

June 17, 2010

Dear Members of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples:

I pray all is well with you, your family, and your ministries as we anticipate the sixteenth Convocation of our community, scheduled to be held August 4–7, 2010, in Seattle, Washington. While every one of our convocations has been important, this upcoming one has a special significance for us. That is because at this convocation, we as member of the NAPAD will have an opportunity to reshape the structure of our community. We will be able to do so by deliberating and voting on a proposal that will be presented at a business meeting.

The proposal will be presented by the Restructure and Constitution Reform Taskforce. This Taskforce derives its authority from an action taken by the 2008 Convocation of the NAPAD, which formed and charged the Taskforce to examine the current Constitution-Bylaws of our community for possible amendments. This action was taken in the event that the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) adopt a proposal to confer a distinct general-unit status to the Office of the Executive Pastor of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples. At its annual meeting in April 2009, the General Board did adopt such a proposal (Business Item No. GB-09-0644), which had been submitted by the Mission Alignment Coordinating Council. As a result, since January 1, 2010, the Executive Pastor's office of the NAPAD has functioned as a distinct general unit, administratively independent from the Disciples Home Missions, within which it had been housed since 1992.

Given these developments, the action taken in the 2008 Convocation was clearly farsighted. And as charged by that action, the Taskforce, composed of ten persons, has produced a proposal to amend the current Constitution-Bylaws of the NAPAD, which assumes the pre-2009 structure of the NAPAD. With the proposed amendments, the Taskforce in effect is recommending a new wineskin to go with new wine. This proposal is now being presented to you as directed by an article in the current Constitution:

Article 9 - Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the voting members at the Biennial Convocation, provided that a written notice of the proposed change has been presented to the Moderator and the participating members of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples.

A copy of the proposed amendments has already been sent to Dr. Lian Jiang, the current Moderator of the NAPAD. And a copy of it is now being forwarded to you, along with a copy of the current Constitution-Bylaws, either in digital or hard copy form. One of the proposed amendments is to combine the "Constitution" and "Bylaws" into one governance document. The new document therefore bears just one title, "Bylaws of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples."

That being said, may I make a request on behalf of the Restructure and Constitution Reform Taskforce? May I ask that you review the proposed amendments before they are put to a vote at the upcoming Convocation? May I also ask that if you have any questions or comments about them, you send them to me via e-mail (timsanglee@aol.com)? Thank you very much.

Sincerely in Christ,

Timothy S. Lee
Chair, Restructure and Constitution Reform Taskforce