

GC43 Business Outline Summary

1. Key new concepts:

The Executive of the General Council has given approval in principle to a new approach to business at General Council. To that end, a draft business plan for GC43 has been developed with the following key new concepts:

1.1 Pre-GC conversations: The General Council Office will solicit topics of conversation from the Commissioners to GC42 and will initiate conversations starting in early 2018 on topics of interest to the wider church. The pre-GC conversations may help to inform proposals from courts of the church to the 43rd General Council. They may also serve as an important end in themselves as conversations the church wishes to hold.

1.2 New proposal format: There is a new template for proposals to encourage the naming of an issue rather than a specific outcome. “Conversation proposals” are also encouraged, i.e. a proposal may also request a conversation on a particular issue as an end in itself.

1.3 Agenda limited to priorities set by GC43 Commissioners: Commissioners will review proposals and name the 10 issues in which they have the highest level of interest. Proposals on these issues will serve as the priority agenda for the GC meeting. Other proposals will be referred to GCE or dealt with in other manners, as decided by Commissioners.

1.4 Three-phase decision-making: Commissioners will engage in a three-phase process for all General Council business:

- **Listening and receiving information:** presentation of the proposal, questions, and answers to clarify issues and implications
- **Discussion and deliberation:** exchange of ideas, thoughts, arguments, pros and cons; emergence of suggestions for refinement of proposal, affirmations, naming of principles/parameters
- **Discernment and decision:** final debate and refinements of proposal in plenary; working towards consensus, voting.



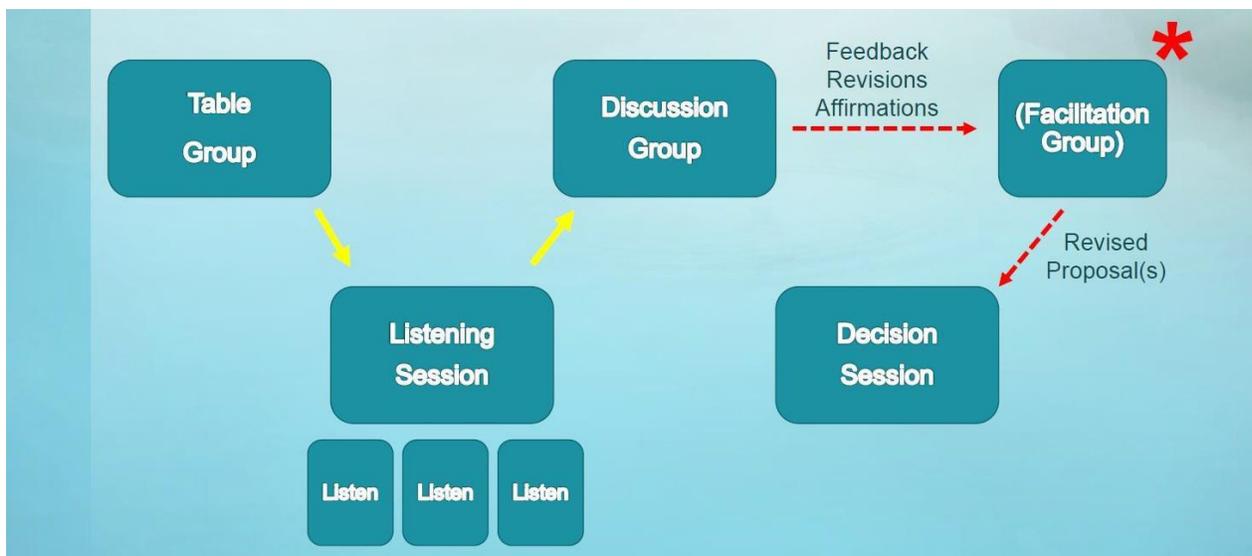
2. Outline of business process before General Council

The Pre-GC conversations, proposals from 2017 Conference General Meetings and work initiated by the General Council Office will all have the opportunity to be presented well in advance of GC43. The goal is to engage as much of the denomination as possible in these discussions, not just people already named as Commissioners. The Listening and Discussion phases will primarily take place before the General Council for these items.

Proposals from 2018 Conference General Meetings will be added to the workbook provided to Commissioners by late June. After having read the proposals contained in the workbook, Commissioners will decide on the 10 issues in which they have the highest level of interest. They will complete and return a response form to the General Council to indicate their 10 priorities by July 13, 2018. The Proposal Group will review the response forms and identify the 10 issues (likely made up of multiple proposals) of greatest interest to Commissioners. These 10 issues will form the focus of the agenda for the General Council meeting (with the agenda being subject to the approval of the General Council).

3. Outline of business process at General Council

While a Consent Motion will be used for some items, the majority of business (10 identified themes/issues) the General Council discusses will follow a 3-phase decision making process.



3.1 Listening Phase: There will be information sessions to inform Commissioners about the issues on the agenda. This will be a continuation of the Listening phase that took place prior to the General Council meeting.

Information sessions may be held in plenary or concurrently in break out rooms, with Commissioners selecting which listening sessions they will attend (they will not likely be able to attend all concurrent sessions).

If there has already been extensive coverage of the issue in the pre-General Council Listening Phase, the information session for that issue will likely take place in a breakout session (many Commissioners will have already spent time learning about it).

3.2 Discussion Phase: Commissioners will meet in Discussion Groups of approximately 30 people with a pre-named chair/host and a note-taker.

With concurrent breakout sessions during the Listening Phase, not all Commissioners will have attended an information session for every issue. Commissioners in the Discussion Groups will share what they have heard through the Listening Phase so that all Commissioners are informed about all the issues.

Discussion Groups will then deliberate on the proposals. They will decide on comments, affirmations, or suggestions for refinement. The note-takers will record these comments, affirmations, and suggestions. After discussion of a theme the Discussion Group will confirm the information to be recorded and shared. The reports from all Discussion Groups will be available for viewing by all Commissioners as well as the Facilitation Group.

* A Facilitation Group, made up of respected church elders (former Moderators and others) and not Commissioners, will meet to deliberate on the comments and suggestions from Discussion Groups. The Facilitation Group will decide on its recommended way forward for each proposal and draft a refined proposal to reflect that recommendation as necessary.

3.3 Decision-making Phase: The Facilitation Group's (refined) proposals will be distributed or made available electronically to Commissioners.

There will be final debate and refinement of the proposal in plenary, with the Facilitation Group returning to do more refinement as necessary. The process will conclude with a motion in response to the proposal and a vote on the motion.