

Page Number: Page 1 of 2

Agency: GCOM

Title: Report on Relationship with the Association of Directors of Connectional Ministries

Financial Implications: None

Report No. 14

Petition Number:

REPORT ON RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Mandate and Process

The *Book of Discipline, 2000*, in ¶ 906.24 directs the General Council on Ministries (GCOM) “to relate to and cooperate with the National Association of Conference Council Directors” (NACCD). In an effort to be responsive to the new title for the conference director position and to be more inclusive to directors outside the United States, the Association changed its name to the Association of Directors of Connectional Ministries (ADCM) in 2002. To fulfill this opportunity for mutual ministry, the ADCM President is a GCOM member and the GCOM general secretary is a member of the ADCM Executive Committee. A GCOM associate general secretary supports the association’s work.

The collaboration between the GCOM and ADCM provides crucial networking, enrichment, and on-going learning for both bodies. Also, a GCOM staff person relates to each jurisdictional association of directors of connectional ministries.

Implementation and Outcome

The ADCM planned and implemented three major enrichment and networking events this quadrennium with the support of GCOM.

“Making the Connection: Opportunities and Issues for Making Disciples Together as Council Directors and General Church Staff” The March 2001 event was held at the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) Learning Center and utilized Open Space Technology, developed by Harrison Owen, to facilitate a series of discussions. Eighteen discussions were held during the two-day event covering such topics as spiritual life in deliberative meetings, trust issues within the connection, doing General Conference differently, conference restructuring, interactive discipleship, college student ministry, the conference committee on mission personnel and the 10-10-10 program of the General Board of Global Ministries, and relationships among DCMs, cabinets, and conferences.

“Reach for Tomorrow—Seize Today” The January 2002 gathering started in Las Vegas, Nevada, one of the fastest growing cities in the United States which has become the leading edge of the “experience economy”. The directors interacted with church and civic leaders from inside “the industry” and reflected on how ministry is carried out in a fast-paced setting. The participants then traveled to Death Valley, California, to experience a desert walk of spirituality. Sister Mary Stamps, of the St. Brigid of Kildare Monastery, provided guidance from United Methodist and Benedictine spiritual perspectives. The group contrasted the two settings and focused on how to remain spiritually centered in different environments.

Page Number: Page 2 of 2

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“What God is calling Directors of Connectional Ministries to be and do in the midst of change, chaos, and transition” was held in March 2003 at the GBOD Learning Center. Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore, Emory University professor, led three sessions on our identity as United Methodist leaders. An optional seminar on Human Resource Management preceded the event and was led by Irene Howard, the GCFA Legal Counsel. Both events provided for biblical and theological reflection, examination of United Methodist core identity and values, and discussion of various proposals to the 2004 General Conference.

Conclusion

The on-going relationship has enhanced the learning partnership between the Association of Directors of Connectional Ministries and GCOM. It has afforded opportunities to focus on the five transformational directions commended to The United Methodist Church by the 2000 General Conference. Conference council directors, directors of connectional ministries, or their equivalents are giving exemplary leadership in providing connection and ministry. Many conferences are bringing ministry leadership together as equals at a common table to reflect on God’s will for mission and its accomplishment through individuals, local congregations, districts, annual conferences, and the general church.

Signed _____
Bishop Edward W. Paup, President

Signed _____
Daniel K. Church, General Secretary