

TQ:REGIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE
FROM :AL REISSER
RE:WORLD SERVICE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING,OKLAHOMA QUARTERLY

The Policy Committee met on August 16,17 and 18.Discussion ensued about projects that would be focused on during the up-coming workyear.These projects will be:RSR Working Groups,Rotation & Continuity,Seating of New Regions.

→ During a very lengthy and well thought out discussion concerning the seating of new regions it was clear that the difficulty with determining criteria for the seating of new regions over the past years was due to inherent problems with the World Service Conference itself.It has been clear to those who have attended the WSC in recent years that the Conference has become a mass bureaucracy and so has not been able to serve the needs of its membership.This has been particularly clear when it pertains to the International Fellowship.

As I have reported over the past few years as RSR The International members of the WSC have complained a great deal about traveling half way around the world to attend the WSC only to be subjected to very lengthy discussion and debate over things such as guideline changes. These issues have been very near and dear to us on the East Coast but mean absolutely nothing to the German-speaking Region where 98% of the members can't read the guidelines anyway.

Try to picture a regional meeting with 60 member areas (60 ASR's), all of the sub-committee chairs and executive committee members as well as 15 board of trustees all voting. 10 of the area's members can't speak English. Make the meeting 12-16 hours a day for a week. Try to meet the needs of all the members represented at that meeting and you can begin to get an appreciation for what the World Service Conference is like.

→ After long discussion (from 9a.m.- 11p.m. on Friday) of these and related issues it became clear that the Policy Committee unanimously agreed that it would only be a band-aid measure to suggest to the Conference another seating of regions plan. At that point we began to discuss a plan for a National Service Conference separate from the WSC that would focus on the needs of the U.S. Fellowship.

After discussing this plan the Committee realized that this was definitely a long term plan that would have many unforeseen implications and would take the cooperation of many service arms and bodies.

→ The Policy Committee decided to report to the Fellowship it's findings and determination and to suggest to the Fellowship, in terms of a motion in the Conference Agenda Report, that we begin to develop a working plan to move towards a National Conference structure.

We also discussed the input we received on the RSR Working Group survey that was sent to Conference participants. It seems as though most members were in favor of a formal plan for RSR working groups but there was mixed opinion around how much direct influence these groups would have on the Conference. More to come on this.

As always, it has been a pleasure and honor to serve.

In Loving Service,
Your Friendly Neighborhood Policy
Member,

Al