

Notes for Listening Session

- *functions of judicatory, what does it need to do
- *other examples of this process (New England, Iowa-Nebraska-SD)
- *regional constraints, concerns, how wide an area are we talking?
- *overlap between work of committees
- *what info do committees need to move forward
- *trust factor, where's it need most repaired?
- *how does leadership turnover factor in
- *points of vested interest, logistical and legal issues
- *formal structure of how people belong, have standing—judicatory
- *^^do so effectively, faithfully
- *language, is it widely accessible
- *trust factor w/ national setting, how it factors into this conversation (autonomy and covenant)
- *geography an issue? Emotional attachment also
- *isolation, difficulty connecting local congregations to wider UCC conversations
- *role of middle judicatory connecting churches to UCC-wide initiatives
- *regional specific focus?
- *funding concern, support authorization for ministers through national setting
- *what work of wider settings are we not seeing, appreciating? Connecting to.
- *How to foster support of this process? Connect to passions of local church
- *competing preferences around allocation of OCWM monies (efficiency!)
- *which functions are we focused on, what's considered ministry, what needs a specialist
- *concern with multiple audits, book-keeping, etc.
- *not just a position, function, personal connections also to employees
- *points of resistance, money and power, power more-so?
- *power over? Decisions, priorities, etc.
- *who has the real say? Be cognizant while pursuing changes
- *church bullies, all settings
- *paint the visionary, hopeful picture, attracting vision of Christ
- *efficiency as a symptom^^
- *role of camps in function of middle judicatory
- *precursor? Way of the future^^
- *what # of people, amount of money justifies a program, organization's existence
- *management out of house, focus on mission + Christian ed
- *how to articulate mission of UCC in Ohio, W. Virginia, N. Kentucky
- *what can we do better when called together, give churches glimpses of something bigger
- *felt arbitrariness of geographic boundaries, lack of connection, for instance, Ohio and Michigan
- *mission first, then efficiency
- *transition from "Christian ed" to "faith formation", support this substantive shift, broaden ministries
- *administrative functions as key components, church and ministry committee work makes ministry possible, for instance
- *offer gifts to wider church beyond our region
- *most important piece of Association work? Church and ministry? Variation in procedure across associations.
- *advantage to buffer between fitness review and local power structure, politics
- *premium on communication as builder of trust
- *take intermediate steps towards living into the new thing (nimble and responsive)
- *choice between fear and opportunity