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Over the last three years, two global leadership surveys, Delegates Meeting discussions and the Service Team meetings in Dallas last April led us to believe the time had come to consider improving our functionality and organization as a global family. The Service Teams who met in Dallas made only one decision: to take the conversations home to each of our regional families of churches. As a great sign of our commitment to each other and God's mission, every single family of churches in our fellowship sacrificed time and money to gather together to pray and explore where their convictions are leading them about our future together. We have heard a wide range of perspectives both pro and con. In answer to many prayers, the consensus with a majority of leaders is that it is time to move forward in some way in five general categories. Respected Elders and Evangelists were asked to chair and assemble Task Forces to begin to provide possible solutions for the issues that have been identified. We trust the Holy Spirit working through all of our brothers and sisters and look forward to what will be revealed for our next steps.

The Task Forces have been working diligently since mid-July with many hours of labor and weekly conference calls. They are an impressive collection of people from a wide range of spiritual backgrounds and diverse geographies.

These Task Forces reviewed input from all 34 regional families as well as welcoming additional input. They are prayerfully preparing some very encouraging ideas to be presented in the coming days on Disciples Today. Those solutions will be discussed for the next six weeks and the final versions will be presented at the Delegates Meeting in Chicago.

Collaboration Results: Three very important things happened in the last month.

1. The Task Forces asked for some additional input and direction from the leadership throughout our brotherhood. They are suggesting that instead of presenting specific solutions at this time, they present a few general concepts and options and allow the delegates to identify the best path to move forward.
   - The Task Forces would then refine the selected conceptual solution with a more thorough study over the coming months resulting in specific proposals that will be submitted for discussion and approval through the Delegates Proposal Process in 2018
   - Before finalizing their 2018 Proposals each Task Force would like to understand the preferred solutions for all task forces so that they can be appropriately integrated and coordinated.
2. The Elders Service Team has recommended that we take time to be more thorough in communication and deliberation in an effort to build the strongest consensus possible.
3. Several individuals and some families of churches have appealed for more time to engage in, and evaluate the solutions that are being proposed.

Editor's note: Please visit www.DisciplesToday.org for the entire story, this version was edited for space.

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- ***3.0 Global Missions Task Force Options***
  ICOC 3.0 Global Missions Task Force — Wednesday, 23 August 2017
  As we consider the continued development and effort to take the gospel to the "ends of the earth" we marvel at what God has done and what we believe God will continue to do through us as his people. We are incredibly humbled at the purposefulness with which...
- ***LCU Accepts First RMSMT Student Credits***
  Glenn Giles, Denver, CO, USA — Thursday, 17 August 2017
  Lincoln Christian University has accepted our first Rocky Mountain School of Ministry and Theology credits for transfer into their programs. Jan Louie Uy from Malaysia, one of our excellent RMSMT...
- ***Recap: ANCHORED Singles Weekend in Atlanta***
  Jillian Gillis, Atlanta, GA, USA — Tuesday, 15 August 2017
  The Bridge Pointe Church C.R.E.W Singles Ministry in Atlanta hosted an amazing ANCHORED Singles Weekend over the 4th of July weekend! Over 250...
- ***All Generations: The Real Reason You Should Go to Denver***
  Kathy Rosario, All Generations Conference — Monday, 31 July 2017
  We are on the cusp of a tremendous shift in our movement. For decades, our churches have focused time, energy, and resources on reaching our teens. We hired youth and family ministers. We engaged...

• UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 Family Ministry Conference
Denver, Colorado USA
September 1-3, 2017

SEC Singles Retreat
Asheville, North Carolina USA
September 1-3, 2017

Tri-State Singles Retreat
Granbury, Texas USA
September 8-10, 2017

HOPEworldwide Global Conference
Chicago, Illinois USA
October 6-7, 2017

ICOC Worship Conference
Dallas, Texas USA
October 13-15, 2017

DT Hawaii Cruise
Honolulu, Hawaii USA
October 28 - November 4, 2017

2020 World Discipleship Summit
Orlando, Florida USA
July 2-5, 2020

CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

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ICOC 3.0 "Forward by Faith" – Update #3

Written by Elders, Evangelists and Teachers Service Teams

Maintaining Unity of the Spirit through the Bond of Peace

Never before as a fellowship have so many engaged in a collaboration process as with the ICOC 3.0 Forward by Faith discussions. Facebook, emails, FaceTime, Skype calls, articles, phone calls, have all been ignited as we dream, discuss and debate our path forward as an international family of churches. Around the world disciples continue to pray and fast seeking the Spirit's guidance. Disciples Today has never seen so much traffic to understand our current leadership and check in for the updates and results of this global exploration. We have seen the results of conversations by more than 2,500 leaders from all six continents. Young and old, rich and poor, men and women, staff and volunteers alike are continuing to be heard in this conversation about our collective future. Many have said "I have been praying for this day to come"; while others have suggested that we "slow down, these are really big things to consider and we should be more thorough." We are a family of 108,000 members in 684 congregations in 144 countries. A big family gets a little complicated and we are grateful for the Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus that bind us together in love and respect.

All 34 regional family leaderships are participating in this process! Last month ICOC 3.0 Update #2 reported the results of the regional discussions. Four families of churches submitted supplemental reports that were distributed to all the leadership teams and Task Forces. The global perspective expressed in our regional conversations followed very closely with the results generated by the service team meetings in Dallas in April. We have consensus on these crucial items:

- We are and want to be a global family of churches.
- We are committed to God's mission to evangelize the world.
- We need to change to be more effective.
- There is a wide lack of understanding of how our current global leadership works.

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