

Ministry Task Force Resolutions Adopted at the Wesleyan Covenant Association's Third Global Legislative Assembly

April 30, 2021

A Resolution Endorsing the Recommendations of the Accountable Discipleship Task Force

Whereas this body, the Wesleyan Covenant Association's 2019 Global Legislative Assembly, authorized the formation of an Accountable Discipleship Task Force to identify, develop and deploy effective models for disciple making as an integral part of the ministry of local churches and communicating the necessity of every Christ follower embracing the call to be disciples and to be makers of disciples;

Whereas the Accountable Discipleship Task Force has delivered its final report to the WCA's Global Council which received the report and recommended the approval of its recommendations to the WCA's 2021 Global Legislative Assembly;

Now, therefore, the Global Legislative Assembly commends the report for study and further development, endorses the following recommendations, directs the WCA staff to advocate in support of such recommendations, and encourages the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church to implement such recommendations:

1. That the Global Methodist Church adopt a clear definition of discipleship with an emphasis on justification by faith and on the goal of entire sanctification. We recommend this definition be codified in *The Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. We have provided a working definition at the beginning of this report for review by the WCA Council, the Transitional Leadership Council, and the convening conference of the Global Methodist Church.
2. That the Global Methodist Church's Commission on Discipleship and Just Ministry develop an official catechism and catechetical resources to be used by new member classes in local churches, confirmation classes, and in other settings in order to provide people with the theological and practical groundwork for participation in accountable discipleship groups. We recommend that churches entering into the Global Methodist Church also use these catechetical resources in classes and groups with existing members so that all new and existing members of the denomination begin with a common theological grounding.
3. That the Global Methodist Church's Commission on Discipleship and Just Ministry develop and endorse resources for accountable discipleship groups that provide instruction and immersion in the content of the life of discipleship as well as resources for training and equipping leaders of accountable discipleship small groups.
4. That local churches provide opportunities for disciple development in each space of church life (public, social, private, intimate) with an emphasis on moving people toward personal and intimate space in accountable discipleship small groups. Each church is to be held to such a requirement by its presiding elder at the annual charge conference.

5. That the Global Methodist Church adopt participation in an accountable discipleship small group as a basic expectation for membership in the local church and that local churches deploy a phased implementation process as the means of integrating church membership and accountable discipleship, ultimately requiring participation in an accountable discipleship group for new members and as a prerequisite to serving as a leader in the local church with appropriate accommodation for those who face physical or mental challenges to participate in accountable discipleship groups. This Assembly encourages the Global Methodist Church's Council on Discipleship and Just Ministry to develop training and resources to include persons of all physical and mental capacities.
6. That seminaries approved by the Global Methodist Church, and Courses of Study offered under the auspices of the Global Methodist Church, provide students working toward ordination with coursework, training, and experience in participating in, leading, and developing accountable discipleship groups, including both class meeting groups (personal space) and band meeting groups (intimate space). We also recommend that clergy entering into the Global Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church and other denominations be trained and participate in accountable discipleship groups within the first year of clergy membership in the new denomination.
7. That the Global Methodist Church's Commission on Discipleship and Just Ministry develop an online network where annual conferences and local churches can share best practices as well as designating "teaching churches" around the denomination that are effective in accountable discipleship as models from which local churches might learn and be equipped in developing their own accountable discipleship groups.
8. That new church starts in the Global Methodist Church begin with accountable discipleship groups as an essential requirement for new and charter members.

A Resolution Endorsing the Recommendations of the Church Multiplication Task Force

Whereas this body, the Wesleyan Covenant Association's 2019 Global Legislative Assembly, authorized the formation of a Church Multiplication Task Force to address the establishment of new local churches or the launching of additional sites of existing churches particularly in communities where there is no witness to the historic Christian faith in the Wesleyan tradition and where existing churches are not reaching significant communities in a geographic area;

Whereas the Church Multiplication Task Force has delivered its final report to the WCA's Global Council which received the report and recommended the approval of its recommendations to the WCA's 2021 Global Legislative Assembly;

Now, therefore, the Global Legislative Assembly commends the report for further study and implementation, endorses the following recommendations, directs the WCA staff to advocate in support of such recommendations, and encourages the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church to implement such recommendations:

1. That the Global Methodist Church establish General and Conference-level church planting offices to execute and expand church multiplication efforts.

2. That the Global Methodist Church ensure that church multiplication directors are high on its organizational chart.
3. That local churches designate at least 1% of their total budgets for church planting to be used for local planting efforts and to be shared across the denomination.
4. That the Global Methodist Church adopt a polity that attracts and empowers church planters with theological alignment and effectiveness as primary criteria for credentials.
5. That the Global Methodist Church prioritize ethnic and multi-racial churches.
6. That the Global Methodist Church prioritize new church plants in regions where there is an absence of churches that become part of the Global Methodist Church.
7. That the Global Methodist Church announce the start of new churches on the day it is legally established.

A Resolution Endorsing the Recommendations of the Church Revitalization Task Force

Whereas this body, the Wesleyan Covenant Association's 2019 Global Legislative Assembly, authorized the formation of a Church Revitalization Task Force to empower existing churches to embrace ministries that will renew and restore the mission of the church for new generations and in communities experiencing significant changes;

Whereas the Church Revitalization Task Force has delivered its final report to the WCA's Global Council which received the report and recommended the approval of its recommendations to the WCA's 2021 Global Legislative Assembly;

Now, therefore, the Global Legislative Assembly commends the report for study and further implementation, endorses the following recommendations, directs the WCA staff to advocate in support of such recommendations, and encourages the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church to implement such recommendations:

1. Revitalization in the Global Methodist Church will be Christ-centered and based upon the final authority of Scripture, reclaiming our Wesleyan heritage, and the teachings of our inherited Christian faith.
2. The continual renewal of laity, clergy, and congregations in the Global Methodist Church will have individual and corporate components.
3. Every church entering the Global Methodist Church should be encouraged intentionally to engage the principles and practices which will lead to reclaiming the evangelistic mission of our Wesleyan heritage.
4. Resources should be developed that will assist local churches and pastors to embrace revitalization.
5. A compelling scorecard should be developed to promote and encourage vitality.

A Resolution Endorsing the Recommendations of the Ministry with Youth and Young Adult Task Force

Whereas this body, the Wesleyan Covenant Association's 2019 Global Legislative Assembly, authorized the formation of a Ministry with Youth and Young Adult Task Force to address the challenge for local churches in reaching teens, shepherding them through the transition to adulthood, and engaging those who are navigating further education or entering the workforce so that they continue as committed Christ followers;

Whereas the Ministry with Youth and Young Adult Task Force has delivered its final report to the WCA's Global Council which received the report and recommended the approval of its recommendations to the WCA's 2021 Global Legislative Assembly;

Now, therefore, the Global Legislative Assembly commends the report for further study and implementation, endorses the following recommendations, directs the WCA staff to advocate in support of such recommendations, and encourages the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church to implement such recommendations:

1. The principles and directions set forth in the report are commended to guide the work of the Global Methodist Church in nurturing and expanding specific ministries to ensure that discipling youth and young adults are a priority in the Global Methodist Church.
2. The Global Methodist Church develop a strategy for welcoming and supporting existing Wesley Foundations and other campus ministries who choose to see affiliation with the Global Methodist Church and for establishing campus ministries where the Global Methodist Church will have no presence initially, including the possibility of launching new churches in college and university communities.
3. For youth and young adult ministry to include modeling accountable discipleship as essential for Christian growth to raise up youth and young adults in continuity with accountable discipleship models in the whole church.
4. For youth and young adults to be equipped and empowered to take active appropriate roles in the leadership of the church at all levels.