



United in God's Work

Comprehensive Review Task Group
Final Report and Recommendations
March 2015



*We believe in God: who has
created and is creating...*

A New Creed

Recommendations at a Glance

1. **Invest** in new ministries and new forms of ministry
2. Continue to build a **relationship** between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples based on **mutuality, respect, and equity**

Recommendations at a Glance

3. Govern the church with **three councils**:

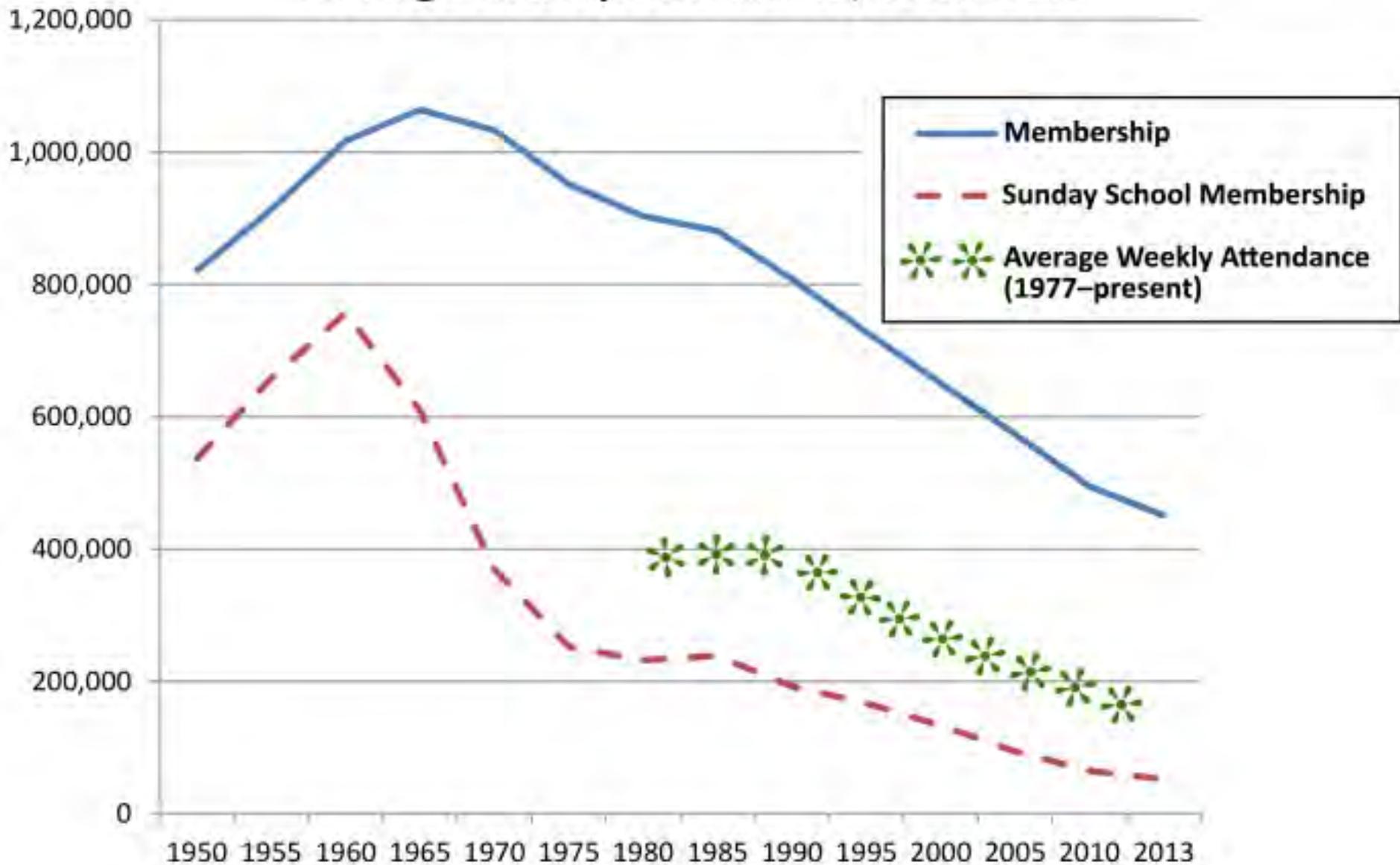
- Communities of faith
- Regional councils
- A denominational council

4. Establish a **College of Ministers** to accredit, oversee, and discipline ministers

Recommendations at a Glance

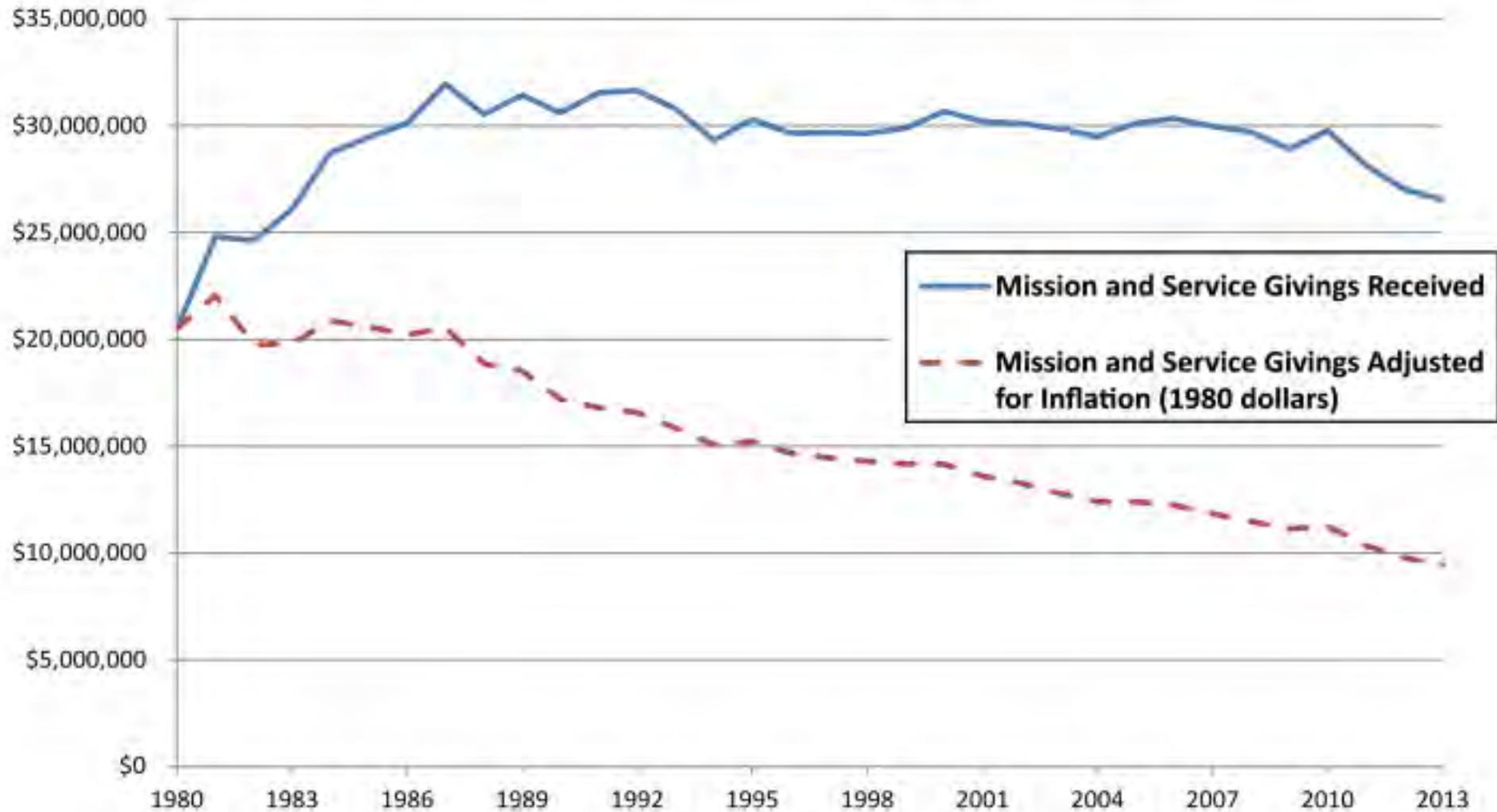
5. **Explore** whether to set up an **association of ministers** for collegiality and mutual support
6. Fund governance and support services through an **assessment**, and ministry and mission activities from the **Mission and Service Fund**

Membership, Sunday School Membership, and Average Weekly Attendance, 1950–2013*



*Statistics on average weekly attendance are available only for 1977 on.

Mission and Service Givings, 1980–2013





The Task Group

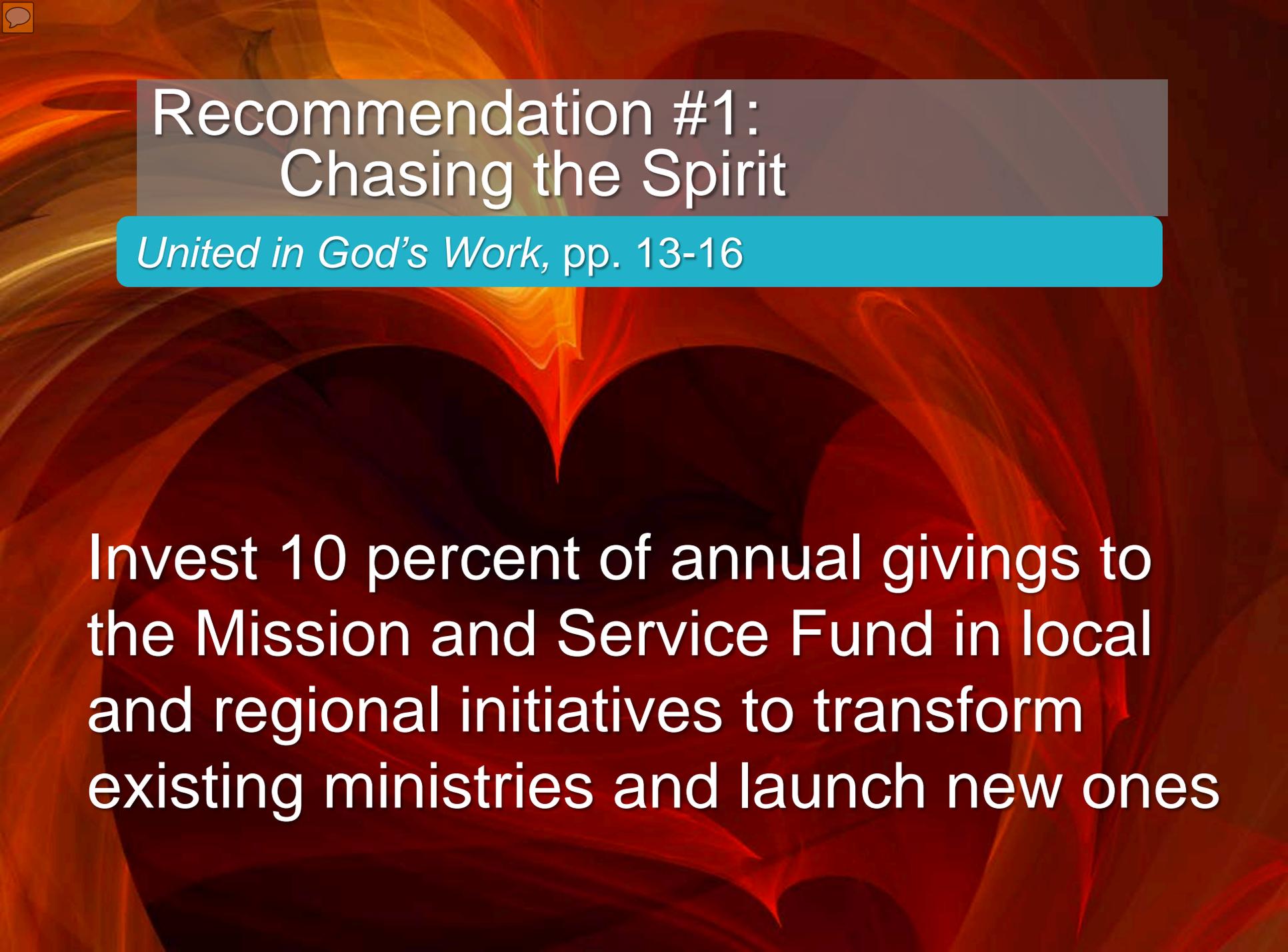
To learn more about the members, see Backgrounder #1

Principles of a New Model

1. **Simplify** structures and processes
2. Focus resources on **communities of faith**
3. Value being **united**
4. Join together to **witness to the gospel** locally, regionally, and denominationally
5. Embrace **diversity**

Principles of a New Model

6. Continue to live into **right relations** between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples
7. **Support** ministry and lay leaders
8. **Separate** oversight and discipline from collegial support
9. Make **funding** simpler, sustainable and transparent



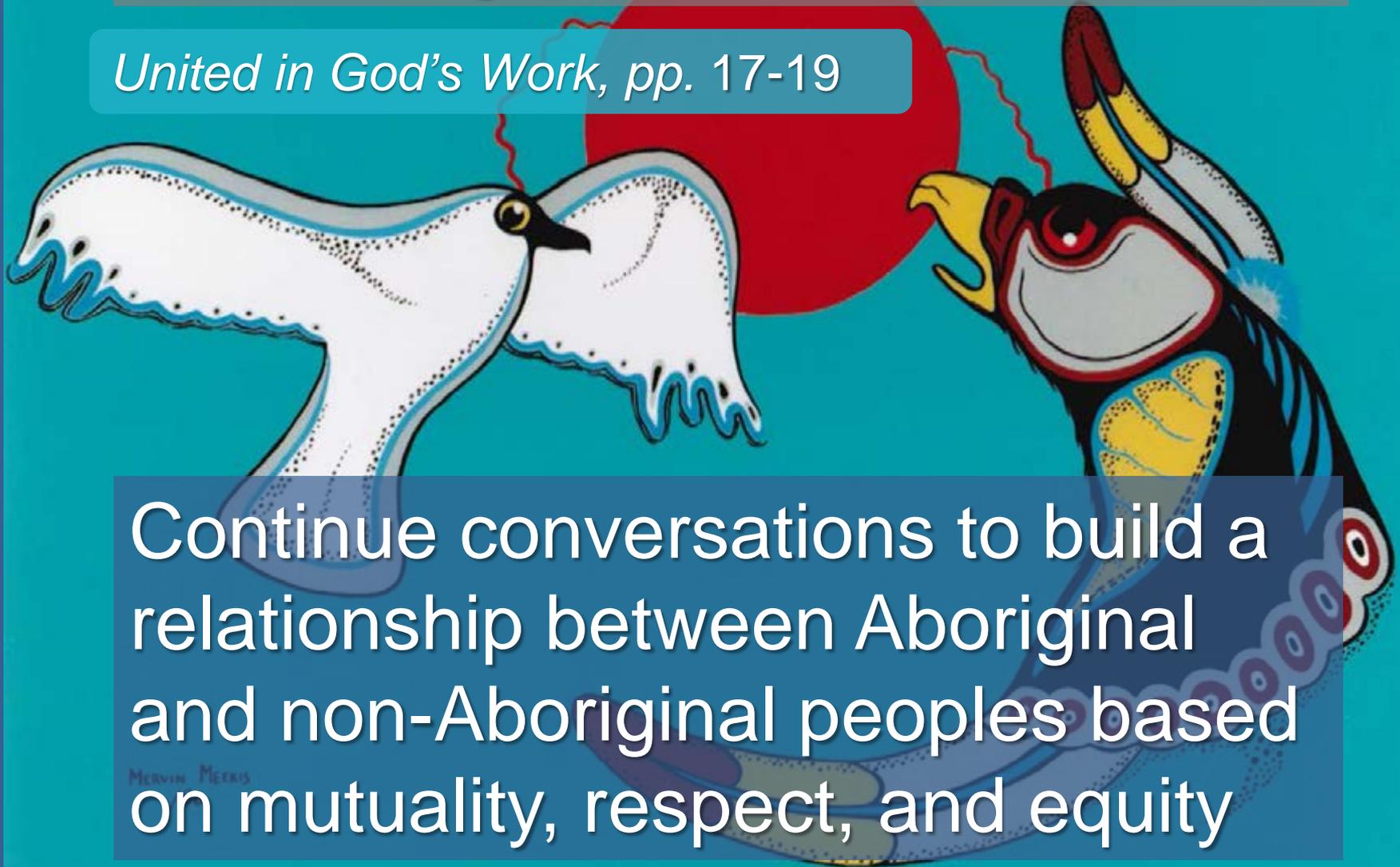
Recommendation #1: Chasing the Spirit

United in God's Work, pp. 13-16

Invest 10 percent of annual givings to the Mission and Service Fund in local and regional initiatives to transform existing ministries and launch new ones

Recommendation #2: Aboriginal Ministries

United in God's Work, pp. 17-19



Continue conversations to build a relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples based on mutuality, respect, and equity

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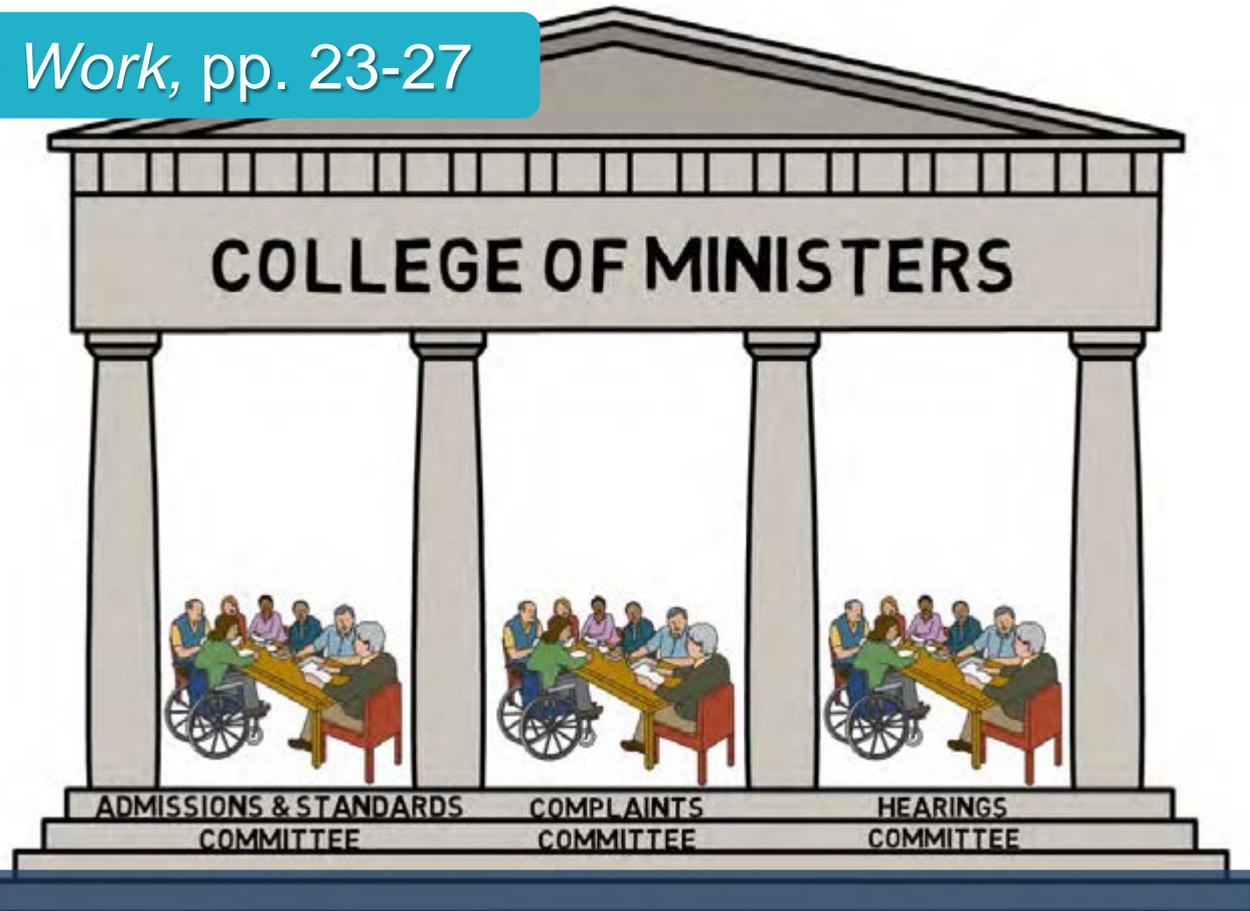
Recommendation #3: A Three-Council Model

United in God's Work, pp. 20-22

Establish three courts to govern the church; encourage clusters and networks for collegiality and common interests

Recommendation #4: A College of Ministers

United in God's Work, pp. 23-27

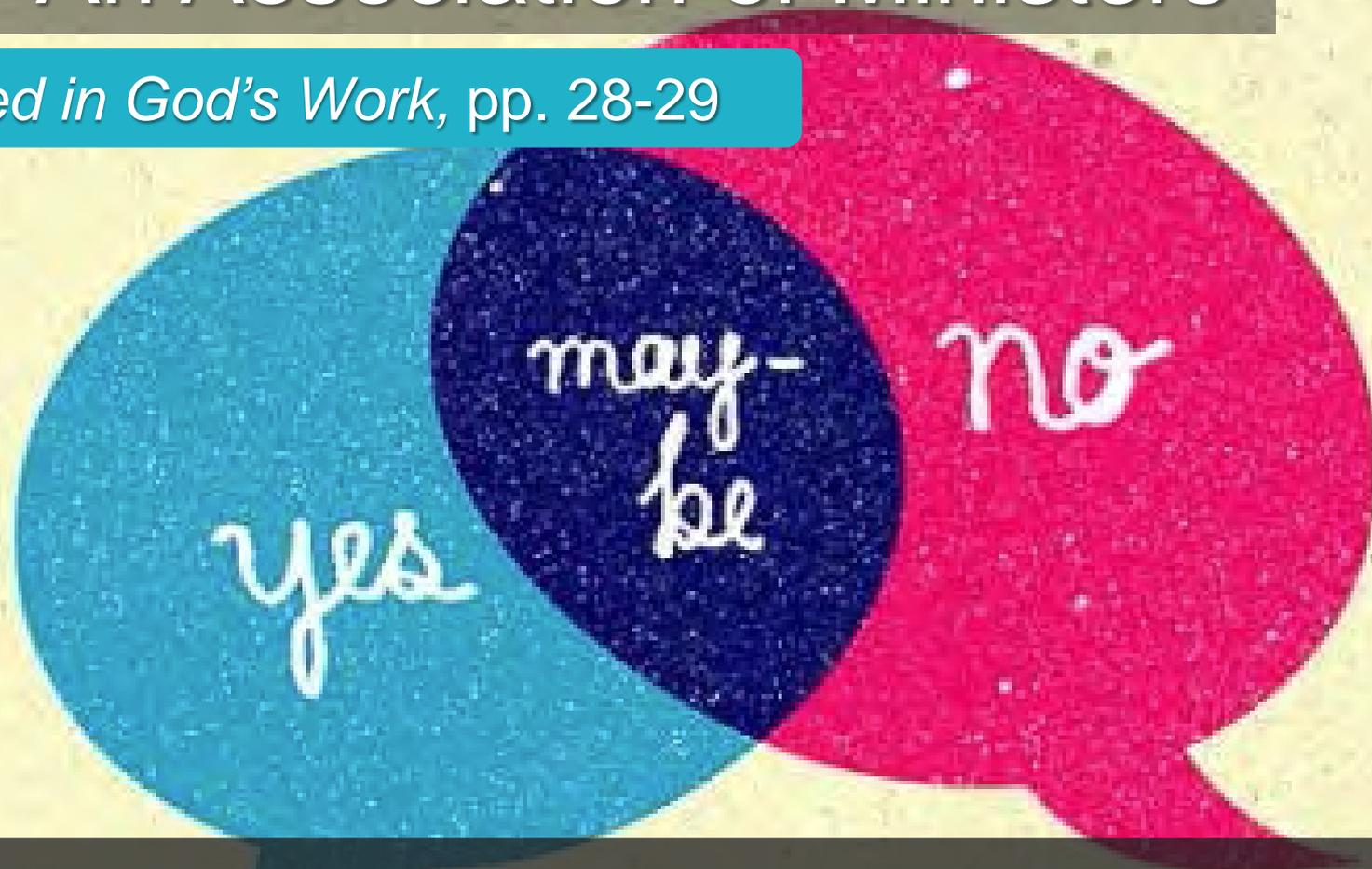


Establish a College of Ministers to
accredit, oversee, and discipline ministers

Recommendation #5:

An Association of Ministers

United in God's Work, pp. 28-29

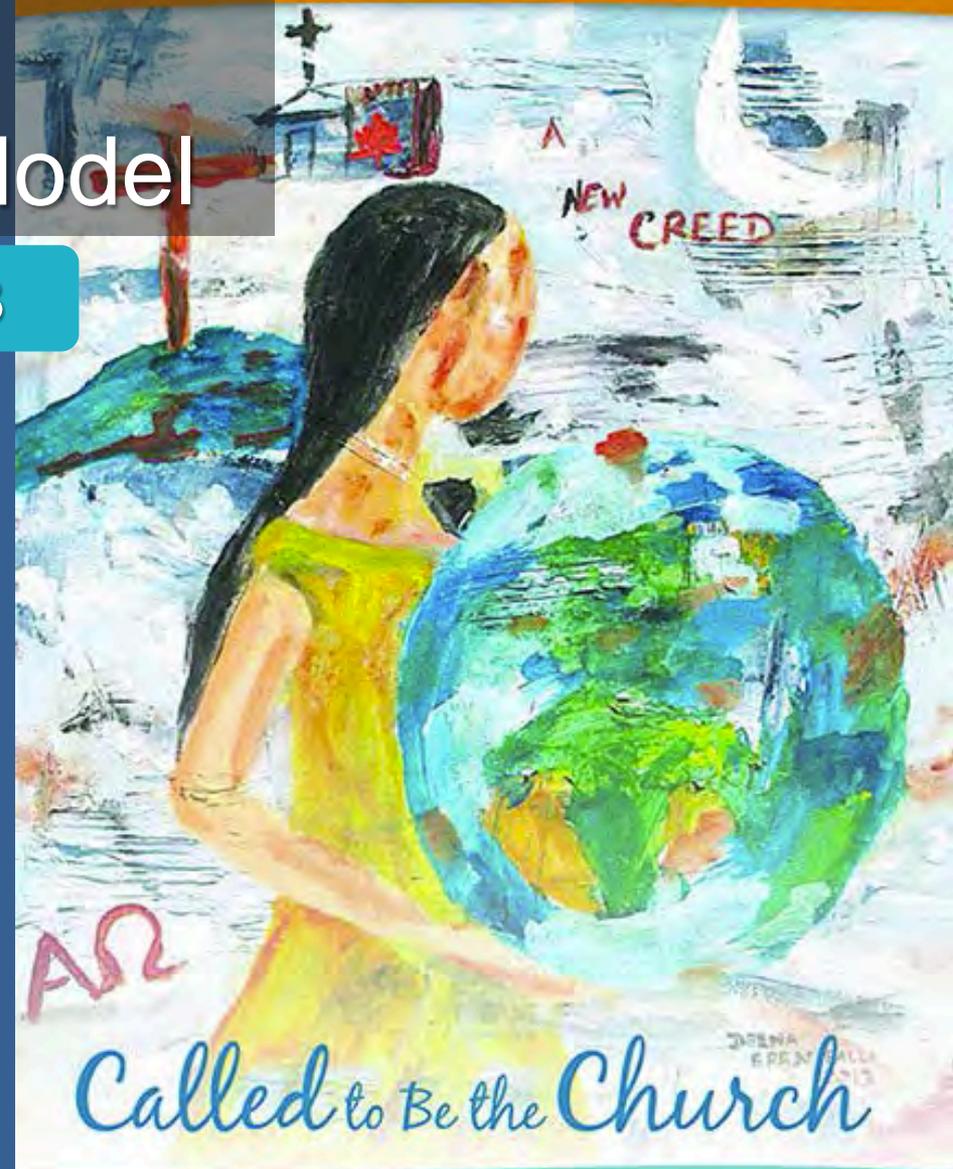


Strike a working group of ministers to explore whether to set up an association

Recommendation #6: Funding a New Model

United in God's Work, pp. 30-33

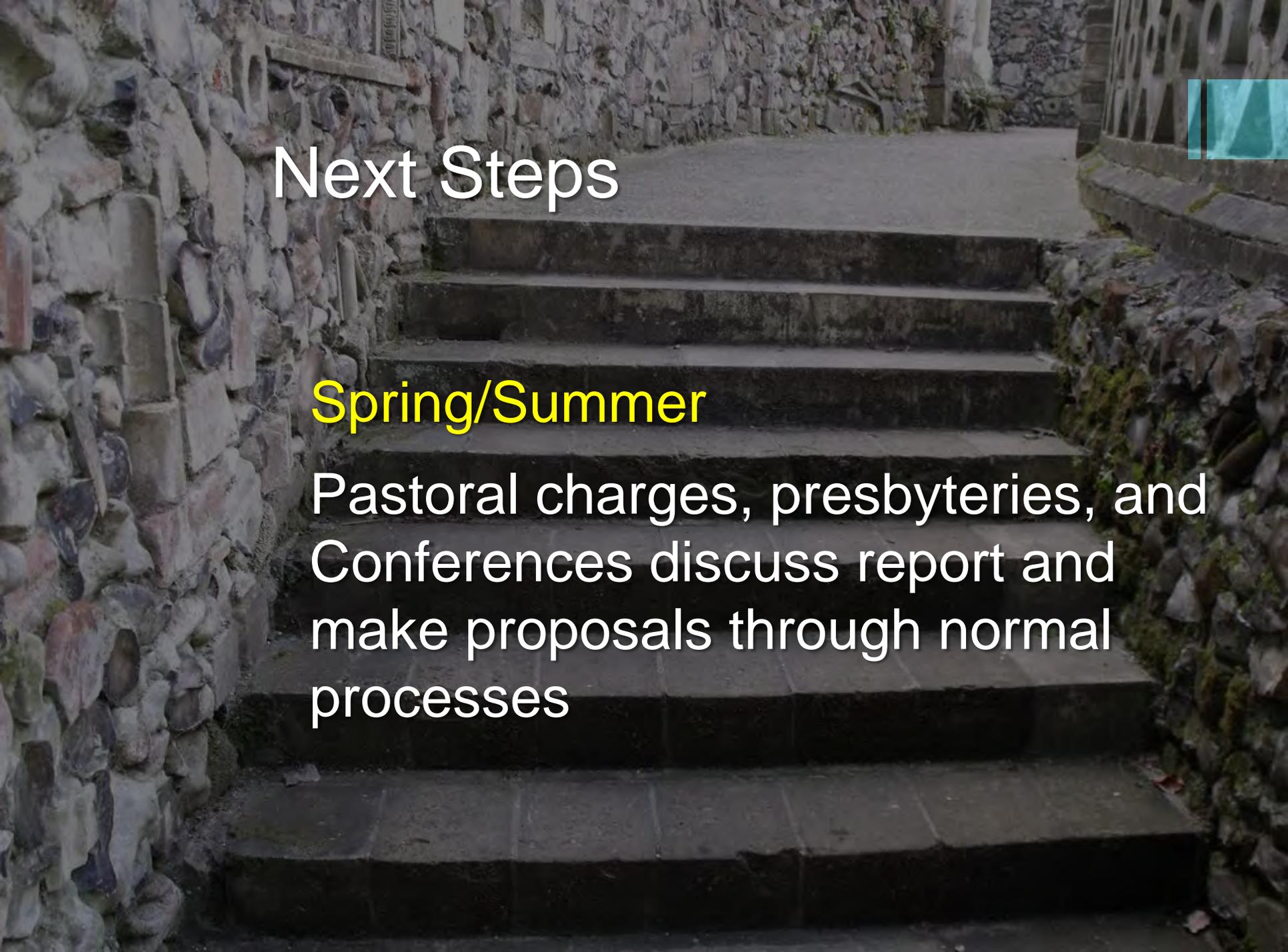
Use the Mission and Service Fund only for ministry and mission; fund governance and support services by assessing communities of faith



Are the proposals feasible?

Yes, but they would entail dramatic changes:

- At least \$11 million cut in spending
- Assessments would increase
- Presbyteries and Conferences would no longer exist and new regional councils would be created
- Significant staff cuts at denominational and regional councils



Next Steps

Spring/Summer

Pastoral charges, presbyteries, and Conferences discuss report and make proposals through normal processes

Next Steps

August 8-15

42nd General Council makes decisions about recommendations and any additional proposals it receives



Next Steps

Post Council

Implementation plan developed

Remits sent to presbyteries and
pastoral charges

Major cost reductions begin in 2016

A landscape photograph showing a dirt road leading through a field towards a bright sun breaking through a cloudy sky. The sun is positioned in the upper center, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is filled with soft, white and grey clouds. The ground is a mix of brown dirt and green grass.

Conclusion

*...God is with us
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.*

A New Creed

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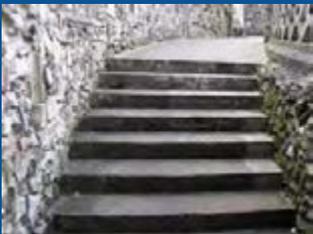
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