REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

It is with humility and thankfulness that we bring news from the General Assembly committee, formerly known as the Time and Place committee. The committee has historically and still thru today had two responsibilities. First, we are charged with reporting on resolutions adopted at our last assembly. Second, we are charged with discerning locations for future assemblies and making those suggestions to appropriate staff.

With a focus on the resolutions adopted at the 2019 General Assembly in Des Moines, OGMP staff and committee members offer up a variety of updates that are included within this report.

In terms of future assemblies, we are grateful for the work of the Governance Committee, the General Board, the OGMP Team and all those involved over recent years as we envision new ways to gather and increased opportunities to connect both in person and online. As both the world around us and the church evolve the committee is excited for new ways to live out its charge and do the work of the church. In doing so, we acknowledge that the work of the General Assembly committee has been in flux and will be in transition going forward.

In terms of future assemblies, this summer we look forward to gathering in Louisville this summer from July 29th – August 2nd. The theme for the 2023 General Assembly is “Kindom of God Within Us, Among Us.” And is based on three scriptures: Luke 17:20-21, Genesis 11:1-9, and 2 Peter 1:3. This is a call for Disciples to strengthen their relationship to God both individually and communally through an expansive in person and digital gathering of the church in Louisville. The past two years, we have had to be separated but we have also innovated new ways or God’s limitless love to be revealed in our church, our communities and around the world.

We have long affirmed our desire to gather for a General Assembly in Memphis, Tennessee, and in 2025, we will be able to do just that, when the Assembly gathers there July 12-15, 2025.

Looking beyond 2023 and 2025, our committee is excited about how the proposed changes will allow for the church and those charged with its care to not only gather in new ways and more frequently, but to do so in ways that are most operationally efficient and allow for greater connection. The committee stands ready to assist the forthcoming Implementation Team as we work through the details about new cycles and new ways to approach resolutions.

Previously Shared Update on 2019 General Assembly Resolutions

A link to a full list of the resolutions is here: GA 2019 Resolutions
GA-1917 Creation of a New Region in Montana and the Northwest
Update: The region began operation as the Northern Lights region in January of 2020.

GA-1918 Time and Place 2021
Update: At a special called General Board meeting in July 2020, the 2021 General Assembly was cancelled due to the pandemic.

GA-1919 Time and Place 2023
Update: At a special called General Board meeting in December 2020, the time and place of the 2023 General Assembly was changed to July 29-Aug. 1, 2023, in Louisville, KY.

GA-1921 Report of the Social Witness Taskforce
Update: At the 2015 General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, GA 1524 called for a task force to be formed by the Office of General Minister and President, Disciples Home Missions and the Division of Overseas Ministries for the purpose of: “…bringing to the 2017 General Assembly, meeting in Indianapolis, IN, a jointly sponsored process for discussion of and education about important religious, ethical and social issues.” The work of the committee continued through 2017 and 2019. In 2020, the Social Witness Task Force concluded their work by submitting a report to the Governance Committee of the General Board. The Governance Committee is incorporating the work of the Social Witness Task Force into its considerations for proposed changes to be brought before the General Assembly in 2023.

GA-1922 Full Communion with The United Church of Canada
Update: The agreement was celebrated in a joint ceremony in Canada, streamed to the U.S. in October of 2019. In spite of the pandemic, meetings on ministerial recognition between the two bodies are continuing.

GA-1923 Recommended Language for Prevention of Harassment for General Ministries
Update: A number of general ministries have adopted this recommended language in their personnel policies.

GA-1924 Resolution to Celebrate and Reaffirm New Church
Update: A New Church Impact report was shared with the General Board in April 2021. The report celebrates the impact of new and revitalized congregations formed since the conception of the 2020 Vision.

GA-1925 Addressing the State of Global Forced Migration
Update: Global Ministries has taken the lead in raising awareness of this issue, publishing a report in October 2019 and supporting the work of partners listed in January 2020. The issue was highlighted in a June 2020 article. Partnering with the World Council of Churches, Global Ministries called for reform in European immigration practices in September 2020. This work has continued through 2021, along with
advocacy, education, and direct service provided by Week of Compassion and Disciples Home Missions through Refugee and Immigration Ministry.

GA-1926 Spirit of Active Listening
Update: As encouraged by this resolution, the many expressions of the church have endeavored to be safe places for difficult conversations in which we listen to each other carefully and recognize our common humanity.

GA-1927 Concerning the Reopening of the US Embassy in Cuba
No update available.

GA-1928 A Call to See and Respond to the Crisis of Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence
No update available.

GA-1929 An Invitation to Education for Welcoming & Receiving the Gifts of Transgender & Gender-diverse People
Update: Disciples AllianceQ has offered additional training opportunities as well are resources to help with dialogue and education, and many expressions of the church are also working to broaden our understanding and welcome.

GA-1930 On Women and Just Peacemaking
Update: Disciples Women, the Women’s Empowerment Fund of Week of Compassion, Global Ministries, Disciples Peace Fellowship, and many other expressions of the church continue to affirm, celebrate, and empower women as peacemakers around the world.

GA-1932 Acknowledging the Covenantal Affiliation of Tougaloo College
Update: Tougaloo College was acknowledged as a covenantal partner and remains connected through Higher Education and Leadership Ministries.

GA-1934 Declaring that impartially providing for the basic human needs of others is a virtue consistent with Disciples tradition.
Update: No further action was needed; the resolution stands on its own as supporting those who provide humanitarian assistance as motivated by their faith in Jesus Christ.

GA-1035 Concerning Steep Reductions in Overall Refugee Resettlement Arrivals to the United States
Update: Refugee Immigration Ministry and Week of Compassion have continued their education and advocacy regarding refugee resettlement efforts in the United States.

The General Board has reviewed GA-2349 Report of the General Assembly Committee. The report is submitted to the General Assembly for presentation and discussion. No action is required. (Discussion time: 12 minutes)