

Cross-Cultural Perspectives from the General Director



The Global Council—From Here to There

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Last time we talked about the history of the Global Council. Now, we move to where we are now and where we plan to go in the future.

It is a crucial step for the Global Council to be in place. We now have an established plan for the meetings of the Global Council and the Executive Global Council on a pre-determined regular basis. The structure has been developed, discussed and approved by the delegates in a session of the Global Council. It was presented to the General and Executive Board of the UPCI in North America and has their blessing. The present setup is supervised and maintained by the Global Council. The procedure can be amended by resolutions. Guidelines are in place for this to happen. We are also seeking to ensure that there is a balance between North American missionaries and leaders from the representing countries. Affiliation has been defined and set in place. One of the various challenges we have had is finding a way to pay for the Global Council. Now we have established that each country pays the way for its own delegates.

Through the Global Commission for Missions, the Regional Commission for Missions, and the Regional Missionary program a structure is in place to assure the sending of missionaries, from outside of North America, and also to provide their supervision. Our goal and desire is not for all missionaries to be supervised from North America, but that countries can institute their own mission's programs and send missionaries to needy areas of the world. Each region can modify their missionary program to meet their particular need.

Both the Global Council and the Executive Global Council seek to:

- Strengthen our unity through closer fellowship worldwide

- Uphold the *International Articles of Faith* and standards of righteousness
- Unite our missionary endeavor worldwide
- Develop plans for worldwide evangelism
- Promote the World Network of Prayer

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Brother Bernard and I have discussed the future of the Global Council. He provided the following words of direction: “We are now making plans for the upcoming meeting of the Global Council in November. As our international fellowship continues to grow, the work of the Global Council will become increasingly significant. Over the years, many national churches have become self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating, and some have become missionary-sending churches. Thus, we are becoming a union of national churches united by our international articles of faith and our bonds of fellowship. As such, the Global Council needs to develop progressively as a truly international body. Consequently, we expect to discuss matters such as the following:

- Expansion of international leadership opportunities
- Regional missionaries and leadership
- Needs and opportunities of key language groups, such as Spanish and French
- Procedure for updating the international articles of faith
- International transfer of ministerial license
- Possibility of membership or associate membership for other groups who accept our international articles of faith and are recommended by our national churches

In some cases no action may be needed or desired, but we believe it is important to encourage dialogue, seek direction, and cast vision for the future. Our goal is to promote worldwide revival and evangelism, carrying ‘the whole gospel to the whole world by the whole church.’”

The Global Council is an evolving process; a work in progress. We have not arrived at our final destination. We are moving in the right direction and we are well on our way. Travel with us as we move from here to there.