NOTES FROM GROUP DISCUSSIONS – **PROPOSALS FOR GC45**

**ADDRESSING DECLINE IN MEMBERSHIP THROUGH EXPANDING INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY**

**1) The idea of a regular devotional**

There was general support about the idea of creating such a vehicle. Interest in how it might be created, and by whom. The assumption is that it would be electronic, and the hope is that it would use positive language, being sensitive to the traditions of the UCC and to the journey that the UCC is on.

**2) The idea of an intercultural committee at each RC**

Cannot be mandated by GC. Desire that work to welcome immigrants and refugees get attention. We need to be careful that this work is not city centric, given the large number of migrant workers and others who settle in the smaller communities and rural areas. This proposal fits well with the research we saw last night.

Desire that this proposal be split into two.

**Proposal #1 Équipes interculturelles dans chaque conseil régional**

Intéressant que l`église anglais n’ont pas de prière journalière. Nous avons déjà cela dans l’église francophone. Aimerait augmenter comme ‘daily bread’ d’inclure une réflexion

Très d’accord sur `tous soit bienvenu’ pour écouter et apprendre. Sauf quand j’entends interculturel, we will be ‘ghetto’izing a group of people who are already marginalized. They will do their thing but the rest of the church will stay comfortable.

Then we had a discussion on models of intercultural vs multicultural.

Comment mettre cela en pratique?

**Intercultural Ministry**

GC can not mandate RCs on structure

Why do we need another daily devotional? – there are hundreds out there

Where would the funding come from for intercultural ministries?

Administrative challenges of rotating amongst RCs

Responsibility and help should come from GC

Wording must be precise – one word can ruin a whole proposal

Challenge of integrating African communities who remain separate, e.g. Cameroonians vs. Ghanaians

Ask for amendment – not top down, where GC does not mandate structure for RCs

**Address to the declining membership**

We have to learn what intercultural ministry means

Is this motion same or similar with the 2006 of becoming an intercultural church.

It was noted that in the last three years we have received about three million immigrants

The united church should be heard and seen as it engages the current political issues like Universal pharmacare and dental care.

**Intercultural Ministry**

National level - resources?

Not one size fits all

Government policies pushing immigrants to regions outside of cities

Discussion of experience of Hungarian United Church, with burgeoning Korean United Church in same area.

Amount of energy to create daily devotional; ability to represent UCC values with diversity of sources

Should this be split into two proposals?

**On intercultural ministry and daily devotional:**

* what might it look like (survey showed they were interested in finding a place that was like what they had at home)
* dogma is a turn off for many United Church people and how would a daily devotional not be dogmatic as it would be a “prescribed” way of daily devotion.
* what would it look like? How would more progressive issues on LGBTQ2+ issues, non gendered language fit into more traditional worship styles that many immigrants are used to?
* many support with a full understanding of what each congregation would be getting into, one size does not fit all.
* World Council of Churches has already done work on this, do we have access to the information (not reinvent the wheel)