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*Agency:* GCOM

*Title:* Report on the Orientation and Training Event for New District Superintendents and Directors of Connectional Ministries

*Financial Implications:* None

### **Report No. 13**

Petition Number:

## **REPORT ON THE ORIENTATION AND TRAINING EVENT FOR NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS AND DIRECTORS OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES**

*The Book of Discipline, 2000* states that the General Council on Ministries (GCOM) has the responsibility to provide for the training of the annual conference council on ministries directors (now called Directors of Connectional Ministries) and to provide jointly with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) and the Council of Bishops for the training of district superintendents (§906.13). This annual experience consistently receives extremely positive evaluations from the participants and episcopal leaders of the church.

In fulfilling this responsibility, five members of the GCOM plus the general secretary and an additional staff person were assigned to the twenty-one member Planning Committee for the New Annual Conference Cabinet Member Training Event. Seven members of the Council of Bishops plus five members and two staff persons of the GBHEM also served on the Planning Committee which designed and implemented the training experience for newly appointed district superintendents and directors of connectional ministries.

The training events were held annually at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina during the last week of August. The event theme was “Feasting Around God’s Table.” Worship, spiritual formation, Bible study, role identity, clarification of responsibilities, information sharing, skill training, self-care, and development in management and administrative techniques composed the core curriculum for each event. The general agencies provided resources through displays and a mission and ministry fair. The fair was organized into four sections: congregational development and revitalization, disciple making, financial resources for mission, and mission initiatives. On average, twelve conference council directors and ninety district superintendents attended each annual training session.

The Planning Committee placed emphasis on self-care to enhance spirituality and develop more effective ways for modeling holistic leadership. A global awareness of The United Methodist Church was recognized as a valid aspect of the training. The Planning Committee members had conversations with central conference representatives. The central conference bishops were asked to select a few superintendents and directors to take part in the US event towards the development of appropriate orientation and training in the central conferences. Also at the request of the Commission on Pan Methodist Cooperation and Union, an invitation was extended to the Black Methodist denominations for representatives to participate in the event.

The district superintendent workshops focused on their disciplinary assignments: administration, personnel, and supervision along with legal concerns and leadership. The director of connectional ministries workshops utilized the five transformational directions to examine their responsibilities. Plenary session topics included dealing with conflict, multicultural ministry settings, and

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congregational development. Each year the planning committee made adjustments to assist these conference leaders to become acquainted with innovative ways for advancing ministry.

Forty to forty-five persons served as faculty annually. Persons were selected for their expertise and experience as bishops, district superintendents, directors of connectional ministries, and general agency or conference staff. Inclusiveness of women and racial ethnic persons in the faculty leadership team was an intentional goal.

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

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