

## Standing Committee on Strategy and Growth

During the 2017-2020 quadrennium, there shall be a Standing Committee on Strategy and Growth, directly responsible to the General Conference. Membership of the Committee is to represent the best among the entrepreneurs of local church revitalization. Its purpose is to develop and implement a strategy to first slow the decline in worship attendance and professions of faith, and then to return them to positive growth within the jurisdictional conferences.

The strategy's target is to arrest and reverse the decline by the end of 2024. The fruits from the work of the Committee during the 2017-2020 quadrennium goal must be sufficient to make reverse and decline by 2024 possible. This achievement also depends upon successful deployment of strategies among the agencies and the annual conferences. The work of the Committee is to be incremental to the host of programs in place that those to be developed among the annual conferences and the program agencies. The Committee offers to the denomination an avenue by which entrepreneurs will have the platform for refinement of their programs and the funding to expand their collective works to a national scale. Such refinements and scale would be impossible without the platform and funding of the Committee.

The Standing Committee is to have the freedom of perfecting new ideas and methods. Being responsible to the General Conference rather than an existing general agency ensures that the Committee is independent of the adopted plans among the program agencies and annual conferences. The ideas and methods of these entrepreneurs can be implanted without external obligations and commitments. This is not to disparage the work of the program agencies and annual conferences. Instead, the work of the Committee is to complement these other efforts.

The deployment of work by the Committee is to be strategic, perhaps targeting as few as 2,000 local churches within the jurisdictional conferences. All of the five jurisdictions are to benefit from this work.

The Committee is to maintain communication with the Connectional Table so that the collective work of the Committee and that of the program agencies are not in any way competitive or disruptive. The work of the Committee is to be supportive of the work of the program agencies and the annual conferences yet separate and independent. Representatives from the program agencies and annual conferences are to be invited to all face-to-face meetings of the Committee as observers. Members of the Committee are encouraged to positively respond to any invitations to agency meetings and events,

The Committee is to have the administrative support of the Council on Finance and Administration. All expenditures are to be approved by GCFA. GCFA is responsible for disbursing funds. GCFA is to manage all funds contributed to the effort by foundations and individuals.

The Committee is to have a maximum membership of 20 individuals. The initial members of the Committee shall include (as able):

Rev. Bob Farr

Rev. Lovett Weems, Jr.

Rev. Gil Rendle

Rev. Olu Brown

Rev. Stan Copeland

Mr. George Cooper  
Ms. Bonnie Marden  
Ms. Candice Lewis  
Bishop John Schol  
Bishop Gregory Palmer

The Committee members are to elect their own officers, as needed. The General Secretary of GCFA is to organize the first meeting. The Committee shall have the authority to replace members in the event of resignations.

The quadrennial budget for the Committee is to be, in part, the receipts from the General Administration Fund apportionment of \$20 million. The spending budget for the quadrennium is as follows:

	Number	Expense
Promotion Church Visits	1,200	6,720,000
Monitoring/Consultation Visits	900	5,040,000
Research Reports	1,250	3,500,000
Staff Salaries and Benefits	1	298,000
Office Space and Supplies	1	58,000
Meetings and Communication	8	320,000
Contingency		1,140,000
Total		17,076,000

The Committee is expected to encourage generous partners, foundations and individuals, who will provide additional financial support of the strategies, using the investments from General Church funds as evidence of the commitment from the denomination in these efforts.

The work of this Committee is of critical importance to the future of the denomination. The crisis of decline must be addressed through additional, significant strategies. The work of the program agencies and annual conferences are also critical in successfully addressing the crisis, but such work is too often strapped by restrictions, disciplinary mandates, and underfunding. The existing work of the entrepreneurs is hindered by an environment of competition between and among their efforts and the lack of funding to expand their works to a national or even a regional scale. The General Conference has the ability to create the platform in which these entrepreneurs can work together, sharing experiences and ideas, and the funding necessary to expand the scale of their collective works to more significantly face the crisis of decline.