimum structure to serve the church.

- 16 Evaluate spending across the seven general church funds to identify opportunities and efficiencies and economies.

- 17 Explore data and learning from the recent work of the Church Systems Task Force and the Sustainability Advisory Group and collaborate with annual conferences about their financial practices.