

## Nominations proposal

### Proposal:

The purpose of this proposal is to transition to a more fruitful, productive process of discernment that allows a rich, diverse, and gifted pool of conference leadership that can lead us into the next quadrennium as we face the challenges and potential that is before us.

In order to accomplish this, there is a need to have a smaller, more nimble and diverse Nominations Committee that allows for more consistency in decision making.

### **Discernment Process**

Currently, **after** a person is asked to serve in a position, there is an application form to fill out and a covenant agreement to sign when accepting the position. We propose that the current process, plus a spiritual gifts inventory and pastoral reference for laity and District Superintendent reference for clergy take place **in preparation for** nominating people to serve rather than after they have already been asked to serve.

The discernment process would be done within the districts by the District Superintendents, lay leaders and pastors. There would also be the ability to self-nominate. The Nominating Committee would provide job descriptions for each Conference team, board, commission and committee along with leadership gifts and characteristics that are being sought.

Once a person was nominated for the leadership pool and agreed to be a part of it, he/she would, fill out an online application, request an online pastoral or District Superintendent reference, take a spiritual gifts inventory, and sign a covenant agreement. He/she then becomes a part of an intentional leadership resource pool of people to be drawn from over time as needed. This leadership resource pool could also provide leaders for task forces and other leadership needs within the conference. Part of the process when deemed necessary could also include an interview to best discern gifts.

### **Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee then becomes an entity looking at the names of people already discerned to be leaders with pertinent information gathered ahead of time. The team does not have to “know” the people or come up with the names. This allows for a much more productive discernment process of leadership and a greater ability for the Nominations Committee to put together teams that have the best mix of gifts and diversity and the potential to be fruitful and productive in the ministry of the conference.

The size of the team would be reduced from 26 **plus three ex-officio** to 8 plus the chairperson (9), **the Conference Lay Leader and a District Superintendent all with voice and vote plus 2 ex-officio, the Bishop and the Director of Connectional Ministries with voice and no vote.**

We propose that in order to ensure the most excellent, fruitful leadership for the 2012 quadrennium, the Mission Council would select an Interim Nominations Committee by the Fall of 2011, based on the proposed structure, from a pool of people nominated by the Mission Council, the Lay Ministry Team, the Cabinet, and the current Nominating Committee. We are proposing that to make a smooth transition, Betsy Vicente continue in her role of Chairperson for the Interim Committee to the completion of the quadrennium. This Interim Committee would then propose the slate of nominations for the 2012 quadrennium at the 2012 Annual Conference.

The change to the Standing Rules would be:

#### 122.00 Nominating Committee

The function of the Nominating Committee is to nominate all officers and members of Conference units unless otherwise designated by the current Book of Discipline.

~~{Membership 25 with vote: One lay person from each district Committee on Nominations, six clergy nominated by the Board of Ordained Ministry, six District Superintendents named by the Bishop, and one additional person nominated as chairperson. The Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries will be ex-officio members with voice without vote.}~~

**Membership 11 with vote: 8 plus a person nominated as chairperson, the Conference Lay Leader, and a District Superintendent. The Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries will be ex-officio with voice without vote**

122.05 The Nominating Committee shall: 1) compile a file of prospective nominees for the Conference; 2) make an annual report to the Conference for the purpose of filling vacancies or making nominations for new positions; 3) at the beginning of each quadrennium, present a complete slate of nominees for the membership of all councils, teams, commissions, and committees; 4) consult with persons it places in nomination; and 5) provide an opportunity for additional nominations for any vacancy to be made from the floor of the Annual Conference session.

