A CALL FOR ACTION

standing committee on renewal and structural reform
The Request

- The Spring 2008 Administrative Committee forwards this request to the Standing Committee on Renewal and Structural Reform requesting that a resolution be submitted to the 2009 General Board and General Assembly that will modify the special rules of the General Assembly to remove Sense-of-the-Assembly resolutions and determine other more effective ways to explore challenging issues from our varied faith perspectives.
The Proposal

- Combine
  - Sense of the Assembly Resolutions
  - Items for Research and Reflection
  - Study Documents

- Create
  - A Call for Action
Definition of “A Call”

- A Call is an invitation of the General Assembly to the Church for action on moral, ethical or justice issues that require urgent presence and witness by the Church in all of its expressions. Action may include reflection, discernment and response.
Three Step Process

- Pre-General Assembly
  - GMP
  - Administrative Committee
  - General Board
- At the Assembly
  - Plenary
  - Resource Groups and Learning Tracks
- After the Assembly the church in all expressions
  - General Board Committee
  - GMP
## Pre-General Assembly

### Submitting Organizations
- Moral, ethical or justice issue
- Balanced case statement
- Resource list
- Summary of the submitters perspective

### OGMP / GMP
- Works with submitters
- Consults with Moderator Team, Racial / Ethnic Pastors
- GMP recommends up to three topics to AC/GB
- Forwards full list to GB

### General Board
- Identifies how the church is currently responding
- Final vote on which three topics
- Suggests additional resources for study and reflection
- Submits to GA

### Web New Media
- Blogging
- Bible study
- Resource Lists
- Online discussion groups/posting
At the Assembly

- Theological
- Educational
- Action Opportunities
- Reflection / Discernment
Setting the Stage

All-Assembly Plenary Session

- Pastoral Statement
- Text for Reflection
- Introduction of the Topic
- Highlight history and rationale including the moral, ethical or justice matter
- Promote opportunities to learn and share
Educational

- Learning Tracks
- Resource Groups
- World Café / Discussion Format
- Other learning opportunities
Reflection and Discernment

Final General Assembly Session

- Corporate Prayer, Guiding Text
- Reflection questions (not political statements)
- Recorded vote
- Order of the Day
- Vote totals posted
Action

- Congregations
- Regional Ministries
- General Ministries
- Other (partners)
Follow-Up

GMP

- Pastoral Letter to the Church
- Shares the Call to Action
- Suggested Actions by the Church

General Assembly Committee

- Engages the Church “what are you doing, what have you done?”
- Reports back to the next General Assembly
Vote

- Respects the polity and policies of the church.
- Recognizes that moral, ethical, and justice issues are not legislated.
- Represents all present and voting at the assembly.
- Records action of the assembly for the record.
- Is important to our partners.
Summary

- A Call for Action should be something that affects all expressions of the church.
- A manageable number per biennium is critical for follow-up and accountability.
- GMP, Leadership Team and General Board to track follow-up.
- Education, conversation and theological grounding are tools for exploring — not legislating moral, ethical or justice issues.
- A Call for Action can be a next step for helping congregations, regions, and general ministries become both whole and diverse.