

REPORT FROM JANUARY 31, 2020 MEETING OF DIVISION OF OVERSEAS MINISTRIES/GLOBAL MINISTRIES AND WEEK OF COMPASSION BOARD MEMBERS

Because it appeared that there was lack of agreement, lack of understanding and/or inadequate communication between the executives, staffs and boards of the Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries (“DOM/GM”) and the Week of Compassion (“WOC”), particularly with respect to the Global Mission Intern program (the “GMI program”) and the Sustainable Development Grant program (the “SDG program”), it seemed worthwhile to have a face to face meeting between representatives of both boards. As a result, four members (including the chairs) of each board met in Atlanta on January 31, 2020. The identified hoped-for outcomes of the meeting were (1) to gain a better understanding of each ministry’s function by board members of the other ministry and to convey that understanding to their respective boards, (2) to gain a better understanding of the function, role and responsibility of each board, and (3) through board to board communication, to take steps toward making the relationship between the two ministries healthier.

During the morning session of the meeting, the representatives of each board shared information about their respective ministries, including mission, vision, core values, history, programs, structure and governance. Information was also shared about the history of the GMI program. During the afternoon session, specific issues with respect to the GMI program and the SDG program were discussed.

We all agreed that our focus should be on doing God’s work, and that we all want to do our best to honor the core values of both ministries. We also believe we share the same goals and agree that both of the programs are within the mission and core values of both DOM/GM and WOC.

The primary issue identified with respect to the GMI program is the lack of understanding and communication with respect to how the amount of funds needed each year is determined, how it is communicated, the amount and purpose of the reserves held by DOM/GM and the availability to DOM/GM of other funds for the program. It was clarified that no funds other than those from WOC are available for the program, and that without WOC funding the program would not exist.

The primary issue with respect to the SDG program is how to balance (1) the ability of WOC to get clarifications to proposals sufficient to make a decision about whether to fund a project and getting reporting at the completion of a project sufficient for the WOC board to fulfill its fiduciary duty to its donors with (2) the ability of the recipient to provide the information and concern over paternalism.

It is the belief of the representatives of both ministry boards that these issues can be worked out to the satisfaction of both, and several “next steps” toward this goal have been suggested:

1. Compile the notes from the Atlanta meeting. (This report is in furtherance of that step.)
2. Present this report and suggest “next steps” at their respective spring meetings by participants in the Atlanta meeting.
3. Out of mutual respect for the work of each ministry, and in willingness to furthering God’s work, next steps include creating memoranda of understanding (MOU) between DOM/GM and WOC for each of the programs to avoid misunderstandings and outline clear expectations. Such memoranda will be especially helpful to maintain historical knowledge through changes in staff and board members.

- a. Discuss outcome of the GMI conversation from DOM/WOC meeting and recommendations for moving forward
 - i. In light of the fact that there is a document from 1988 stating how and why WOC funds the GMI program, participants recognized the need to address this and provide parameters under which GMI funding could continue. If the boards are agreeable, a member from each board will begin drafting the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between DOM/GM and WOC for GMI; to include, but not limited to:
 - 1. annual funding request (includes # of GMI being funded)
 - 2. name/location of GMIs being funded during the year
 - 3. invitation for GMI to present to WOC as part of their debrief
 - 4. update / story from GMIs being funded
 - 5. funding maximum as determined by WOC finances
 - ii. Per timing of respective board meetings, GMI funding could potentially resume in 2021.
 - b. Discuss outcome of SD proposal / grant conversation from WOC/DOM meeting and recommendations for moving forward
 - i. If the boards are agreeable, a member from each board will begin drafting the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between DOM/GM and WOC for SD, to include, but not limited to:
 - 1. WOC will continue to accept SD proposals from GM as funds allow
 - 2. GM will continue to secure proposals and reports, including adequate financial reports supporting how WOC funds were used, from partners, honoring both the fiduciary responsibility of the WOC to its donor base, as well as the relationship with partners and their ability to provide information.
4. Invite a representative from each board to attend the other ministry's board meetings (as a guest only), perhaps one meeting each year, in order to continue open dialogue between the ministries; not just through staff.