

Special Session Resolution

Resolved:

The Missouri Conference adopts the vision, mission, key values, and congregational core practices recommended by the Pathways Task Force:

Vision: Growing, vibrant, fruitful congregations changing lives for Jesus Christ

Mission: Leading congregations to lead people to actively follow Christ.

Key values: Christ-centered, Excellence, Fruitfulness, Accountability, Collaboration

Congregational Core Practices: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, Extravagant Generosity.

Be if further resolved:

The Missouri Conference authorizes the realignment of our structure, rules, staff, and budget to our vision, mission, values, and practices, as well as the *Book of Discipline*. These proposals will be reviewed in consultation with the Rules Committee, Conference Council, Conference Finance and Administration Team, and the Nominations Committee before their presentation at the June 2007 session of annual conference.

Be it further resolved that in implementing the items listed above:

That the Bishop, in consultation with the Cabinet and Pathways, is authorized to establish a Center for Congregational Excellence with staff responsibilities for new church starts, congregational development and collaborative learning; and

That the Bishop, in consultation with Pathways, the Cabinet, and the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, is authorized to establish a Center for Pastoral Excellence with staffing and resources to enhance clergy effectiveness through recruitment, training, continuing education, peer learning, and mutual accountability, and

That in order to strengthen more direct relationships between congregations and ministries of compassion, mercy, and justice, the Finance and Administration Team is instructed to prepare a budget that removes the Vital Ministries section, and

That the Finance and Administration Team is further instructed to prepare a budget that aligns with the mission, and to present a 2008 budget that is less than the 2007 budget, and

That the Finance and Administration Team is further instructed to prepare and present to the June 2007 conference session a simplified apportionment formula based only on local church expenditures, and in addition will present a plan to limit increases in the conference apportionment budget to an amount not to exceed increases in the aggregate percentage increase of local church expenditures, and

That the Personnel Committee will collaborate with the Bishop and the Pathways Task Force to adjust and align conference staffing to the vision, mission, values and practices, and

That the Area Commission on Higher Education shall collaborate with Pathways to shift toward congregationally based ministries with college students in order to dramatically increase participation and contact with college students and to strengthen the relationship between congregations and college student ministries.