

## **Statement on Interim Operations Team/Connectional Table proposals**

January 27, 2012

The IOT/CT/COB legislation will most certainly have a negative impact on the ministry of the General Board of Church and Society. Our board of directors, which gives careful and thorough oversight to our work, will disappear. Further, the confiscation of an additional \$60 million of World Service funds, on top of the proposed 6 percent reduction, will result in a significant reduction of staff and programs across the general agencies. Already, over the past 40 years the staff of the general church has declined from 3100 to 1300. The capacity of the general agencies to serve the local church will diminish. There will be fewer missionaries, fewer Sunday school resources, less advocacy for peace and justice, fewer scholarships, and less assistance to the growing part of the church: Africa and the Philippines. All of the local churches in the United States raise and spend \$6.5 billion a year; about \$60 million of that goes to the general agencies. A great many of our clergy and laity labor under the misapprehension that much of the money raised in our local churches goes to the agencies. This is unfortunate.”

**Jim Winkler**

General Secretary, Board of Church and Society