



General Commission on Religion and Race announces reorganization plan

OCTOBER 12, 2009 WASHINGTON, D.C. The General Commission on Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church today announced a restructuring plan that will enable the agency to better focus on emerging priorities and address a growing budget deficit.

The agency will be organized to realign personnel with an intention to achieve improved outcomes in monitoring and advocacy ministry, annual conference and local church resourcing, and extending the work of the agency globally.

“By restructuring our agency, we hope to move our mission closer to the needs of the local church, while still serving as a voice of challenge and encouragement in connectional matters” said Erin Hawkins, the agency’s chief executive. “Our goal is also to work more effectively in a multicultural, intergenerational and global context.”

As a part of the reorganization, all Assistant General Secretary positions will be eliminated effective December 10, 2009, resulting in the layoff of five staff members—nearly 60 percent of the small agency’s staff.

Hawkins said that six new positions are being developed which will have a different emphasis than those positions being eliminated and would be at lower salary levels, resulting in a significant cost savings. The agency’s budget is based on remittances to the World Service Fund. Those remittances have been less than anticipated, resulting in a budgetary shortfall. Employees whose jobs are eliminated will be eligible to apply for new jobs.

“While it is difficult to make decisions that affect employees’ livelihood--especially in these challenging economic times--it is necessary for us to change our direction in order to engage the mission of *Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World* with greater relevance and effectiveness,” said Hawkins.

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GCORR is the AGENCY OF THE United Methodist Church committed to helping the church eradicate racism and embrace inclusiveness equipping, educating, evaluating and advocating to address diversity at all levels of the church.

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