



# WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE FELLOWSHIP REPORT

January, 1987

To: The Fellowship  
From: Leah Goodrich, Chairperson  
World Service Conference

Earlier this month we had the January Joint Administrative Committee Meeting to complete the information to be presented in the Conference Agenda Report. At that meeting, we had several lengthy discussions pertaining to the procedure regarding regional motions and their inclusion in the Agenda Report. At the present time the procedure for motions being submitted from regions to be included in the Agenda Report is confusing. Procedural motions the WSC has adopted in the past pertained mostly to the course of action to be followed by world service committees or boards. This issue is more thoroughly discussed in the WSC Vice-Chairperson's report but I think the issue is so important I wanted to draw your attention to his report.

Another issue I would like to discuss regards the commitment that is necessary of our trusted servants. There is an absolute mountain of work being presented to the Conference participants this year. Each issue that is being presented for your consideration, has been the subject of careful study and attention. Every item represents many long hours of work by your trusted servants. The responsibility now rests on the RSR's, and other regional officers to facilitate a full discussion on these matters within your regions.

There is always a need for more and qualified world level trusted servants to accomplish the growing volume of work. As we approach our annual spring meeting some of you may be contemplating the possibility of becoming a servant of the WSC or one of its committees or boards. Those of you who are serious need to understand some of the personal sacrifice it requires. Service on most committees requires attendance at workshops, meetings and in conference phone calls. This requires that each member be able and willing to give up their personal time to participate fully. In just this year alone I can count on one hand the weekends that most world level trusted servants were free of conference responsibilities. The amount of work to be done is certainly not getting any smaller. It can be absolutely awesome to the uninitiated the amount of time it takes to complete a project and the time spent away from home, work and families. The rewards of personal growth from service are great and lasting....but so is the sacrifice.

The Select Committee met again this month to continue its work. The committee has worked long and hard in meetings and done more work at home. With the help of a loving God, we'll have a document that will be adequate to serve the needs of our ever-growing Fellowship. There is more information about the Select Committee in the Agenda Report.

There will be additional reports mailed before the Conference starts in April that will provide further information to WSC participants. Included in these reports will be a tentative budget, proposed standing rules for the Conference, and a final Agenda.

During recent years a number of new Conference Participants have complained that they were inadequately prepared for the Conference. They felt they were unfamiliar with the procedures used in debate, amending motions, making nominations and other matters. In order to avoid that problem the WSC Administrative Committee will hold an orientation meeting on Sunday afternoon preceding the Conference. It will be an opportunity for those of you new to the WSC a chance to ask questions and discuss the procedures before you get thrown into the middle of the meeting.

Copies of the Conference Agenda Report are going to be mailed at the expense of the Conference to all Conference voting participants. Additional copies are sent to each RSR Alternate and RSC. Additional copies of the report can be purchased from the WSO for \$5.00. There is a short order form on the last page of this report for your use in ordering more copies.

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To: The Fellowship  
From: Chuck Lehman, Vice Chairperson,  
WSC '86-'87

Since my last report much work has gone into the development of the Conference Agenda Report. I participated in several conference phone calls to various Conference committees and representatives of regional service committees in an effort to clarify motions and language proposed for the 1987 Conference Agenda Report.

An important matter to discuss as a result of these meetings is the process by which motions are included in the Conference Agenda Report. WSC committees, the WSO Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees develop and submit motions to be included in the Agenda Report. During the past three years motions from regional service committees have also been included. The decision to include those motions was largely an arbitrary one made by the WSC Administrative Committee and was done primarily as matter of courtesy to the RSC's making the motions. It provided the Fellowship as a whole with some advance notice of motions which might come to the floor of the Conference.

The motions that are made by Conference committees, the WSO Board and the BOT have routinely been discussed within their respective committees or boards for the better part of one year, and in some cases longer. They are generally formulated during working meetings held at the Quarterly workshops or regularly scheduled board meetings. The WSC, the WSO and the BOT regularly report about these subjects in the Fellowship Report and the *Newsline*. Furthermore, all world service boards and committees regularly seek and receive input from throughout the Fellowship, which is considered and used during the formation of motions to be included in the Agenda Report. In this way the Fellowship as a whole is generally well informed and prepared to discuss and arrive at an informed group conscience on motions which are presented in the Conference Agenda Report by world service committees and boards.

What about motions submitted by RSCs that are included in the Conference Agenda Report? While it is safe to assume that their motions have been widely discussed in their home region and perhaps even in neighboring regions, there is every likelihood that Fellowshipwide discussion would not occur until their motions appear in the Conference Agenda Report. It is safe to assume that RSCs do not seek nor receive substantial input from throughout our worldwide Fellowship when considering, discussing and developing their motions. When motions from RSCs are included in the Conference Agenda Report, the Fellowship

as a whole is forced to try and come to an informed group conscience without benefit of all the information. The Fellowship might assume, in some cases, the intent of the motion and try to ascertain its impact.

Motions generated by world service committees and boards for inclusion in the Conference Agenda have been developed with input from through the Fellowship and are discussed regularly in Fellowship Reports and *Newsline* articles.

Motions generated by RSCs for inclusion in the Conference Agenda Report frequently reflect territorial input and are forwarded with little information for Fellowshipwide consideration.

The *Temporary Working Guide to Our Service Structure* (TWGSS) gives some direction in this area on Page 37 IV. The language, although far from being comprehensive, indicates that all input to the conference including motions should be directed to a specific committee. Further, Page 44 TWGSS (date carried 4/26/84) indicates that only material approved by a WSC committee is sent out in "approval from." Both of these sections seem to indicate that motions generated in RSCs should be referred to Conference committees for action rather than included in the Conference Agenda Report. This notwithstanding, the WSC Admin. Committee did not feel that they could break with the recent practice of including motions from RSCs in this year's Conference Agenda Report. We do however, support the Conference committee system and feel that, in most cases, motions from RSCs should be referred to the appropriate Conference committee or board. The committee or board in question would study the motion and recommend to the Conference, under new committee business, a course of action. The motion would most likely become part of the committee or board's new business for the following year. The matter would be thoroughly discussed and worked on in committee and be reported to the Fellowship throughout the year in Fellowship reports and *Newsline* articles. The motion could, after action by the committee, be included in the Conference Agenda Report for action by a fully informed Fellowship.

The practice of having regions submit motions directly to the Conference should be followed only if the appropriate Conference committee or board refuses to consider the idea or motion suggested. If the committee or board refused to consider the idea, the region should then study the matter and propose a motion for the following WSC meeting. If presented in time the motion could be included in the Agenda Report. But even if the region missed the deadline for the Agenda Report the region always has the right to introduce the motion on the floor of the Conference. Motions which are brought to the floor always receive broad debate and Conference participants are able to consider both pros and cons prior to making a decision.

I believe our Fellowship suffers when we make decisions in haste, without the opportunity to consider all the ramifications involved. Our world service committee and boards have delegated responsibility to facilitate conference business. Our Fellowship Report, *Newsline* articles and special reports to the Fellowship are all vehicles used to keep our Fellowship informed. We must be willing to utilize these systems if we are to expect informed group conscience decisions from our Fellowship.

As the Vice-Chairperson of your WSC I felt it was important to initiate this discussion. However, I am reminded of the concept "I can't...but we can." Please provide me with your thoughts on this or any subject related to our Fellowship. With your help, I will become a better trusted servant.