The General Assembly Committee of the General Board has a two-fold responsibility. First – the General Assembly Committee replaced the former Time and Place Committee and thus will be bringing a separate business item to approve the location and date of the 2019 General Assembly. The second responsibility is to follow up on approved or referred resolutions which contained actionable items from the previous General Assembly and report back to the current General Assembly.

From the General Assembly which met in Orlando, Florida, July 13-17, 2013, the General Assembly Committee of the General Board has the following updates.

**GA-1322 Hearing Accessibility for Participants**
In response to this resolution calling on the General Assembly to make a commitment to equip our Assembly gatherings with hearing assistive technology, the plenary hall at the 2015 General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio will be equipped with both a looping system and a Communication Action Real-Time or CART system.

With the looping system, a wire “loop” connected to our sound system transmits the feed to a telecoil or T-coil receiver which is common in hearing aids and cochlear implants. This allows those with these devices to hear all aspects of our business sessions and worship. The CART system will live-caption everything that is being said in the plenary hall and broadcast it onto a designated screen for those who are deaf and hard of hearing.

In local congregations where looping systems have been installed, the overwhelming anecdotal response from those with hearing loss is that it has been the first time in years (if not their lives) that they have been able to be fully participatory in the worship experience.

**GA-1323 Item for Reflection and Research: Incarceration Justice and Restoration in the United States**
Since the acceptance of this item for reflection and research two years ago, the issue of mass incarceration in the United States has been a topic of study and advocacy across all three expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Just as one example, mass incarceration has been the focus of several Reconciliation Ministry programs, including their 2014 Reconciliation Offering campaign, “School Yards Not Prison Yards.”

Mass incarceration will also be the subject of a working section of the Justice Learning track at this General Assembly.
**GA-1324 Reflection on Christian Theology, Polity, the Christian Doctrine of Discovery and the Indigenous Voice**

Since the acceptance of this item for reflection and research two years ago, the interest in engaging in an understanding of what the Christian Doctrine of Discovery has meant over the years and in particularly in relation to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has increased. Because of that increased interest, the working group decided on a shorter identifying name, Landscape Mending.

Landscape Mending or LM has worked to develop a structure for itself which honors the indigenous voice and gives leadership that other expressions of the church can work with. They have developed a website Landscape Mending: Restoring Harmony, Terminating the Doctrine of Discovery which houses resources and study materials, both historical and current, for the study of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery. LM has reached into the seminaries establishing an annual Winter Talk at Philips Theological Seminary. LM has also offered worships at various regional gatherings across the country.

At the 2015 General Assembly, LM will present a Working Group as part of the Justice Learning Track, providing a brief history of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery, its impact on indigenous peoples, its influence on church structure, and its bearing on race relations.

**GA-1328 Removal of Any Racist Language in Governing Documents**

The Task Force which was created in response to this resolution has begun its work. They have been trained in how to recognize racist language in documents and have begun the review of documents from that perspective. This will be an ongoing process and the Task Force will make periodic reports to the General Board and General Assembly.

**GA-1329 Supporting a Treaty for Prevention of Torture**

Since the 2013 General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, General Minister and President, Sharon Watkins has joined with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and other faith community leaders as signatories on letters sent to members of Congress and the White House which have called for the end of torture in military detention centers and in some cases the complete closure of said detention centers.

In addition, at the 2015 General Assembly, an Item for Reflection and Research will be presented to the Assembly for acceptance calling for the end of the torture of solitary confinement for prolonged periods of time being used by prison systems in both the United States and Canada.

**GA-1331 Resolution Condemning Drone Warfare**

On October 14, 2014, General Minister and President Sharon Watkins, sent a letter to the President of the United States, informing him of our action at the 2013 General Assembly regarding drone warfare. The letter included an explanation of our Sense-of-the-Assembly resolution process and a copy of GA-1331 Resolution Condemning Drone Warfare.
The General Board has reviewed GA-1531, Report of the General Assembly Committee of the General Board. The report is submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and discussion. No action is required. (Discussion time: 12 minutes)