

**Report of the Digital Technology Committee
September 16, 2005**

Present

Chair: Mark Conard

Members: Paul Black, Elnora Hamb, Alvin Horton, Devin Mauney, Michael
McCurry, Candis Shannon, Connie Shelton

Staff: Danny Mai, Matt Carlisle, Chuck Russell

The Digital Technology Committee recommends approval of the following action items:

ACTION ITEMS

Response to General Conference petitions

1. Al Horton/Paul Black moved that we proceed with e-mail addresses that serve as a pass-through system to pastors' ISP. The system would be operated as an opt-in system, with standards developed to verify users when they set up their accounts and that guidelines for assignment of user names/nomenclature be established.

2. Al Horton/Devin Mauney moved that in response to the petition referred to the communications commission the General Commission on Communications host a Digital Age Summit to be held in October 2007 as a substitute for the task force suggested in the petition. The event will be largely funded on registration and will include the groups mentioned in the petition.

The chair agreed to e-mail the originators of these petitions to let them know of the action being taken.

The committee also gave permission to the chair working with staff to plan and schedule any intermediate meetings of the committee that may be needed and that members would utilize the Web-conferencing tool to hold such meetings.

The committee expressed their deep appreciation to the staff for the excellence of their work.

The Digital Technology Committee reports the following information items:

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Matt Carlisle gave a report on the umc.org Web site and its move to a user-centered design that was more invitational and relationship-centered. The long-range goal is to assemble a family of UMC Web sites that provide a unified presence and message.

2. Danny Mai reported on a September 14 teleconference with Kintera concerning the company's revised financial position and their cutback of staff by 10 percent. He noted that Kintera just secured the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund and appears to be increasing their non-profit clientele. The major concern was that UMCCom not lose the ability to have customization done on their projects.

3. Chuck Russell reported on several Digital Solutions from the TechShop. These included:
 - The rollout of a Google search engine for UMC Web sites. The committee noted that issues could arise concerning content from searches on controversial topics and that some guidelines may be need development in the future.
 - The production of Web conferencing tools using Macromedia Breeze which will be for sale in the near future to annual conferences.

4. Danny Mai reviewed the strategy maps that have been developed by staff.