

**COMMON GLOBAL MINISTRIES BOARD**  
**of the**  
**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ**

**S T A N D I N G   R U L E S**

**I.     NAME**

Common Global Ministries Board (CGMB)

The ministry of the CGMB shall be identified as "Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ" and be referred to as "Global Ministries" for communication purposes.

**II.    PURPOSE**

To develop policies for the mission program of the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM), Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Wider Church Ministries (WCM), United Church of Christ and to oversee the administration of those policies.

**III.   VISION OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and the United Church of Christ (USA) share a long legacy of ecumenical commitment and a common vision of mission.

In 1989, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ and the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) each voted to affirm a strong sense of mission and unity:

In partnership, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ fully claim the mission and make deliberate commitment to engage in mission together, wherever and whenever possible.

(Resolution: "Ecumenical Partnership" 1989)

Both churches affirm the mission and unity to which they are called is to be seen as part of the whole body of Christ, sharing in God's one mission in and for God's one world.

Building on more than twenty years of a growing cooperation in mission in overseas/world ministries, the Division of Overseas Ministries and the Wider Church Ministries seek to envision and enact one common mission in world/overseas mission/ministries.

The oneness of mission commitment which the two churches embrace in overseas/world ministries is documented in the fundamental policy statements found in General Principles and Policies of the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Mission and World Ministries Guidelines for Mission and Mandate of the Wider Church Ministries.

These documents affirm that God calls the church to:

1. announce and proclaim the good news of God's kingdom of love through Jesus Christ in the world;
2. call humankind and all nations to repent and live with one another toward a new order of love, justice, and peace sharing the responsibility to participate in the struggle for justice and human dignity;
3. denounce all that hinders wholeness and seek to embody God's love for all people, living and serving in solidarity with the world's hungry, homeless, and oppressed peoples seeking to help provide by witness, service, and advocacy the reality of hope and love; and
4. care for and use the resources of the planet that all humankind may have access to justice, healing, and wholeness of life.

These common affirmations of mission, rooted in the history of the two churches' mission/ministries for overseas/world programming, have served as a basis for developing guiding principles for the shaping of a common vision for mission.

It is our fervent hope that this commitment will be reflected in the creation of a common decision-making forum for mission programs which will visibly witness to the oneness of mission in and through the Church of Jesus Christ.

#### **IV. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The Guiding Principles emerge from a fundamental mission commitment to a shared life in Christ, and to an ecumenical global sharing of resources and prophetic vision of a just, sustainable, and peaceful world order, joining with God's concern for the poor and oppressed.

1. Within covenantal bonds with other partner churches and ecumenical bodies throughout the world, we commit ourselves in Christ to share life, resources and needs.
2. As part of the ecumenical church and in response to particular historical and geographical contexts, we affirm our commitment to share persons in mission.
3. We commit ourselves to discovering and sharing exciting new ways to sing the song of faith...hearing, telling and participating in the story of God's love in Jesus Christ.
4. Relying upon God's grace, we commit ourselves to share in God's healing of God's continuing creation.
5. Recognizing the freedom of God's spirit to act in diverse ways, we commit ourselves to engage in dialogue, witness and common cause with people of other faiths and movements with whom we share a vision of peace, justice and the integrity of creation.

In covenant with partner churches, DOM and WCM affirm a shared life in Jesus Christ. Sharing life in partnership with other churches and ecumenical bodies through acompañamiento (being there in various forms and modes of presence) is the cornerstone of our global life and witness. It is for the sake of Christian unity and mission that we join in covenant with others to witness to God's love in the world. We are learning to receive the story of God's love in Jesus Christ in refreshing new ways within the life of witness and service among partners around the world. Within the context of the sharing of resources, we are prepared to receive, as well as to send persons in mission persons committed to share in the healing of God's creation and engage in dialogue, witness and common cause with people of other faiths and movements. By identifying and articulating our own needs and available resources, our relationship with partners will become transparent and our common mission be enhanced.

We understand that all Christians are engaged in the missionary task of the church in a variety of roles and contexts. People engaged in mission share God's love and build human community. The hearing, telling and participating in the story of God's love is part of the joyous task of the whole church. It is a story of God's reign of love, peace, and justice and the wholeness of creation. As Christians, we share with people of other faiths and movements the experiences of human struggle which contradict the principalities and powers of this world. We are challenged to work together for the transformation of oppressive structures and policies and to confess that our own lifestyles have contributed to creating the gross inequity that exists in the availability and distribution of God's resources. Creation calls out for healing and redemption.

In such a world as this, local communities of faith have begun to experience the interconnectedness of God's world...a world desperately in need of healing. We seek such healing within the context of an increasing pluralism which tests our ability to welcome God's gift of diversity. We yearn for a wholeness of our ministry to Jesus Christ which will bring all of God's people together with imagination and creativity to serve the one God who unites and reconciles us all.

### **The Strategic Directions**

Relying on the leading of God's Spirit, the Common Global Ministries Board (CGMB) is responding in faith to the challenge of a rapidly changing world by adopting a strategic approach emphasizing Critical Presence in all phases of its mission. We understand Critical Presence to be timely and appropriately meeting God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and/or economically.

In our strategic approach, priority will be given to ministries of acompañamiento (being there in various forms and modes of presence) to and with people in critical situations, which may include:

- pastoral ministries related to fear and hopelessness where people are desperate for meaning;
- dangerous or life-threatening situations related to social, economic, or political realities;
- partners living in countries wherein the Christian faith is a minority faith;
- interfaith relations;
- conflict transformation and resolution; and
- areas where CGMB can offer a distinctive presence.

## **Direction #1 Nurturing Human Community: Persons in Mission, Partnerships, and Programs**

We believe that "the Word is made flesh," and that in our human communities and relationships we are called to reflect God's incarnated love in Christ.

We commit ourselves to nurturing communities and relationships which value the integrity and worth of each person and which express God's love and grace.

Being faithful to our Critical Presence commitment and affirming that Critical Presence can be accomplished through mechanisms other than mission personnel, the CGMB will:

- appoint mission personnel in places where capacity-building (leadership and community social infrastructure development leading to self-sufficiency) and healthcare are our primary focus, and
- develop and/or maintain partnerships with churches and institutions for which capacity building and healthcare are the primary focus.

In other measurable ways, the CGMB will:

- assure that the majority of home assignments of regular mission personnel and Global Mission Interns are devoted to helping local congregations in the U.S. and Canada build their capacity for global mission, and
- analyze and determine the impact on partnerships of CGMB patterns of sharing economic resources to improve the nurturing of human communities.

## **Direction #2 Thinking Locally, Acting Globally**

The CGMB recognizes its unique role in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ in linking local ministry with global ministry. Our Christian faith develops through active engagement in mission and ministry, in theological and Biblical reflection, and in encountering people of other faiths and movements with whom we share a vision of peace, justice, and the integrity of creation.

Being faithful to our Critical Presence commitment, the CGMB will facilitate the engagement of local congregations and other settings of the church in global mission and ministry.

In other measurable ways, in cooperation with all settings of the church, the CGMB will:

- actively and intentionally offer assistance and a process to local congregations in becoming and being a global mission church;
- develop, in partnership with local congregations, an understanding of a missiology of Critical Presence.
- support local congregations in the discernment of mission priorities and programs;
- provide educational opportunities and resources to local congregations about global ministry;
- foster relationships with seminaries and other theological institutions of our two churches for the development and implementation of global education; and
- develop interfaith relationships and relationships with peoples/groups with whom we share a vision of peace, justice, and the integrity of creation.

### **Direction #3 Restoring the Environment and Economics to the Service of God**

We believe the environmental and economic gifts of God are intended for the whole of creation. In our mission program and administrative life, we will reflect a biblical vision of justice in sharing God's resources. (Luke 4:18-19)

We believe that economics and the environment are subject to the claim of God, and that in a world with a growing gap between rich and poor and the continuing deterioration of the natural environment, we are called to be faithful and prophetic in these areas of life.

Being faithful to our Critical Presence commitment, the CGMB will explore and implement economic alternatives which empower the powerless within the human community, giving priority to the poorest communities and those in turmoil in each area of the world when allocating CGMB resources.

In other measurable ways, the CGMB will:

- minimize our own administrative and governance costs, and model a simpler Board lifestyle;
- explore creative ways of increasing resources; and
- heighten awareness of US/Canada consumerism and influence the policies and behavior of our churches and members on global economic issues.

## **V. INSTITUTIONAL UNDERSTANDINGS**

1. The DOM and the WCM are and will remain units of their respective denominations. The proposal for a structure for common ministry neither alters, nor presumes to alter, the legal responsibilities of each corporation, each corporation's responsibility to its denomination, or each denomination's role in the ministry, function, and leadership of the respective corporations.

2. The legacy related to the DOM will remain with, and is the legal responsibility of, the DOM. The legacy related to the WCM will remain with, and is the legal responsibility of, the WCM.

3. The ministries of the DOM and WCM will be undertaken in common, with policy developed, assigned for implementation, and reviewed for continuing faithfulness to the common vision of mission, through the CGMB.

4. All income for overseas/world ministries provided by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, including Disciples Mission Fund and Our Church=s Wider Mission income, income from endowments, trusts, special offerings, bequests and gifts, will be directed to DOM and WCM respectively. All unrestricted income will be allocated to the Common Global Ministries Board with exception of monies needed to maintain the necessary functions of the two corporations. The allocation of all income will be reported to the CGMB.

5. The CGMB has the responsibility for advocacy related to global concerns in both denominations.

## **VI. ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP**

1. The President of DOM and the Executive Minister of WCM will have as part of their responsibilities guiding the CGMB, and will be co-executives of the CGMB. Each will carry out denominational responsibilities in relationship to her/his respective denomination.
2. Administrative leadership responsibilities not specifically also a part of the committee structure are:
  - a. To assure that the CGMB functions and evaluates its work in accordance with the Guiding Principles
  - b. Ecumenical relationships
  - c. Denominational relationships including Regional and Conference relationships
  - d. Financial Development and Budget Management
  - e. Planning
  - f. Mission interpretation including itineration
  - g. Global Partners
  - h. Publications
3. At the appropriate time, the CGMB shall address the issue of the eventual pattern of administrative leadership.

## **VII. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMON GLOBAL MINISTRIES BOARD**

1. The CGMB shall serve to envision and authorize an integrated program of mission for the United Church of Christ (USA) and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, through the WCM and the DOM which is faithful to the Vision of Global Mission, and shall embody the Guiding Principles.
2. The CGMB shall also shape specific program policies which shall serve mission within the diverse geographical and cultural contexts where we share in mutual ministry with partners overseas. To achieve these interrelated functions, the CGMB may work both as a committee of the whole and in appropriate sub-committees with final policy authorization to be developed by the united action of the CGMB.
3. Policy related to mission personnel shall go directly to the CGMB from the Staff Mission Personnel Committee. If an Executive Committee of the CGMB is established, the policy may be referred to them before action by the Board. In the case of substantial changes in mission personnel policy, the matter may be referred to the CGMB Personnel Committee. The CGMB shall play a direct role in the appointment of mission personnel.
4. The CGMB shall appoint all regular missionaries by direct vote at Board meetings or, if necessary, by mail vote. The Staff Mission Personnel Committee is authorized to appoint short-term missionaries, Global Mission Interns, act on requests for extensions, home assignments and termination of regular missionaries, and recognize Associate missionary assignments.
5. Time shall be set aside at each meeting of the CGMB for the members to develop policy and program directions based on the Guiding Principles.

6. The role and responsibility of the CGMB is to determine the directions and the goals of the Board. The implementation of the directions and goals becomes the responsibility of the staff through the offices of the President of DOM and the Executive Minister of WCM. The co-executives will provide an operational plan for the implementation of the Strategic Directions described in Section IV above.

7. Business shall come to the entire CGMB by the following processes;

- a. Each Area/Program and Administrative Committee shall initiate the development of policies pertaining to its responsibilities which shall be presented to the CGMB for action.
- b. Policy recommendations by staff persons or groups shall be presented to the appropriate area/program committee and, if approved by the committee, shall be presented to the CGMB for action.

8. The number of CGMB Board members necessary for transacting business at any meeting of the Common Global Ministries Board shall be twenty-four (24) 50% of total membership plus one.

### **VIII. STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD**

1. The CGMB shall be composed of forty-six (46) members: twenty (20) from the DOM (who shall serve on the Board of Directors of the DOM), twenty (20) from the WCM (who shall serve as the Board of Directors of the WCM), and six (6) Partner Members from churches outside the U.S. and Canada. In addition, a representative from the office of the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a representative from the office of the President of the United Church of Christ shall be members ex officio without vote.

- a. Members shall be elected for terms of four (4) years and may be re-elected for an additional four (4) year term. Five (5) DOM and five (5) WCM members shall be elected each year.
- b. The DOM and WCM, in selecting membership for the CGMB, will maintain a 50-50 gender balance, will each select at least seven (7) members from ethnic minority groups, and will abide by other denominational guidelines which might apply. The respective nominating processes of the DOM and WCM shall work cooperatively to insure diversity and geographical representation on the CGMB.
- c. Partner Members shall serve four (4) year terms and may be reappointed for an additional four-year term and shall be selected one from each area corresponding to our area office structure. The staggering of their terms shall be designated in consultation with the Area Executives to assure that no more than three (3) Partner Members change in any term.

2. The CGMB shall meet two (2) times a year.

3. The CGMB shall elect from its membership a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson, who shall serve alternating two (2) year terms. (See Section X, 1, c, (1).)

4. An Executive Committee for the CGMB may be formed by action of the Board if such need is determined.
5. Prior to each meeting of the CGMB, there shall be a meeting of leaders, including the officers of the CGMB, the chairpersons of all the committees and the co-executives of the CGMB, for the purpose of orientation, sharing of information and planning for the expedition of business. This committee shall not generate business or conduct any of the work of the CGMB.
6. The CGMB shall approve and meet a balanced budget annually.
7. The CGMB shall engage in joint funding of mission programs.

## **IX. AREA PROGRAM COMMITTEES**

1. Membership of the Area Program Committees:
  - a. The membership of the Area Program Committees shall each consist of a minimum of three (3) DOM members and three (3) WCM members, and a maximum of four (4) DOM members and four (4) WCM members, and one (1) Partner Member per Area Program Committee.
  - b. There shall be a total of 19 DOM, 19 WCM, and six (6) Partner members on the six Area Program Committees. CGMB co-chairs may move throughout Area Program Committees as they deem necessary.
2. Each member of the CGMB shall serve on one of the six Area/Program Committees:
  - a. Africa
  - b. East Asia and the Pacific
  - c. Southern Asia
  - d. Middle East and Europe
  - e. Latin America and the Caribbean
  - f. Local Church Relations

## **X. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES**

There shall also be five (5) Administrative Committees: Nominating Committee, Personnel Committee, Finance Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, and Resource Development Committee. Each shall consist of a minimum of three (3) DOM members and three (3) WCM members, and a maximum of four (4) DOM members and four (4) WCM members, and a maximum of two (2) Partner Members. CGMB co-chairs may move throughout the Administrative Committees as they deem necessary.

## **1. Responsibilities common to all Administrative Committees**

- a. Oversee the development of policy related to the administrative area.
- b. Serve as the conduit by which policy matters relating to an administrative area come to the entire CGMB. Except for emergency resolutions and actions where time is of the essence, policy recommendations from administrative committees may be presented at the current meeting (hearing) for action at the following meeting. Or, they may be distributed in the common docket three (3) weeks prior to the next meeting of the CGMB.

## **2. The Nominating Committees**

- a. United Church of Christ
  - (1) The WCM Corporate Nominating Committee nominates the twenty members of the WCM Board of Directors. Guidelines are established for racial/gender/clergy/lay/geographical representation which the Committee is accountable to follow.
  - (2) The WCM Board of Directors' Nominating Committee shall meet separately to attend to discrete denominational responsibilities. as:
    - The members of the WCM Nominating Committee shall nominate the three members of the WCM Investment Committee and will include at least one of the WCM's representatives on the Common Finance Committee.
- b. Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
  - (1) The DOM Nominating Committee nominates the twenty members of the DOM Board of Directors. These nominations are confirmed by the General Board and General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Guidelines are established for racial/gender/clergy/lay/geographical representation which the committee is accountable to follow.
  - (2) The DOM Nominating Committee shall meet separately to attend to discrete denominational responsibilities.
  - (3) The DOM Nominating Committee shall nominate persons for membership on the United Christian Missionary Society.
- c. CGMB Nominating Committee
  - (1) The Common Nominating Committee shall determine all CGMB committee appointments, nominate the chairs of each committee, and the officers of the CGMB. The nominations of the separate Board officers shall be coordinated so as to provide, on a two (2) year alternating term basis, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the CGMB.
  - (2) Common Global Ministries Board members shall serve four (4) year terms on Area Program and Administrative Committees. Individual members may request on an annual basis a change in committee membership by consulting with the Chairperson of the CGMB Nominating Committee.
  - (3) The Common Nominating Committee shall present nominations for membership on each of the Area Program Committees as outlined in Section IX, 2.

- (4) The CGMB Nominating Committee shall present nominations for membership on each of the five Administrative Committees:
- (5) Chairpersons of the CGMB Administrative Committees shall serve two year terms.
- (6) Each Administrative Committee shall elect a Vice Chairperson to serve in the absence of the Chairperson for a minimum of one (1) year.
- (7) The Chair and Vice Chair of the CGMB are ex officio to all Administrative Committees.
- (8) The Nominating Committee shall assure a diversity of race/gender/clergy/lay in relation to Committee Chairs and members, and the alternation formula of equal representation between the WCM and DOM for Committee membership.
- (9) Any CGMB member missing two (2) consecutive meetings without an acceptable reason shall be asked, by the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the CGMB, to resign.

### **3. The Personnel Committee**

- a. The CGMB Personnel Committee shall meet to coordinate common personnel manual decisions or to determine separate but coordinating policies, elections to executive positions, the establishment of search committee processes, sort out the human resources issues remaining between the two Boards, etc.
- b. The CGMB Personnel Committee's responsibilities shall also include issues related to mission personnel policies and procedures. The Executive Secretary for Mission Personnel shall serve as staff on such issues, and the Director of Human Resources shall serve as staff on home-based staff issues. Neither staff person shall be present when the agenda relates to the work of the other.

Authority is delegated to the Personnel Committee to make missionary appointments between regularly scheduled CGMB meetings, with ratification at the next scheduled CGMB meeting.

The Mission Personnel policy Manual, #5.3, "Overall Provisions for Financial Support

of Missionaries," was amended to provide for consultation with partner churches/agencies re cost of housing, utilities, and tuition related to the education of children, with the provision that should such expenses exceed the limit established by the partner church/agency and the CGMB executive, the missionary shall pay the additional cost from personal funds.

- c. The CGMB Personnel Committee shall develop a Common Personnel Policy Manual for all home-based staff of the CGMB, with overlying concepts endorsed by the discrete Boards and by the CGMB.

- (1) Some positions may be eliminated.
  - (2) Existing personnel will be given preference in application to positions in new structure, though no guarantee
  - (3) Open and timely communication is desired and will be pursued.
- d. Discrete Personnel Responsibilities
- (1) The DOM and WCM Personnel Committees shall meet separately for President (DOM) and Executive Minister (WCM) related consultations as necessary.
  - (2) Personnel matters which affect those persons accountable to only one of the Boards shall be addressed in a discrete personnel committee meeting.

#### **4. The Finance Committee**

- a. The responsibilities of the CGMB Finance Committee shall include:
- (1) Allocate/approve funds entrusted to it for the budget under the CGMB's direction.
  - (2) Consider any questions or implications of the common budget for the separate denominational constituencies, denominational funding systems, etc.
  - (3) Supervise expenditures of special funds restricted for use by CGMB that are in support of the CGMB programs to assure proper usage. A report shall be given at each Board meeting from the treasurers regarding special funds disbursed, and current guidelines regarding dollar limits shall be observed. Expenditure of capital or special funds above such limits need Board approval.
  - (4) Facilitate the education of the whole CGMB for an understanding of the two Boards' fiscal philosophies.
- b. The CGMB Finance Committee shall:
- (1) Recommend the budget for those discrete denominational operations such as President (DOM), Executive Minister (WCM), Treasurers, resource development, human resources, rent, etc.
  - (2) Determine the amount of total income to be transferred to the CGMB for its budget.
  - (3) Set the entire proposed CGMB budget with income sources for each line item identified as DOM or WCM (valuing transparency).
- c. Investment Committees
- (1) The responsibilities of the CGMB Investment Committee include:
    - (a) Oversee respective financial investments, including property, capital funds, endowments and annuities.
    - (b) Determine the amount to be withdrawn from investment income for total budget purposes.

- (2) **DOM Investment Committee**  
The three DOM members of the Common Finance Committee shall make up the DOM Investment Committee and shall have the following responsibilities:
  - (a) Oversee respective financial investments, including property, capital funds, endowments and annuities.
  - (b) Determine the amount to be withdrawn from investment income for total budget purposes.
  
- (3) **WCM Investment Committee** members shall be nominated by the WCM Nominating Committee, and shall include at least one of the three WCM members of the CGMB Finance Committee. The responsibilities of the WCM Investment Committee shall include:
  - (a) Oversee financial investments, including property, capital funds, endowments and annuities.
  - (b) Determine the amount to be withdrawn from investment income for total budget purposes.

## **5. Long Range Planning Committee**

This Committee shall be charged with carrying out on-going visioning, planning and evaluation functions with input of both administrative and program concerns. The Vice-Chairs of both DOM and WCM Boards of Directors shall be members of this Committee (in addition to the three (3) DOM, three (3) WCM and one (1) Partner Members).

## **6. Resource Development Committee**

This committee shall receive and analyze reports presented by CGMB Resource Development Office on special giving for the work of CGMB. The committee also will inform, train, and motivate all CGMB members to support and contribute fund raising/development activities to benefit the work of the CGMB.

## **XI. SUMMARY TRAVEL POLICY STATEMENT**

Persons serving the work and interests of the CGMB as volunteers are not expected to incur significant personal expenses as a result of their contribution of time and talent. It is assumed that expenses related to this volunteer service are the responsibility of CGMB. Directors and others can help to insure good stewardship of financial and human resources by making careful and thoughtful plans. These travel policies are intended to suggest ways in which these volunteers can assist in the careful stewardship of funds and to propose the guidelines which will be used for reimbursing expenses. To the extent that is compatible with health and the responsible use of time, volunteers traveling for CGMB are expected to make arrangements at the most reasonable basis of expense. While this is the travel policy of the CGMB, it is understood that the logistics and separate treasury functions of the WCM mean that directors will need to go through their offices for any financial processing. (See complete paper, Travel Policy for Members and Others Traveling on Behalf of the Common Global Ministries Board, for procedural details.)

## **XII. CHANGES IN THE STANDING RULES**

Changes in these Standing Rules may be voted at any regular meeting of the Common Global Ministries Board, provided twenty-four (24) members, including at least half of the CGMB Members from each church, is present and voting, and the change receives a majority of the votes cast.

To be adopted as Amended CGMB Meeting - November 2004