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*Agency:* GCOM

*Title:* Report on the Quadrennial Joint Training Events for Annual Conference Leaders

*Financial Implications:* None

## **Report No. 12**

Petition Number:

### **REPORT ON THE QUADRENNIAL JOINT TRAINING EVENTS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE LEADERS**

*The Book of Discipline, 2000* states that the General Council on Ministries (GCOM) has the responsibility to sponsor, in cooperation with the general program-related agencies through the general secretaries, a quadrennial joint training event for annual conference program-related agencies.

(¶ 906.11e). This continues the training events for annual conference leaders held every four years since 1976.

The GCOM staff, in consultation with the general secretaries of general program-related agencies and directors of connectional ministries or their equivalents, sponsored five joint training events in fall/winter, 2000-2001. The directors of connectional ministries or their equivalents selected and registered participants from their conference in specified program areas. Eleven general agencies (GCOM, General Board of Church and Society, General Board of Discipleship, General Board of Global Ministries, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, General Commission on Archives and History, General Commission on Communication, General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, General Commission on Religion and Race, General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and General Commission on United Methodist Men) provided leadership for twenty-one workshops. A total of 1,450 conference leaders and staff were trained.

“Living into the Future: The United Methodist Church” was the theme for each of the three-day events. The events provided training and information for conference leaders, encouraged more effective coordination of conference programs, enhanced relationships and networking among annual conference leaders and general agency staff. Cokesbury displayed church resources for purchase at each event. The events opened with worship and a presentation on Ministry in the New Millennium. Topical workshops on team building, basic understandings of The United Methodist Church, use of technology, tools for communication, small membership church ministries, urban ministries, and men’s and various age level ministries were offered. The general agency workshops provided conference leaders with information and training for their roles, acquainted them with general church resources, and encouraged networking among participants and agency leaders.

GCOM provided on-site expenses (room and group meals) for the events. Annual conferences covered the remaining transportation and meal costs, and the other general agencies provided workshop leadership and resource materials.

Event participant evaluations confirmed that the events were worthwhile and informative. Comments and suggestions about specific workshops were forwarded to the appropriate general agency.

A single training event for annual conference leaders across the United States as well as from central conferences is scheduled to take place in January 2005. GCOM is in consultation with the conference directors of connectional ministries or their equivalents and general agencies to make preparations for the

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event.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop Edward W. Paup, President

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel K. Church, General Secretary