

Statement on Interim Operations Team/Connectional Table proposals

January 27, 2012

There have been many articles that discuss the Call to Action and the Connectional Table proposal that has been submitted to General Conference. In the last week, a new series of statements and proposals were offered during the Pre-General Conference Briefing in Tampa. The release of the electronic version of the Advanced Daily Advocate indicates that there are many proposals for the delegates to consider.

As a general secretary and as an elected delegate to General Conference I want this great church to hear and prayerfully consider all the different ways we may move forward in response to the Call to Action Report. The Connectional Table legislation is just one of many proposals that will be considered. Many delegations have welcomed presentations from the Interim Operations Team based on the Call to Action research. I am sure delegations will welcome the alternative proposals that many in the church find more consistent with our mission and ministry.

There are many intended and un-intended consequences of the IOT/CT proposal that do not consider the significant work the general agencies of our church have completed since the Call to Action Report was released. These actions by the agencies and their staff include legislation to reduce our boards by 266 members, a renewed focus on training and resourcing at the local church and district level, a unified budget process, increased inter-agency work and consolidation, and holding 'smart' electronic meetings and training that go deep into our connection.

These will be challenging discussions as we attempt to become a more vital and relevant church. I am honored to part of this task and to be a member of this church we love.

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General Secretary, Commission on United Methodist Men

Delegate to General Conference from the Texas Annual (regional) Conference