

Report of Group Discussions

1.
 - ✓ Change Assessment System
 - Flat tax on contributions
 - Incremental system for new church starts – 0 for year 1; 20% for year 2; 40% for year 3; etc.
2.
 - ✓ 10% tithe of budget of location congregations?
 - ✓ Tax/Assessment asset sales?
 - ✓ Do we have a stewardship strategy?
3.
 - ✓ New Church Start “scared to death” to organize
4.
 - ✓ Concentrated on negatives
 - Congregations lack understanding of what assessments go to – people like to give to tangible items
 - Our system (civil) rewards tax avoidance – gaining the system
 - Look at expenditures at denominational level and lift them to local level
5.
 - ✓ Reframe assessments – what are they?
 - There’s less connection to RCA; identity
 - Don’t base it on membership; perhaps on budget
 - Change the word
 - Present it as a part of being connected
6.
 - ✓ Currently no “incentive” for churches to join the RCA
 - ✓ Our Call is to be done on classis level, yet more money goes to regional synods and General Synod
7.
 - ✓ We’re punishing what we’re promoting
 - ✓ No tangible benefit to organization
 - ✓ Perhaps assess on basis of giving
 - ✓ Can/would churches support an assessment level that’s greater than COLA? Depends on motion at General Synod.