

Unified Governance

Dear PAAM Executive Members,

I have been praying for everyone including me, our PAAM organization and the United Church of Christ.

You all have spoken and I thank you for your openness, honesty and respectful conversation.

Position on Unified Governance by Region:

Affirm

Northern Cal
Southern Cal
East

Oppose

Hawaii
MW

Abstain

PNW—tie

In reality, with all of our diverse points of view, PAAM does not have a consensus on the unified governance issue. I cannot say PAAM opposes unified governance because there are strong points of view supporting it. Nor can I say PAAM supports unified governance because there are equally strong points of view opposing it.

But it's not just about either supporting or not supporting the unified governance; it goes deeper than that. It is really about relationship. It's about understanding and accepting that General Synod 27 has voted to affirm the unified governance concept and about wishing to be a part of the next steps of building the future of PAAM and the UCC. I believe PAAM can be a more effective agent for change as a covenanted partner making suggestions for change from within the UCC structure rather than from outside the structure. Let us use our efforts and energy to ensure that we have a voice and participation in the new structure. If we continue to talk about opposing at this juncture, it might place PAAM as a body at risk of not being taken seriously as a contributing partner in building the future. We, PAAM, will be losers.

For our PAAM representatives to the different boards and EC, I can not tell you how to vote. However, I encourage you to go to your respective meetings with an open mind. Please continue to seek God's Will and Guidance. Remember, PAAM is one of many parts of the Body of Christ, so let us remember whatever we do is for the whole church.

I continue to pray seeking God's Guidance for us all.

Peace and Grace,

Eppie