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Suggested Title: Living into the Future

Enabling Legislation for Transition to the Connectional Table

Discipline Paragraph: After New Paragraph for Connectional Table

Financial Implications: Yes

Agency Name: The General Council on Ministries

Add after new paragraph for the Connectional Table

Enabling Legislation for Transition Procedures of the Connectional Table

Connectional Table Transition Procedures

The Connectional Table will be membered through the election process as outlined in a new paragraph, *Organization of the Connectional Table*. A Transition Team, not to exceed ten members, shall be convened by a designee from the Council of Bishops and include three persons selected by the General Council on Ministries, three persons selected by the General Council on Finance and Administration, and three persons selected by the Council of Bishops, assuring participation of at least one central conference member. The Transition Team will be accountable to the Connectional Table. The Transition Team will convene following the 2004 General Conference to develop and implement a plan to convene the Connectional Table and provide for the orientation and training of the Connectional Table until such time as the Connectional Table has organized to assume responsibility for its work.

To assist in the transition, at their fall 2004 organizational meetings, the General Council on Ministries and the General Council on Finance and Administration shall develop a process and designate persons to ensure that the functions and responsibilities of each Council, including the transfer of corporate assets and personnel, are clearly defined when implementing an effective and efficient way to transfer these functions and responsibilities to the Connectional Table by January 1, 2007.

The General Council on Ministries and the General Council on Finance and Administration, through designated persons, shall work with the Transition Team and subsequent Connectional Table leadership to determine the most effective manner to provide for the orientation and training of Connectional Table members during the two-year transition period. Each council will provide a written description of its current responsibilities and the manner in which these responsibilities are being addressed, including any suggestions as to how these responsibilities might be more effectively addressed by the Connectional Table.

Connectional Table Transition Objectives are as follows:

- **Development of relationships and working style that will be inclusive and collaborative in nature, global in scope, and holistic in understanding;**
- **Orientation and training of members to ensure a clear understanding of the purpose and essential functions of the Connectional Table;**

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- **Ongoing consultation with General Council on Ministries and General Council on Finance and Administration to determine the complete and efficient transition of the responsibilities, corporate assets, personnel matters, and all functions of both agencies;**
- **Develop its internal structure for the performance of its duties related to programmatic and fiduciary oversight giving priority to the missional purpose of the church. The Connectional Table is encouraged to use the experience and expertise of the General Council on Finance and Administration and General Council on Ministries members on various committees necessary to assume fiduciary, personnel, and legal responsibilities: e.g. Finance, Audit, Personnel, etc.**
- **Provide adequate staff to support ongoing responsibilities giving consideration to the use of current staff of General Council on Finance and Administration and General Council on Ministries to ensure continuity of services.**

Funding

The General Conference will provide funding to support the work of the Connectional Table including the transition period. The General Council on Ministries and the General Council on Finance and Administration will provide the necessary interim support staff for the Connectional Table until it assumes responsibility as of January 1, 2007.

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Rationale: A Transition Team will be established to develop and implement a plan to convene the Connectional Table and assist in its orientation and training during a two-year transition period. The Transition Team will also work with GCOM and GCFA to assure the responsibilities and functions of GCOM and GCFA are transferred to the Connectional Table as of January 1, 2007 when the Connectional Table will be fully functioning as a general agency.