

FAQ

MISSIONARY  
CHURCH



Frequently Asked Questions  
About the Vision and  
Reorganization Plan

# | FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About the Vision and Reorganization Plan...

## Why is a new structure and reorganization necessary?

New districts and new churches produce the greatest amount of growth. Districts tend to grow to 40-60 churches and thereafter stop growing. The districts as now organized become fully absorbed in caring for the needs of the churches within their districts and have difficulty in caring for the needs of more churches. Therefore, we have the number of churches our current structure is designed to get us. The Commission is recommending that a district focus on no more than 3 million people and not larger than one state while a region would comprise 15-20 districts focusing on no more than 50 million people. More regional districts and district personnel need to be refocused and in place to help churches and pastors start new churches to reach a larger segment of our unchurched population.

## Since the main pillars of our new “5 Year Denominational Vision” look very similar to what we have already been emphasizing, how is this a “new Vision Document?”

First of all, Praise the Lord that we feel we have been doing many of the right things. Secondly, the 5 main pillars are what we believe to be of greatest importance for us to do. Thirdly, the benchmarks which accompany the major pillars are substantially more aggressive and far reaching. We believe that if we will focus on doing everything listed under each pillar we will have moved much farther down the road as a denomination and contributed more effectively to God’s Kingdom.



## Why are we rushing to pass this restructuring at the 2009 General Conference?

While to some it may appear to be deciding quickly on a proposed change to our structure, the denominational leadership has been working on this issue for over two years. An initial question and answer period was held at the 2007 General Board and the General Board and DSs have been working steadily on the plan since 2006. While the details of the plan were not released until the General Board voted to recommend the plan, the national office has tried to keep pastors aware that the work was in process. The General Board, by a 32-0 vote, approved the plan and is recommending a two-year implementation process to finalize the details.

## How will this new structure affect the existing local church?

This structure will have little if any affect on the local church organizationally other than encouraging them to move into smaller geographical district areas and assume more responsibility for assisting church planting within that area. We hope to see this have a large impact on creating collaborative vision objectives and goals that touch the local, district, regional and national perspectives.

The new structure and reorganization of the denominational and district functions are designed to assist and serve the local church more effectively and efficiently. Furthermore, the local church will be encouraged to endorse and promulgate their local vision as part of the denominational vision through smaller, more effective and efficient districts. The plan includes Pastor Peer Networks designed to provide timely feedback to the districts and the denomination.



## How will we measure 15% of the district's people involved in making disciples and each existing local church has 10% of its people involved in making disciples?

Disciple making is defined as intentional involvement in some aspect of helping people move from pre-Christian to devout Christian to reproducing Christian. Every pastor or pastoral team will need to assess the involvement of his/their people who are involved in intentional disciple making. While no measurement tool is perfect, by consistent usage and monitoring a clear picture of our desired results will begin to emerge.

## How much will this structure cost? Who will pay the bill? What will be the economic impact?

Initially, this structure is basically financially neutral. While there may be some cost in reimbursing Mission District Directors and District Directors, these funds will be provided by the growth of new churches. The Ministry Leadership Council will encourage and help where possible, but the reality is that each district and region will be primarily responsible for their own financial development.

The proposed structure and reorganization when fully implemented should free personnel and financial resources for the establishment of new Missionary Church ministries to communities that basically have been unreached by any church or denomination here in the USA while continuing to take the gospel to the far corners of the earth through our missions program. We are proposing a refocusing and realignment in the use of our present human and financial resources to more effectively work in the kingdom.



## Will we just add another layer to our structure when we add a Regional System?

Most growing organizations add some structure to their system and while it is recognized that structures by themselves don't cause growth, structures can facilitate or hinder growth. For example, most of us are aware that once sanctuary attendance reaches 80% of prime sanctuary seating, little additional growth will occur and only by changing a structure will additional growth happen. We need to add more districts to not only accommodate more churches but to facilitate more efficient and effective service from your district and denomination. Instead of trying to provide support and benefits to 50-60 churches, a District Director will be able to focus on approximately 15 to 25 churches that will in turn allow time to work and focus on growth. Districts will tend to be smaller and focused on more compact geographic areas. A Regional Director will coach and work with District Directors to expand the number of churches in each area and work with existing pastors.

## Are we allowing for two systems to exist within the same organization since current districts have the option to remain as they are?

Yes. Districts which do not choose to move to a Regional System can continue to function as they do now. However, as recommended, these districts are encouraged to begin the process of adopting a Regional Model within their district by subdividing their districts into smaller districts.



## How are the General Oversight Council (GOC) and the Ministry Leadership Council (MLC) related in role and function?

The GOC functions on behalf of General Conference between conferences. The MLC, in collaboration with the GOC, helps create, cast and implement the vision and ministry of the Missionary Church. It handles the day to day ministry and operation of the denomination much the same as the national team and district superintendents currently serve.

## Why are we proposing a balanced accountability structure between the local, regional, district and national entities versus an all bottom-up or top-down organization?

We are seeking to establish a collaborative structure that encourages local ownership and expression of vision while also drawing together collective cooperation. Local input via such things as the Pastor Peer Networks combined with holding each entity accountable for the vision it establishes provides a climate for seeing the greatest ministry accomplished. Furthermore, we are proposing a “we are one family with a focused purpose team approach” to carry out in a more collaborative manner the ministries of the Missionary Church.



## Why do Regional and District Directors/District Superintendents need to be ratified by the General Oversight Council and Ministry Leadership Council?

One of the concerns in developing “interdependent districts” is to have some method of reconnecting the districts back more closely to the denomination. Currently there is very little or virtually no connection and accountability between the district leadership and the denomination. There was a strong desire to strengthen this essential bond across the denominational spectrum. This system, along with the president’s consultation with district Nominating Committees, will open the door for the team comprised of national, regional and district leaders to have some input regarding the people joining the Ministry Leadership Council.

## Could a District Director ever be full time?

Yes. If district leadership votes to approve a full-time position and the district is large enough to support a full-time Director then a full-time Director may be put in place.

## If the proposal is approved at General Conference 2009 what will be the implementation plans?

The General Board is recommending that a two year interim General Oversight Council be voted on at the 2009 General Conference to guide the denomination through the process of implementation of the proposed recommendations. The Ministry Leadership Council will also be formed to begin the vision implementation and to work collaboratively with the General Oversight Council.

