

Office of General Ministries Board of Directors

Dialogue and Discernment Process

Spring Meeting at the Joint Boards – Summary of Written Comments

April 15, 2010 – Received Electronically June 21, 2010

1. What is your response for the Unified Governance Working Group?

- Incorporate into proposal an “anticipatory charge” ie, the new structure may not be permanent, we have before and will yet again need to live into more change beyond this
- Acknowledge the dynamism, living, growing, lively, changing nature of the body of Christ
- Think about what can each of the HUGS off to build up the missional church
- Move away from a representational model of board service, focus on gifts needed
- As simple/streamlined as possible
- As small/limited as possible
- Acknowledge what we are giving up
- Know that god’s spirit will move through new structure/s
- Have to trust and “just do it” while we still have choices and options
- Acknowledge need to replace “big boards” with other and viable ways of connecting nationally as a UCC

2. What do you believe God is calling the UCC to be now and into the future?

- We are called to be critical thinkers
- Ecumenical, interfaith, multiracial, multicultural – different and also celebrating our common bond & call as a people/body
- Bringing the best of our tradition forward
- Attending to our spiritual life, growth, and worshipping life in new forms; help make theology more accessible and engaged in local church settings
- Make the spiritual component of our life so evident that our social views won’t be discounted
- Teach a progressive Christianity
- Engage prophetic justice work with compassion, dealing with economic issues as well as violence
- Accept people where they are, deeply inclusive & extravagantly hospitable
- Called to creativity, thinking outside of the box.... Faithful, bold