

## **Minutes of the Spring 2009 Connectional Table Meeting May 12-14, 2009 – Sheraton Music City, Nashville, TN**

**Members Present:** David Adams, Raúl Alegria, Neil Alexander, Bethany Amey, Darryl Barrow, David Beckley, Judy Benson, Ava Berry, Barbara Boigegrain, Ben Boruff, Charlene Black, Elizabeth Braddon, Jay Brim, Garlinda Burton, John Corry, Anthony Danburam, Lindsey Davis, Jerome King Del Pino, Sally Dyck, Ruby-Nell Estrella, Sandra Ferguson, Eddie Fox, Karen Greenwaldt, Erin Hawkins, Ray Hamill, Øyvind Helliesen, Larry Hollon, John Hopkins, Ilunga Kandolo Kasolwa, Charlene Kammerer, Eddie Kelemen, Deborah Kiesey, James King, Moses Kumar, Andy Langford, Anne Marshall, Forbes Matonga, Marcus Matthews, Deborah McLeod, Ed Paup, Roy Sano, John Schol, Lynn Scott, Steve Sidorak, Reiner Stahl, Greg Stover, Patrick Streiff, Kunle Taiwo, Dindy Taylor, Joe Whittemore, Beverly Wilkes-Null, Bob Williams, Jim Winkler

**Staff Present:** Mary Brooke Casad, Cynthia Dopke, Stefany Simmons

**Others Present:** Isabelle Berger (interpreter), Linda Green (UMNS), Bishop Thomas Bickerton (COB)

**Unable to attend:** Linda Lee, Tim McClendon, Bruce Ough, Stefanie Schutz, Mary Ann Swenson, Ted Virts, David Wilson

### **Monday, May 11, 2009**

The following task groups convened on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>: CT Finance Committee, CT Personnel Committee, and Advisory & Planning Team. Central Conference Members met for dinner.

### **Tuesday, May 12, 2009**

#### **8:00am            Opening Worship**

Young Adults Bethany, Ben, and Stefany led the Opening Worship Service, and Mary Brooke Casad delivered the Sermon. *(Mary Brooke's message has been posted on the Group Hub.)<sup>2</sup>*

#### **9:15am            Welcome and Introductions**

Bishop John Hopkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced regrets for those unable to attend.

Hopkins asked that the fall 2008 minutes of the Connectional Table meeting in St. Simons Island, GA be adopted.

**Minutes were approved and adopted.**

#### **9:30am            Conversations across the Church (Facilitated by Beverly Wilkes-Null)**

Current Realities: Barbara Boigegrain (GBOPHB)

- Markets have tanked across a wide variety of investments. Significant decline in pension funding and investing, but GBOPHB did not drop as much as others.
- Update on Central Conference Pension Initiative - over \$15 million raised
- Collapse of financial industry - U.S. Stock Market was high in 2007, but negative returns for the decade
- Pre-82 - \$700-800 million shortfall in pensions - needs to be made up over time.

Conference ability to pay:

- At Quad Training Event in Jan, GCFA spoke with treasurers and conference officers regarding impact on conferences (numbers will be released in September).
- Additional contributions are needed for 7 years. 16 conferences can pay for 7 years, 3 conferences can't make up increase, 15 conferences didn't reply.
- Working with board of directors and conferences on how to move forward. Creating individual workout plans for some.
- All conferences are liable - a conference that doesn't pay ultimately will have to be supported by the other conferences.
- Formed group of 16 conference officers and treasurers (with support from GCFA & GBOPHB) to collect info on financial status across conferences to get a complete financial picture to share with the Council of Bishops. Will have more info over next 2-4 mos.

## **Tuesday, May 12, 2009 (continued)**

### **Current Realities: Moses Kumar (GCFA)**

- Giving was up last year. Total giving is down by 16%, \$2.8 million. When compared quarter to quarter, this is only less by only 1% for the quarter.
- 18 conferences paid more than \$0.5 million dollars, and 21 conferences increased apportionments from last year.
- \$27-28 million deficit this quadrennium. Agencies are responding by making radical changes to cut budgets, freezing salaries, etc.

### **Current Realities: other Boards and Agencies**

#### **Karen Greenwaldt (GBOD)**

- Contracting – Making sure staff is focused on work in the four areas of focus. Closed offices for World Service and Publishing House, though work will continue. Reworking how to provide materials expected by churches across US and the world. Discipleship resources will cease being printed and move to electronic format only.
- Expanding – Opened department for new church starts and hired staff. Focus on strategic initiatives – renewal of congregations, young ministries, etc.

#### **Larry Hollon (UMCOM)**

- Performing audits of all programs to determine how to refocus in light of economic challenges (i.e. moving to print on demand and electronic distribution).
- Evaluating what this means for major publications, like Interpreter Magazine.
- Refocusing staff so each is assigned to a cross-agency team supporting the four areas of focus and reevaluating all programs that don't relate.
- Deficit of \$800,000 for 2009. Frozen salaries, travel expenses reduced or cut, unless essential.

#### **Jerome King Del Pino (GBHEM)**

- Reductions of 10% in budget approved by board of directors, and considering additional 5% cut. Realigned staffing and salaries frozen for future consideration.
- Focus on functioning efficiently and reducing convenience built in the system (i.e. extension schools).

### **Current Realities: Annual Conferences**

**Bishop Sally Dyck (Minnesota):** In spite of reduced spending plan, continue new church starts. Recessions often correlated with lack of new churches. Have 7 new churches in the making – being very strategic. Hard & painful - Psalm 126 *"We go out sowing in tears, that we may come back reaping with joy."*

**Beverly Wilkes-Null (Illinois Great Rivers):** Forced to build relationships. Talked to small churches, asking for permission on how to address pension issues. Brought conversation out of cabinet and down to those in the pews... Not one person said we can't do this. Inviting laity to help plan how move forward, rather than top-down.

**Bishop John Schol (Baltimore-Washington):** Reduced apportionments by 11%. Look in congregations to expand missions. New conference center being built - in 2 years will save money. Focusing on new church starts. Sold a piece of property, proceeds to start new church. Urban churches struggling - half million dollar pension liability. Looking at how to address those issues (i.e. stewardship training).

**Debbie McLeod (Florida):** Reduced apportionments to 2008 level, eliminated staff positions, reduced/frozen salaries. Very few clergy retiring, lots of reductions of clergy salary. Continuing with new church starts. Small year of graduates this year, but next year will have large class of graduating seminarians.

### **Current Realities: Central Conferences**

**Bishop Patrick Streiff (Central/Southern Europe):** Most hit countries, east of Europe, come into European Union. Hungary is almost bankrupt - cut pensions for retired people. UMC at work with lower income people. Trying to be in solidarity between West/East.

## **Tuesday, May 12, 2009 (continued)**

### **Current Realities: Local Churches**

**Lynn Scott (Wisconsin):** Paid 100% or more of apportionments despite major staff cuts. High priority to pay 100% every year (have done since 1989). Pay 1/12<sup>th</sup> every month. Annual Conference reorganized into circuits. Clergy are appointed to a local church and a circuit (geographical area looking at mission/ministry between the churches), making them more connectional. Persons planning to retire have not retired. Some churches are going less than fulltime.

### **10:30 am Council of Bishops – A Call to Action**

Bishop Hopkins briefly introduced the Call to Action document, created by the Council of Bishops during their meeting last week in Washington, DC. Bishop Sally Dyck read the document aloud to CT members.

*See attachment #1 -- A Call to Action*

In Covenant Groups, members discussed three questions:

1. What's your reaction?
2. How can you make this message stronger?
3. What can we do to help support this team?

Covenant Groups orally reported their responses to the above questions, and some discussion followed.

*See attachment #2 -- Covenant Group Call to Action Conversations.*

Bishop Hopkins commented that the CT works hand-in-glove with the Council of Bishops. The COB needs the CT, because it touches such a wide group. There is a politic of suspicion at general church level that does not exist at the local level.

### **11:15 am Learning Community: Craig Robertson -- Spiritual Leadership, Inc**

Bishop Hopkins invited Craig Robertson to be with us as teacher in residence. Craig is a United Methodist who has worked with general agencies and Annual Conferences and has learned how we do business...

Bishop Lindsay Davis introduced Craig Robertson, Executive Director of *Spiritual Leadership, Inc*. Bishop Davis was Craig's pastor and baptized him, received him into UMC on profession of faith. Craig was his local church lay leader and district lay leader.

Craig Robertson spoke about the ways that Spiritual Leadership, Inc encourages creating environments that foster transformation and encouraged CT members to think about redefining roles and evaluating current organizational structure. As things are now, the world is changing more quickly than UMC can respond.

*See attachments 3 & 4 for Craig Robertson's presentation and handout.*

### **12:00pm Lunch Break (Covenant Groups)**

### **1:30pm Quadrennial Overview of CT Work Plans**

Mary Brooke Casad and Stefany Simmons reviewed framework document (working draft) of work plans for the 2009-2012 quadrennium.

*See meeting binder -- tab #5 -- CT Work Plans document<sup>1</sup>*

### **1:40pm Covenant Task Group Report**

Øyvind Helliesen presented the Holy Conferencing Guidelines (unchanged) as a behavioral covenant.

**ACTION: CT members received these guidelines and made a covenant to READ these guidelines and think over them.**

*See meeting binder -- tab #8 -- Holy Conferencing Guidelines<sup>1</sup>*

### **1:50pm Legislation Task Group Report**

Jay Brim presented the recommendations offered by the Legislation Task Group regarding the pieces of legislation that require immediate action.

**ACTION: 81098 – Legislation task group will draft report for CT approval and bring back to Fall meeting.**

*See meeting binder -- tab #8 --2008 CT Legislative Recommendations<sup>1</sup>*

## **Tuesday, May 12, 2009 (continued)**

### **2:00pm Four Areas of Focus Celebration**

Judy Benson began the presentation with an introduction and overview of the work that's being done in the four areas of focus. Next, Debbie McLeod took us on a "Google earth" tour, where we saw many specific examples of ways in which these Four Areas of Focus are impacting lives all over the world. Betty Henderson-Wingfield led the group in an activity, demonstrating the different ways in which we are all different and yet all work together for a purpose.

### **2:30pm Path1 presentation**

Tom Butcher, Executive Director, and Path1 staff members made an enthusiastic presentation on current initiatives and progress on planting new churches. See [www.path1.org](http://www.path1.org) for more information.

### **3:15pm Global Health Initiative: Bishop Thomas Bickerton**

**Challenge to the CT:** Sierra Leone is plagued by poverty & disease. We have \$1.5 million in Nothing But Nets account, plus matches with Red Cross... We can blanket the entire country by this time next year. What we need NOW is another \$1.5 million in matching grants - by June 30, 2009. If wait until after, cannot be ordered nor manufactured the way we need. See [www.umc.org/globalhealth](http://www.umc.org/globalhealth) for more information on the Global Health Initiative.

Connectional Table members contributed to a collection for Sierra Leone, totaling \$610.00.

Update on Kathryn Commale's Nothing But Nets efforts: nearing \$100K, and she has received the Dragonfly award.

### **4:20pm Selected Abingdon Press Titles Related to the Four Areas of Focus**

Mary Brooke Casad invited CT members to participate in a "learning community" through reading and discussion of books about the Four Areas of Focus, using the list provided by UMPH (in meeting binder, behind tab 10<sup>1</sup>) Members were asked to choose a selection on the list. Staff collected completed sheets and will mail the requested books.

**ACTION: CT members agreed to read their selection and come to the fall meeting prepared to discuss a particular area of focus. Staff will order and mail books to members. (Please contact Stefany Simmons if you have not turned in your selection.)**

### **4:30pm Discussion on Central Conference Meeting location**

Bishop Hopkins asked CT members to consider which Central Conference location the CT should meet in this quadrennium, or if that should even happen this quadrennium, considering the expense and current economic situation.

#### Options for consideration:

1. Panama City – Fall 2010, in conjunction with Council of Bishops
2. Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire – Spring 2010, in conjunction with WWNC Study Committee (overlap of members and consultants would save on travel costs)
3. Cuba
4. Europe (probably not high value, since CT went to Europe last quadrennium)

CT members engaged in discussion about these options and determined that more information is needed.

**ACTION: Staff will research costs to travel to Manila, Panama City, and Abidjan. Advisory Team will work with staff to make a decision on dates and location for meeting in a Central Conference location and present a proposal to CT members before the Fall 2009 meeting.**

### **5:30pm Dinner Break**

WSCF and Covenant Task Groups met during dinner.

## **Tuesday, May 12, 2009 (continued)**

### **6:30pm Learning Community: Craig Robertson (*continued from this morning*)**

Craig Robertson highlighted ways to encourage the development of spiritual leaders, using gifts and passions of individuals. Time to risk doing more heavy lifting, to run at a very fast rate with the thrill and excitement of doing it...

Discussion followed, in which the below thoughts were brought forward by CT members:

- Could the system be giving birth to a new movement to give it a new future?
- How important are measures and matrix? (If not comparing fruit, then comparing status and ego.)
- In past we were growing and spinning off institutions (adaptive and swift). Today becoming larger, combining ACs, making districts larger, slows everything down, creating more structure... Need to make districts smaller...
- Need one operational team – Do we have too many? Or not enough?
- Start over with a clean slate... Build it up from the ground up!
- Suggest flexibility in structure of annual conferences, letting Holy Spirit guide visions/dreams.

**Bishop Hopkins:** How do we proceed? What elements need to be in that conversation?

Robertson suggested drawing some pictures... If you can't draw a picture, you can't define. If you can't define, you can't assign purpose. Don't draw dotted lines to show connections. Clear picture; clear definitions; clear purpose.

**Andy Langford:** Will we continue this conversation with Craig Robertson at future CT meetings?

**Bishop Hopkins:** No intent to have future conversations with Craig Robertson. Intent is to use Craig's guidance to define roles. We might use Craig to help us design a roadmap.

### **8:00pm Evening Prayer Service**

Moses Kumar led the evening prayer service. Bethany Amey and Ben Boruff guided us through Taize style worship, and Stefany Simmons delivered the Benediction.

## **Wednesday, May 13, 2009**

### **8:00am Opening Worship**

Ben Boruff began with the Call to Worship, and Bethany Amey delivered the prayer.

### **8:15am Covenant Groups**

Covenant Groups discussed questions related to the meeting theme, *"Entrusted with a Gift: Called to Serve"* and the scripture from 1 Corinthians 12:4, *"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit."*

### **8:30am Small Groups: 7 Essential Functions Conversation**

Groups were assigned to each of the 7 functions and asked to discuss and rank conversations for discussion at future meetings. Cynthia Dopke explained the process and Advisory Team members facilitated small group work, as table leaders. After reviewing survey results, small groups reported the 2 conversations they believe are highest priority.

*Note: The complete list of all survey responses is posted on the Group Hub<sup>2</sup>*

**Essential Function #1:** Helliesen, leader; Beckley, Davis, Ferguson, Greenwaldt, Kiesey, Taiwo, Winkler

#### **Conversations:**

1. Define the relationship between CT and agencies - directional or operational?
2. How do we respond to the worldwide economic challenges, with alignment of the COB and general agencies?

**Essential Function #2:** Alegria, leader; Bickerton, Dyck, Estrella, Fox, Hawkins, Whittemore

#### **Conversations:**

1. How do we effectively communicate in this century (giving and receiving)?
2. Is there a substitute for face-to-face meetings?

**Essential Function #3:** Wilkes-Null, leader; Alexander, Berry, Corry, Hamill, Hollon, Kammerer, Kasolwa

#### **Conversations:**

1. Unleash people for ministry and creativity to impact local church for mission. Listen. (page 15, #7)
2. Stewardship training, as taught by John Wesley. Conversation with local churches about pension deficit. (pages 18 and 21)

**Essential Function #4:** Langford, leader; Adams, Black, Kelemeni, King, Kumar, Matonga, Scott

#### **Conversations:**

1. Define evaluation, purpose, function of agencies for sake of annual conferences and local churches. (focus on mission, not nickels and dimes)
2. Celebrate successes; right what is wrong; test and retest evaluation tools. Consider requiring on-sight visits by CT members.

**Essential Function #5:** McLeod, leader; Boigegrain, Boruff, Marshall, Matthews, Stahl

#### **Conversations:**

1. Recommend to General Conference -- external review of structure of General Agencies in relation to Four Focus Areas.
2. Issues of trust, language, and diversity.

**Essential Function #6:** Group members: Benson, leader; Braddon, Burton, Sano, Schol, Sidorak, Streiff

#### **Conversations:**

1. Transformational learning based on the four areas of focus. Impact on local churches and annual conferences?
2. Evaluate research across different agencies, how they provide to local churches and annual conferences.

## **Wednesday, May 13, 2009 (continued)**

### 7 Essential Functions Conversation (continued from previous page)

**Essential Function #7:** Amey, leader; Barrow, Brim, Danburam, Del Pino, Stover, Taylor, Williams

#### Conversations:

1. How will CT engage in learning to ensure transparency?
2. How do we work with GCFA to insure mission matches money? Ensure Central Conferences are considered in revenue and expenses.

#### **Ranking of Important Conversations:**

Each CT member used colored dots to rank the important conversations in order of priority.

See Attachment # 5 -- Survey Discussion – Weighted Responses.

#### Other comments:

**Bishop Streiff:** emphasized importance of planning and research... Consider rewriting legislation about what is really important for CT.

**Liz Braddon:** Reflection from last quadrennium - Didn't do enough early work to make evaluations effective.

**Bishop Hopkins:** commented that the Call to Action aligns well with these conversations.

**Stefany Simmons:** Importance of communication - Shared experience from corporate world (Pizza Hut). When new product is released, leaders have to be trained first, and then cascaded down to restaurants.

**Bishop Hopkins:** We have to be changed; transformed.

**Bishop Sano:** SOTC Report – found to be very helpful. Need to do annually.

**ACTION: Advisory Team will take these conversations and look at how they fit into the CT work plan for the quadrennium.**

### **10:15am World Service Contingency Fund Task Group Report**

Ava Berry presented updated process for WSCF. **Report approved.**

See Attachments # 6 & 7-- World Service Contingency Funds Process and Job Description

### **10:30am Emerging Ministries Task Group Report**

Raul Alegria reviewed "A Proposal for the Emerging Ministries Fund of the UMC".

See attachment #8 -- Emerging Ministries Fund Proposal

#### Discussion followed:

- **Andy Langford:** Could the CT itself possibly utilize these funds?
- **Bishop Davis:** suggested using for creative messaging for General Conference.
- **Bishop Hopkins:** this money is there to lead denominational transformational change.
- **Jay Brim** suggested that this money not be spent unless vetted by the entire CT.
- **Beverly Wilkes-Null:** Need to be clear about what GC asked us to do with this money. Partnership is where power is.
- **Raul Alegria:** Do we exclude ourselves? CT could be a place where these needs arise.
- **Bishop Bickerton:** cautioned to communicate so the wider body of the church knows of the availability.
- **Bishop Hopkins:** if we start disbursing funds, we become a programming group... not doing what we're called to do.
- **Larry Hollon:** need to give careful thought as to how a fund gets imposed into an institution.....could be a seed grant for a more broad conversation.

**Joe Whittemore motioned for EMF Task Group to revisit and add more clarity on this document and bring back to CT at a later date. Motion approved.**

**Jay Brim motioned to add to proposal, for the EMF task group to leave the final decision with the table as a whole. Motion approved.**

## **Wednesday, May 13, 2009 (continued)**

Further discussion followed:

**Ava Berry question:** How are we going to fund pre-GC briefings?

**Reiner Stahl** noted that there is briefing for US delegates, but no briefing for Central Conference reps.

**Eddie Kelemeni** added that the CT should be responsible for funding that for Central Conference members.

**Jim Winkler** explained that WSCF grant covered a small part of '08 expense. Bishops requested that agencies do briefings, but agencies were told to back off.

**Bishop Schol:** Looking for equality across entire church - Need funds specifically allocated for that process.

### **11:00am Personnel Committee Report**

Debbie McLeod, chair, presented recommendations regarding job descriptions, evaluations and salary.

**Recommendations approved.**

### **11:15am Finance Committee Report**

Judy Benson, chair, presented 2008 and Q1 2009 financial reports. The committee will provide proposed 2010 budget at next meeting of CT. Requests for financial needs for 2010 should be sent to staff or finance committee, for budgeting purposes.

**Report approved.**

**ACTION: Task Group chairs, please inform Judy or Raul of financial needs for 2010, for budgeting purposes**

### **11:30am Executive Secretary's Report**

Mary Brooke Casad presented her report to the CT. **Report approved.**

*See meeting binder -- tab #13 -- Executive Secretary's Report<sup>1</sup>*

### **11:45am Staff Updates**

Stefany Simmons requested feedback regarding use of the group hub website as a communications tool for this group, and members responded positively.<sup>1</sup>

### **12:00-1:30pm Lunch Break** (Advisory Team met during the lunch break)

### **1:30pm Activity: Conversations with Steering Committee members**

Steering Committee Members Hopkins, Greenwaldt, Hawkins, Kumar, Alexander, and Hollon (Swenson absent) split up and led tables in an activity. Discussion around visioning, drawing pictures of what we want it to look like. Tables were asked to list recommendations for the steering committee to discuss.

### **2:15pm Evaluation and Review Report**

Charlene Black reviewed process from last quadrennium and offered the following recommendations:

- Must begin process in the beginning of the quadrennium. Continue regular on-going evaluation by agencies.
- Collaboration with GCFA - Must be joined with budget process in order to put resources in places most effective.
- Re-evaluate effectiveness in agency work in serving annual conferences and local churches in mission of making disciples.
- Focus must be on the reasons for doing this process. (What did we learn and how can we use team to improve what we're doing to be more effective in our mission?)

*See meeting binder -- tab #8 -- Evaluation & Review Task Group Report<sup>1</sup>*

**ACTION: Need to do cost analysis to determine costs of evaluation process.**

## Wednesday, May 13, 2009 (continued)

### 2:30pm Neil Alexander – General Secretaries Table Proposal

Neil Alexander presented proposal for rigorous evaluation process that connects goals, methods, outcomes, and disciplined budgeting. Includes emphasis on four areas of focus and aligns with ministries of annual conferences.

1. What's happening now in light of what was promised?
2. Unified process.
3. Specific set of budget requests to go to General Conference.

**Motion to add local churches to proposal. Recommendation received and motion approved as amended.**

### 2:45pm Advisory Team Report -- Task Group Assignments

Debbie McLeod presented the Advisory Team's recommendations for task groups for Pre-GC Briefings, Emerging Ministries, and Vision Training Event.

*See attachment #9 -- Task Group assignments*

**All recommendations were received and approved.**

Advisory Team also recommends the following CT members serve on the below teams:

- Budget Process Team – David Wilson, Bishop Sally Dyck, Debbie McLeod
- Economic Advisory Council – Neil Alexander
- Apportionment Study – Judy Benson and Andy Langford
- Path1 link – Bishop Lindsey Davis

**All recommendations were received and approved.**

**Jay Brim:** suggests adding members who are not currently serving on COB or GST, to include broader perspectives. **Motion for Advisory Team to suggest 5 CT members to be presented to the COB for consideration to add them onto the Steering Committee.**

**Bishop Davis commented** that he thinks the COB would have positive response to this proposal.

**Motion approved.**

Benediction and Adjournment

### 3:30pm Joint Session with GCFA

Moses Kumar welcomed CT to GCFA office. Bishop Palmer addressed CT members and GCFA staff, and reviewed the "Call to Action" as created by the Council of Bishops.

CT members and GCFA staff enjoyed dinner and entertainment by comedian Rik Roberts.

## Thursday, May 14, 2009 -- Joint Meeting with CT and GCFA

### 8:00am Opening Worship

Youth and Young Adults from GCFA and CT led the Opening Worship Service. Karl Kroger offered the prayer, and Ben Boruff delivered the thought for the day.

### 8:30am The Connectional Table: A Place for Conversation

Bishop Hopkins gave a presentation on the purpose and structure of the Connectional Table.

### 9:00am European Central Conference Funds

Bishop Streiff, chair of the Central Conference Affairs Commission, and Peter Binder, European representative on GCFA, reported on European central conference funds. Copies of slides are available on [www.gcfa.org](http://www.gcfa.org).

Comments:

- [Bishop Sano](#) – suggest allowing some reporting of advanced special giving within jurisdictional conferences.
- [Anthony Danburam](#) – Africa needs to be tested and challenged to contribute, just as others are.
- [Jerome King Del Pino](#) – suggest making this info widely available, showing transparency as to how we're going to re-knit to being a truly global church.
- [Eddie Fox](#) – gave example of Bulgarian church that celebrated 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary... focused on churches that give what they have. If we give what we have, God blesses that.
- [Bishop Streiff](#) suggested two conversations --
  1. What determines a contribution? (financial is not the only type of contribution that can be made)
  2. Should be made clear to members - when you join the church, you become an active contributor (not just a receiver.)

### 10:00am Budget 101

Bishop Lindsey Davis reviewed the general apportioned funds and general overview of budget process. See meeting binder -- tab #11 -- Joint Plenary Info, Budget 101<sup>1</sup>

### 10:15am Agency Presentations

Moses Kumar introduced general secretaries. Each GS gave a presentation on current work being done specifically within the four areas of focus and shared various ways they are cutting costs during this time of economic distress.

### 12:00-1:15pm Lunch Break

### 1:15pm Agency Presentations continued

### 1:45pm 2013-2016 Budget Process

Don Brown (GCFA) and Raul Alegria (CT) presented the proposed budget process for the 2013-2016 quadrennium. Desired outcome is to ensure clearer goals and objectives. Presented 2 alternative processes for discussion

1. Presentation by four focus areas, Disciplinary responsibilities, and other ministries in plenary.
2. Presentation by entities supported by each apportioned fund(s) to small groups of CT and/or GCFA members simultaneously.

See meeting binder -- tab #11 -- Joint Plenary information, Working Draft<sup>1</sup>

[John Goolsbey](#) clarified that this decision is not about the presentation, but to determine how CT and GCFA will process the information.

Discussion followed. **Majority affirmed the 1<sup>st</sup> proposal.**

Budget Process Team – Commissioned a smaller representative body of CT/GCFA members to shepherd this process. CT recommends: David Wilson, Sally Dyck, Deb McLeod

GCFA recommends (pending approval): Kelly Williams, Mike Coyner, Don Brown  
**Majority affirmed.**

**Thursday, May 14, 2009 -- Joint Meeting with CT and GCFA (continued)**

**2:45pm                    Joint Closing Worship (GCFA/CT)**

Youth and Young Adults from GCFA and the CT led Closing Worship Service. Elizabeth Cumbest played guitar and sang, and also delivered the thought for the day.

**3:00pm                    CT Members depart**

<sup>1</sup>Instructions for locating binder information on the Group Hub website are as follows:

1. Go to [www.theconnectionaltable.grouphub.com](http://www.theconnectionaltable.grouphub.com)
2. User Name: first initial + last name (i.e. ssimmons)
3. Password: "password" (unless you have changed it to something else)
4. On the right, select project: "CT Communications Group Hub"
5. At the top, click on the red tab "Files"
6. On the right under categories, click on "2009 Spring Meeting Binders"
7. On the right, select "A-Z" as the sort option. This will put the documents in order by tab # (except it will put tabs 10-13 right after tab 1)

<sup>2</sup>To view other handouts and materials, follow steps 1-5 as above, and on the right under categories, click on "2009 Meeting Handouts."

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Stefany Simmons*