

**Goals of the Study Committee on the Worldwide Nature of
The United Methodist Church, Adopted August 22, 2010**

Our Vision: We see a worldwide United Methodist Church driven to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. To live more fully into this vision, we are working toward deeper connections throughout the church, greater local authority, and more equitable sharing of power and representation around the world.

The Study Committee on the Worldwide Nature of the UMC has finished its fourth meeting. After organizing its work, we spent three meetings listening to various parts of the church. One meeting was devoted primarily to hearing various boards, agencies and groups of the church make presentations. The third meeting was held in Manila, Philippines where we spent time with leaders from the Philippines Central Conference and the two affiliated autonomous churches in that country. The fourth meeting involved listening posts in Democratic Republic of the Congo , Liberia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Côte d'Ivoire. A representative met with the Global Young Peoples' Convocation in July and representatives will consult with the European Methodist Council in September.

We have heard many things and we are still organizing what we have learned. However, we can broadly summarize them in two ways. First, there is a strong desire to remain a worldwide church. Second, there is a desire for greater equality, greater sharing of power, and the freedom to adapt the *Book of Discipline* to local contexts. We have adopted four goals on which we plan to work until our next meeting in March, 2011. We are not committed to submitting proposals on each of these, but we think they are worth developing further. Small tasks groups will prepare more detailed ideas for our next meeting. In addition, some of what we have heard will be referred to other study groups, committees or agencies.

1. The Covenant

We seek to write a covenant that would help both the General Conference and the whole church move toward becoming more fully a worldwide church. We envision this would include changes in attitude, in priorities, and in how we relate to one another. It would include a theological and missional rationale for our ecclesiology. It would help us bring the spirit of worship and prayer to any legislation that is proposed. It would celebrate the ministries of each region of the church in addition to the legislative work of the General Conference.

2. Global Models

We are exploring models for the worldwide church. Models under consideration seek to provide greater regional connections within our global church while also providing for greater local authority and more equitable sharing of power and representation around the world.

3. A global *Book of Discipline*

We propose to submit a recommended *Book of Discipline* that is applicable to the entire UMC. This small section will not be subject to adaptation or change by any central conference. It will follow the guidelines adopted at our previous meeting regarding the Social Principles and standards for ordained ministry. To be truly global, this version of the BOD must include the adaptations made by the central conferences, or some other way of sharing such changes must be made available to the whole church for the enrichment of the whole church.

4. The General Agencies

We propose to work on a plan that would outline whether general agencies are global agencies or United States agencies.