

Report A.001
EVANGELISM AND WITNESS GOAL AREA COMMITTEE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL
September 18-21, 2007

The Evangelism and Witness Goal Area Committee met on Thursday, September 20, 2007 in Louisville, KY and forwards the following to the General Assembly Council:

For Consent

1. The Evangelism and Witness Committee recommends that we invite a group of people from both the elected body and staff (intentionally crossing the seven ministry areas), along with key players from synods, presbyteries and congregations, gather for a consultation on evangelism. In order to accomplish this, we ask that the GAC appoint a small group of elected members to report back to the February meeting having defined the task and determined who should be invited to participate.

Rationale: We are convinced that we need to create the opportunity for bold, “outside the box” thinking to imagine how the GAC can effectively support evangelistic strategies across all the ministry areas and at all levels of the denomination. Historically there have been numerous fissures that have made collaborative efforts impossible, such as that between the important work of the Racial/Ethnic ministries and multicultural ministries, or that between peace and justice advocates and evangelism enthusiasts, to name just two. The consultation we imagine would be an opportunity to build on the new, collaborative style that the GAC is trying to model in all of its work, and create the space to imagine new ways for the GAC’s to promote evangelism and witness.

For Action

There are no action items to report.

For Information

The Evangelism and Witness Committee approved the minutes from the March 15th 2007 GAC meeting.

The Evangelism and Witness Committee received the following items for information:

- Item 202 – Approval of Sam and Helen R. Walton Award Nominees for 2007.
- Item 203 – Potential New Church Development Pastoral Training
- Item 204 – Office of Multicultural Ministries
- Item 205 – Small Church and Community Ministry Office
- Item 206 – Status of Mission Program Grants and Results of Spring Mission Development Resource Committee Meeting
- Item 228 – Description of Three Recent Recipients of Mission Program Grants.

The Evangelism and Witness Committee challenges everyone on the Council to go back to their presbytery and ask who is participating in Mission Challenge 07 and make sure that they are involved in at least one of the presentations.

The Mission Challenge Team will send information to all Council Members as to which mission personnel will be visiting their presbytery.

Mission Funding Task Force report was discussed and comments were forwarded to the chair.

Generative thinking exercises were conducted on facilitating evangelism in our congregations and on mission and interfaith culture.

Viewed a video on effect of climate change on island nations in the Pacific, which are facing evacuation.