



FAQs for ITF Proposals forwarded by the MCC Governing Board to General Conference 2013

Question Are major structural proposals being recommended by the Governing Board?

Answer No. It is believed that in our present structure, revised in 2010, there is enough flexibility and capacity to move forward to help MCC to be more globally inclusive and welcoming. Our new staffing structure seems to be creating opportunities for our global work.

Question What kinds of changes, then, are proposed?

Answer There were lots of recommendations to the staff and the Governing Board, many of which have been implemented or are on the drawing board. These include programmatic, technological and communications changes, and these are included for your information. A process for developing a Global Covenant is included.

Question Will the ITF proposal help move MCC forward in terms of our global inclusivity?

Answer This is our hope!

Question Are there lots of Bylaw changes?

Answer No, only one really, that clarifies the options for virtual church and membership.

Question Define “local protocols,” and use an example of one.

Answer We have local protocols, or local conventions, for credentialing and are developing them for new church starts. There is flexibility for local protocols in local church by-laws and for how Networks are organized.

Question What is the most far-reaching idea in the proposal?

Answer Creating a Global Covenant that unites all our churches, rather than the US-based Bylaws being our unifying document. This covenant would enshrine the idea of local/regional protocols that make MCC more culturally indigenous wherever we are, while articulating what unites us! The plans are for the Global Covenant to be ready for the 2016 General Conference.

Question Did the ITF suggest a change in wording for the Statement of Faith?

Answer The topic of the Statement of Faith was discussed by the ITF, not specifics, but that discussion came to the Governing Board. The ITF will not be reviewing the Statement of Faith, but as a result of the ITF's discussion, the Governing Board will be recommending a review.

Question Why would we want to review and update our Statement of Faith?

Answer We believe that after 45 years, it is good to take a look at the language of our Statement of Faith that was forged in the early days on the floor of General Conference. This would be a faith-renewing process that would support a new Global Covenant -- to have a Statement of Faith that is contemporary, that we can use in worship and in teaching, and to help the world know what we believe.

Question Where can we find the current Statement of Faith?

Answer It can be found in Article III of the UFMCC Bylaws. Go to this link to download the denomination's Bylaws: <http://mccchurch.org/how-we-work/governance/>

Question Will Jesus Christ and our Christian faith still be affirmed in our Statement of Faith?

Answer Yes.

Question Who will write the Global Covenant and work on the Statement of Faith review and update?

Answer Committees will be appointed by the Moderator and Governing Board. These committees will include our leadership and others from the diversity of MCC's gifted pastors, lay leaders, and scholars. We will seek input from MCCers all over the globe.

Question Who will approve the new Global Covenant and updated Statement of Faith?

Answer The General Conference by a 2/3 vote during our 2016 Conference, at the earliest.

Question Will it solve all our problems? What will it cost?

Answer No, but it has helped us see the way forward. The costs will all be included in our regular budgeting for the next several years. If the General Conference passes the ITF proposals, the Governing Board will ensure the initiatives are included in our regular annual budgeting processes.

Question Are the ITF proposals limited to a response from the Moderator and Governing Board? Can the local church adopt any of the proposals and incorporate them (i.e. pursue virtual church options)?

Answer Of course, we hope that local churches will be inspired and take these proposals to heart.