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Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is for Jesus Christ himself that our Texas Annual Conference is "Bound for Greater Things: Building Our Future together."

This packet contains recommendations from the Strategic Mapping Team and the Council on Finance and Administration. Material on which you will be voting is clearly indicated by a black border.

Many of you have participated in developing, reviewing, or commenting on these recommendations in district meetings, the Joint Program Council and other groups. The Strategic Mapping Team and Cabinet studied your responses and made many changes and clarifications as a result. Thank you for your prayers, energy, enthusiasm, and wise counsel.

Recommendations contained in this packet focus in three major areas: structure, budget and accountability. They realign our Conference to support and achieve the vision, mission, key drivers and core beliefs adopted in November 2005.

Many of our congregations already have streamlined to facilitate mission and ministry. These simplified organizations are more flexible, provide more support for mission, and redirect energy from meetings to ministry. Recommendations for the Annual Conference mirror those local church changes. We believe they will facilitate our mission: "to equip congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world to the glory of God."

Budget recommendations from the Council on Finance and Administration are included separately in this packet. They are the result of a lengthy process of assessment and review that included the following criteria: alignment with the Conference vision and mission, fruitfulness, good stewardship and support to local churches or the larger church.

Finally, you authorized the Strategic Mapping Team to propose a process of accountability. The team recommends four "Evidence of Fruitfulness" measures for 2007-professions of faith, worship attendance, active involvement in mission and conectional generosity. In addition, the team suggests that its members and the Bishop visit each District early in 2007 to assess effectiveness of the Model for Ministry and make improvement recommendations to the 2007 Annual Conference.

I hope you will read these materials carefully and bring them to Annual Conference.

This is a defining moment in the Texas Annual Conference. I ask for your prayers that our decisions will lead us to "vibrant, growing congregations changing lives and reshaping futures for Jesus Christ."

Grace and peace,

Janice Riggle Huie

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, Jesus saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. LUKE 5:1-6 (NRSV)

Many pastors and laity and congregations have been working hard the last few years. Compared to the population increases in the Texas Annual Conference, our “catch” has been small. Once again, Jesus is inviting us to “put out into deep water and let down our nets.” Like the first disciples, some of us may say, “We’ve done this before.” Others may say, “Such deep water is too risky.” Still more will say, “I’m just tired.” However, for those hardy souls ready to follow him anywhere, Jesus fills their nets to overflowing.

THE CHALLENGE AND OUR RESPONSE

The Challenge

This is a defining moment for the Texas Annual Conference. All but one of the fifty-eight counties we serve will grow during the next twenty years. Population in our area will grow by 30.5% overall. Growth in some areas will be dramatic. The opportunity before us is great.

Against this backdrop, concerning trends have emerged in recent years. Worship attendance, professions of faith, baptisms, and confirmation class enrollments are all down, as is total giving. These trends are Conference-wide, despite the fact that we have outstanding clergy, dedicated laity, and strong churches of all sizes.

Our Response

Recognizing these challenges, the May 2005 session of the Annual Conference authorized creation of a Strategic Mapping Team, comprising clergy and laity and chaired by the Bishop. The team was charged to develop recommendations that would help the Conference become more effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Strategic Mapping Team proposed a new Conference Vision, Mission, Key Drivers, and Core Beliefs and related recommendations for adoption at a called session of the Conference held November 19, 2005. These recommendations were presented by team members and discussed by the Conference. The Conference adopted the team's recommendations overwhelmingly and enthusiastically

VISION

Vibrant, growing congregations changing lives
and reshaping futures for Jesus Christ.

MISSION

Equip congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world to the glory of God.

KEY DRIVERS

Spirit-led
Excellence
Fruitfulness
Accountability

CORE BELIEFS

We believe in:

Radical hospitality
Passionate worship
Faith-forming relationships
Risk-taking mission
Extravagant generosity
Connectional ministry
Fervent prayer and
diligent study of Scripture

Additional Charges

The called session also authorized reorganizing the Conference into nine Districts, created a Center of Congregational Excellence and a Center of Clergy Excellence, and authorized the Mapping Team to develop additional recommendations concerning further Conference restructuring, enhanced accountability within the Conference, and realignment of the Conference budget-all to support our new mission and vision.

This work was carried forward under overall direction of the Strategic Mapping Team. Two additional groups, a Rules and Structure Team and a Ministry Assessment Team, were appointed by the Bishop working with the Cabinet, to broaden participation in these important tasks and accomplish the work in an aggressive schedule from January to April, 2006.

Summary of Recommendations

- Reorganize Conference committees and staff to support our vision and mission
- Increase support to local churches
- Enhance accountability within the Conference
- Shift focus from committee maintenance to ministry and mission

RESOLUTIONS

In response to instructions of the November 2005 called session of the Texas Annual Conference, the Strategic Mapping Team recommends adoption of five resolutions:

1. Model for Ministry

Be it resolved that the Model for Ministry in the Texas Annual Conference be adopted, replacing the previous conference structure.

2. Conference Rules

Be it resolved that the Conference Rules proposed by the Strategic Mapping Team be adopted, replacing the previous conference rules.

3. Assessment for Model for Ministry and District Alignment

Be it resolved that the Strategic Mapping Team and the Bishop visit every District in February-March, 2007, to ask for feedback regarding: 1) the Model for Ministry, and 2) transition into new Districts, and report their findings and recommendations to the Texas Annual Conference session in 2007.

Be it further resolved that the Strategic Mapping Team will recommend to the 2007 Annual Conference a process for ongoing evaluation and assessment of fruitfulness of the Model for Ministry and district structure, and make any necessary recommendations to enhance support of the Model for Ministry to Districts and local churches.

4. Evidence of Fruitfulness

Be it resolved that the four Evidence of Fruitfulness measures for 2007 be adopted.

5. Composition of the Core Leadership Team

Whereas the Model for Ministry is being implemented in mid-quadrennium, be it resolved that from June 1, 2006 until May 31, 2008, the membership of the Core Leadership Team be recommended to the Annual Conference by the Bishop from a pool of names submitted by the Nominating Committee, Cabinet, and Bishop.

OVERVIEW

Model for Ministry in the Texas Annual Conference

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus issued a charge to his disciples: “*go into the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.*” John Wesley took up that charge 1800 years later as he directed a group of Methodist circuit riders to “*reform the nation and spread scriptural holiness across the land.*”

in November of 2005 the Texas Annual Conference took a giant step toward a God-shaped future, guided by a clear vision and mission. Our vision is: *vibrant, growing congregations changing lives and reshaping futures for Jesus Christ.* Our mission is: *equipping congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world to the glory of God.*

In order to make our vision a reality, and to fulfill our mission, we voted to make significant changes within our Conference.. The Conference also authorized development of a revised structure and rules to support and realize our Vision, Mission, and Core Values. The Model for Ministry in the Texas Annual Conference constitutes the revised structure. The Model for Ministry is built around four principles:

- Realign our structure to reflect and support our vision, mission and values.
- Provide greater ministry support to local churches, clergy and laity.
- Shift our focus from committee maintenance to mission and ministry.
- Provide flexible rules and structure which can evolve with the conference, and which comply with the Book of Discipline.

A unique component of the updated structure is creation of a Core leadership Team (CLT), which will act between Conference sessions to insure that decisions of the Conference are implemented in accordance with our mission, vision and values. The Core Leadership Team will also provide coordination, focus, and direction as we build a culture of mutual accountability throughout the Conference.

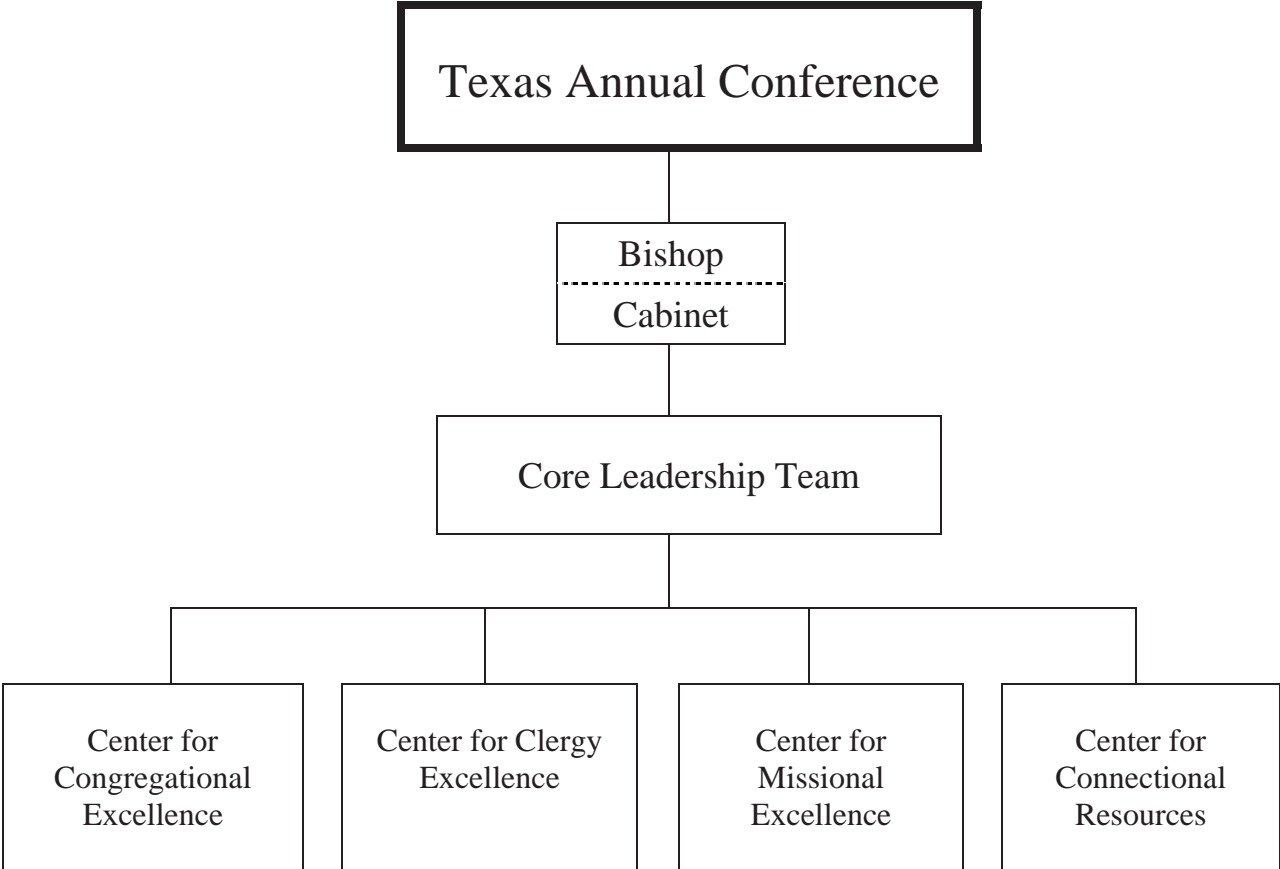
Other key features are implementation of Centers for: Congregational Excellence, Clergy Excellence, Missional Excellence and Connectional Resources. The Centers for Congregational Excellence and Clergy Excellence are new, and were authorized by the November 2005 Conference session. The Centers for Missional Excellence and Connectional Resources largely refocus current efforts.

The Model for Ministry is faithful to requirements of the *Book of Discipline. (BOD)*. It continues mandated committees or groups, and provides appropriately for mandated functions. The charts illustrate the recommendations, and relationships between the Annual Conference, the Core Leadership Team, and the Centers.

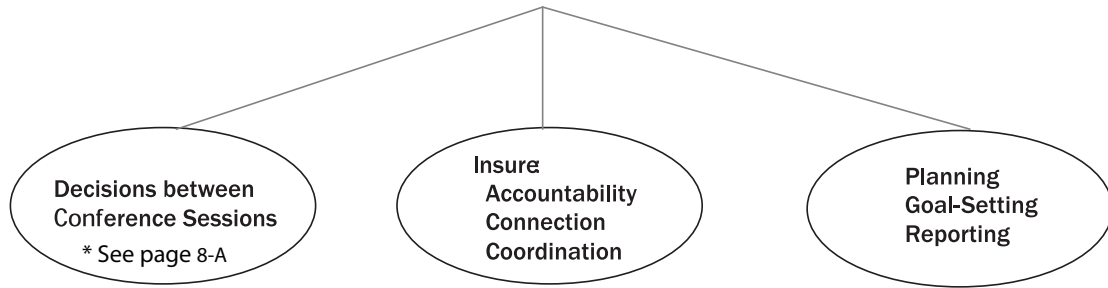
As we have created this Model for Ministry, we have been thankful for those who created and lived out our present structure. As the prophet Isaiah challenged God's people to see the new thing God was doing (Isaiah 43:18-19), he called them to remember all that God had done before. We remember and give thanks for those who have gone before, and the faithfulness of their ministry. Building on their foundation, we enter into the future with boldness and daring.

As we consider the new Model for Ministry in the Texas Annual Conference, we remember the conviction of John Wesley that "... the kingdom of God will not 'come with observation,' but will silently increase wherever it is set up, and spread from heart to heart, from house to house, from town to town, from one kingdom to another." The movement of God among us is what we seek in our new Model for Ministry.

Overview of Major Structure Components



Core Leadership Team



Composition:

Voting Members

- One Member from each of the nine Districts
- Three At-Large Members
- One Cabinet Member
- The Conference Lay Leader
- The Bishop, or the Assistant to the Bishop, who will chair the Core Leadership Team*

Ex-Officio Members without vote

- The Director of the Center for Congregational Excellence
- The Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence
- The Director of the Center for Missional Excellence
- The Conference Fiscal Officer
- The Conference Director of Communications

From June 1, 2006, until May 31, 2008, the membership of the Core Leadership Team will be recommended to the Annual Conference by the Bishop from a pool of names submitted by the Nominating Committee, Cabinet, and Bishop. At least half of the voting members of the CLT shall be lay members. At the 2007 Session of the Annual Conference the CLT will make a proposal to the Conference outlining a nomination and selection process for subsequent years.

*Revised by Annual Conference action on Monday, May 31, 2010 with the following motion:

“...the Judicial Council noted that the Core Leadership Team of the Texas Annual Conference does not meet all of the standards of the structures authorized by the Constitution. Two specific features of our structure were cited by the Judicial Council: First, the Council noted that the bishop has voting privileges as a member of the Core Leadership Team. Although the bishop is the presiding officer of the Annual Conference, Decision No. 831 states that a bishop is not a “member” of an annual conference and, therefore, does not have a vote in matters related to an Annual Conference. Second, the Judicial Council noted that our Annual Conference had granted certain decision-making authority to the Core Leadership Team, which authority is reserved by our Constitution to the Annual Conference. “

Change in organization will be reviewed by the special Task Force chaired by Dr. Don House. The motion was as follows:

Establish a Task Force (TF) to assess the structure and function of the Core Leadership Team in light of Decision # 1150 of the Judicial Council. In consideration of the structure and function of the Core Leadership Team, the TF shall address issues of governance, budget procedures, and inter-conference dialogue.

The TF shall be selected by the Bishop and the first elected Lay and Clergy Delegates to General Conference, 2008. The term of the TF shall expire at the conclusion of the Annual Conference meeting in 2011.

The TF is charged to conduct listening/discernment sessions in either the districts or in at least 5 geographically convenient locations across the Annual Conference. The agenda of these meetings shall include the findings of their inquiry as part of the content of the discussion.

Results of the TF work, recommendations, and observations shall be reported in the Pre-Conference Journal for 2011.

PURPOSE OF THE CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The purpose of the Core Leadership Team is to implement decisions of the Annual Conference in accordance with the mission, vision and core beliefs of the Texas Annual Conference. It will:

1. Make decisions between sessions of the Annual Conference consistent with the mission, vision and core beliefs and directives of the Annual Conference and consistent with *The Book of Discipline*. (*See page 9-A). In achieving this function, it will:

- a. Consult with the Bishop, Cabinet, Trustees and CF&A in making appropriate decisions consistent with the Conference Rules and the Book of Discipline.
- b. Identify emerging missional needs and deploy resources to meet them.
- c. Recommend to the Conference Nominations Committee leadership changes for Conference agencies when needed.
- d. Work with the Bishop to define and recommend Conference staff positions.
- e. Develop criteria and skills needed for Conference staff positions as a resource for the Bishop.
- f. Develop criteria for those nominated to the pool of nominees for the Conference Nominations Committee.
- g. Recommend changes to the Model for Ministry and Rules for consideration by the Annual Conference.

2. Have authority from the Annual Conference to hold Conference bodies accountable for action. In achieving this function, it will:

- a. Review the work of the Annual Conference in light of our core beliefs.
- b. Develop Conference-wide measures of fruitfulness.
- c. Develop criteria for congregational and clergy excellence as a resource for the Bishop.
- d. Establish clear and fruitful relationships between local congregations, Districts, and Conference structures.
- e. Hold accountable each Conference agency for effective, efficient, and fruitful programming while empowering Districts and local congregations for mission and ministry which reflects our core beliefs.
- f. After consultation with the Conference Centers for ministry, the Core Leadership Team shall submit its annual budget request to CF&A.
- g. Give definition to our connectional system of corporate life, witness and service.

3. Create a culture of accountability within the Conference by conducting an ongoing process of strategic planning, goal setting, and annual reporting to the Annual Conference.

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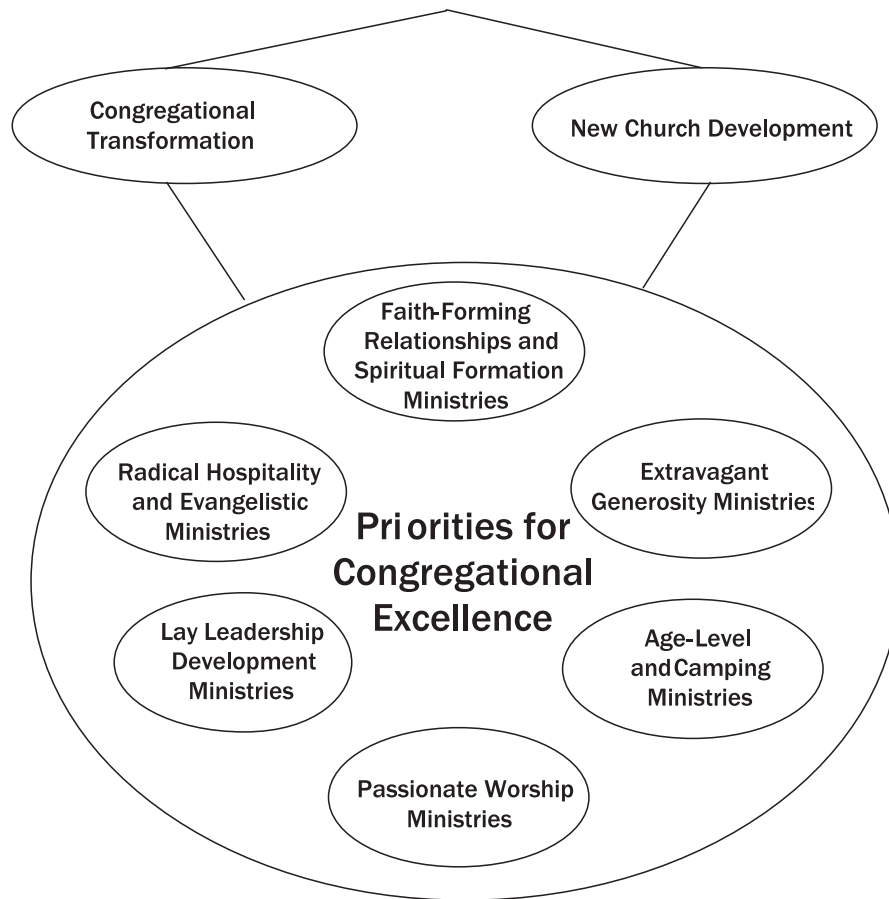
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Center for Congregational Excellence



Two main priorities of the Center for Congregational Excellence are new church development and congregational transformation. During the first three months of implementation, a Transition Leadership Team of six members chaired by the Director of Congregational Excellence, will develop a strategic design for equipping congregations for vitality, revitalization, assessment, conflict negotiation, and fruitfulness. Each team member will be a specialist in one of the six priorities.

CENTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Purpose

To connect and equip local congregations and new church start leaders with tools and resources for congregational revitalization, transformation and vitality in communities they serve.

Extravagant Generosity Ministries Team

PURPOSE: To equip local congregations with tools and resources needed to engage in living out Christian stewardship in communities they serve.

Passionate Worship Ministries Team

PURPOSE: To equip local congregations with tools and resources needed to engage in passionate worship appropriate to the communities they serve.

Faith-Forming Relationship and Spiritual Formation Ministry Team

PURPOSE: To equip local congregations with tools and resources needed to engage in excellence in faith-forming relationships and spiritual formation.

Radical Hospitality and Evangelistic Ministries

PURPOSE: To equip local congregations with tools and resources needed to engage in radical hospitality.

Age-Level and Camping Ministries

PURPOSE: To equip local congregations with tools and resources needed to help all ages within the church and community grow in faith and discipleship and to promote vital camping ministries.

Lay Leadership Development Ministries

PURPOSE: To assist pastors, Districts and local congregations with tools to develop leadership among the laity.

Transition Leadership Team

PURPOSE: To develop strategies and organizational recommendations for congregational excellence including, but not limited to:

- Vitality and demographic assessments
- Strategic planning
- Tracking of key indicators and activities
- Evaluation-measurable accountability
- Training
- Mentoring churches
- Limited financial support based upon selected criteria

Funding sources:

- Reallocation of Conference funds
- District participation
- Local congregations

There will be a strong linkage to the Center for Clergy Excellence to support appointment of effective clergy leadership meeting the diverse needs of our congregations.

Needs for church transformation and revitalization can be identified at any level of the connection, and approved at the District and Conference level for implementation using the Conference's established criteria.

These teams shall function as equivalent structures for Board of Discipleship ministries delineated in *BOD 629*.

The following groups or officers will continue as mandated by *The Book of Discipline*:

- United Methodist Men (*BOD 647*)
- United Methodist Women (*BOD 646*)
- Youth Ministry Council or equivalent structure (*1 member per District*) (*BOD 648*)
- Young Adult Ministry Council or equivalent structure (*1 member per District*) (*BOD 649*)
- Board of Laity or equivalent structure (Each District Lay Leader and Conference Lay Leader, one of whom shall serve as Director of Lay Speaking Ministries) (*BOD 630.1 and 630.6d*)
- Commission on Ethnic Local Church Concerns (*4 clergy and 4 laity*) (*BOD 631.1*)
- Commission on Small Membership Churches (*2 clergy and 2 laity*) (*BOD 644*)

Center for Clergy Excellence



Clergy Excellence Individual Team Composition

- Clergy Accountability Ministries: 3 clergy, 3 laity, and 3 at-large (*BOD 329, 340*)
- Clergy Development and Spiritual Formation Ministries: 3 clergy, 3 laity, and 3 at-large (*BOD 350-352*)
- Clergy Recruitment Ministries: 3 clergy, 3 laity, and 3 at-large (*BOD 350-352*)
- Extension Ministries: 4 clergy and 4 laity
- Transition Leadership Team: 3 clergy, 1 laity

CENTER FOR CLERGY EXCELLENCE

Purpose

To create an environment of support and accountability that continuously moves the clergy of the Annual Conference toward excellence.

End Result

Spirit-led, faithful, and fruitful pastoral leaders for both congregations and ministries of transformation beyond the local church.

Clergy Accountability Ministries

PURPOSE: To set standards for quality of pastoral leadership for local congregations in the Annual Conference.

Clergy Recruitment Ministries

PURPOSE: To equip local congregations to identify and encourage persons with appropriate gifts and graces and a clear sense of call to commit to pastoral ministry.

Clergy Development and Spiritual Formation

PURPOSE: To develop clergy who are growing in their theological understanding, in their leadership, and in their physical and spiritual well-being.

Clergy Support Ministries

PURPOSE: To coordinate pension, health benefits, equitable compensation, and joint committee on incapacity.

Transition Leadership Team

PURPOSE: To develop strategies and organizational recommendations for clergy excellence, including but not limited to:

- Assessment
- Coaching
- Training
- Evaluation - measurable accountability
- Tracking of activities and indicators
- Mentoring
- Continuing education
- Interim ministry
- Conflict resolution training
- Spiritual formation

There will be a strong linkage to the Center for Congregational Excellence to support the appointment of appropriate clergy leadership.

The following groups or officers will continue as mandated by *The Book of Discipline* in Support Ministries for Clergy

- Board of Ordained Ministry (see Note below) (*BOD 634*)
- Equitable Compensation 4 clergy, 4 laity (*BOD 624*)
- Pension and Health Benefits (Existing structure to remain) (*BOD 638*)
- Committee on Investigation (*BOD 2703.2*)
- Administrative and Review Committee (*BOD 635*)
- Joint Committee on Incapacity (*BOD 651*)

NOTE

The existing Board of Ordained Ministry will continue. The Board is asked to form a task force to address structural issues and overall effectiveness of the Board, and make recommendations to the 2007 Annual Conference for potential changes.

Center for Missional Excellence



Missional Excellence Individual Team Composition

- Sending Ministries Team: 1 member from each District, PIM staff person, chaired by Conference Global Ministries Secretary (*BOD 632.1 and 632.3*)
- Social Principles Implementation Team: Chairs of Religion and Race, Commission on Status and Role of Women (COSROW), Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (CUIC), Disabilities Committee, Church and Society and BMCR; representative from Asian Ministries, Hispanic Ministries, Native American Concerns; the chair of this ministry will be nominated and elected from the chairs of the committees under this ministry. (*BOD 628.1*)
- Restorative Justice Ministries: 1 member from each District (*BOD 655*)
- Higher Education and Campus Ministries: 3 clergy and 3 laity (*BOD 633.1*)
- Mercy Ministries (will include health and welfare concerns): 3 clergy and 3 laity (*BOD 632.4b(27)*)
- Transition Leadership Team: 5 members

CENTER FOR MISSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Purpose

To provide and equip leaders who carry forth ministries of mercy, justice, and wholeness so that all persons, inside and outside the church, experience mercy, justice, and wholeness: emotionally, physically, financially, and spiritually.

Social Principles Implementation Ministries

Purpose: To pursue implementation of the social principles of the United Methodist Church, justice concerns, and other policy statements on Christian social concerns of the Texas Annual Conference (*BOD 628*).

Mercy Ministries

PURPOSE: To represent:

- Methodist Mission Home
- Methodist Children's Home
- Methodist Retirement Communities
- Methodist Healthcare System
- Parish and Community Development
- Health and Welfare/Golden Cross
- Substance abuse
- Healthcare issues
- Society of St. Stephen

Higher Education and Campus Ministries

PURPOSE: Campus Ministries:

- To increase fruitfulness of campus ministries.
- To set measurable standards for effective campus ministries.
- Increase awareness of call to ordained ministry and church vocations.
Higher Education:
- To comprehensively identify and propose remedies to systemic issues hindering access to and successful pursuit of higher education.

Sending Ministries

PURPOSE: To connect and equip congregations for ministry in our communities and around the world; to develop strategies for disaster response inside and outside our Annual Conference.

Restorative Justice Ministries

PURPOSE: To serve as an advocate for change by connecting and equipping churches and individuals to minister to those incarcerated, their families, justice workers, and victims while working to improve re-entry ministries for offenders and their families.

Transition Leadership Team

PURPOSE: To develop strategies and organizational recommendations which facilitate the work of the Center for Missional Excellence, including but not limited to:

- Criteria
- Assessment
- Tracking indicators and activities
- Setting objectives
- Measurable accountability
- Equipping local congregations for risk-taking ministry and service

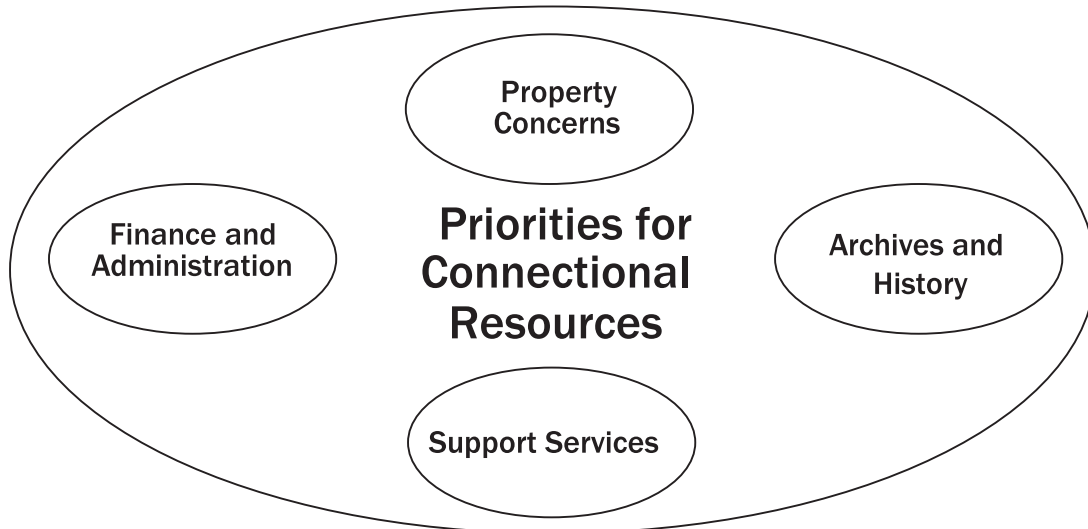
There will be a strong linkage to the Center for Congregational Excellence and the Center for Clergy Excellence to support the mission of the Annual Conference for the transformation of the world.

These teams shall function as equivalent structures for Board of Global Ministry responsibilities delineated in *BOD 632*.

The following groups or officers will continue as mandated by *The Book of Discipline*:

- Religion and Race or equivalent structure: 12 members (*BOD 642.2*)
- Commission on Status and Role of Women or equivalent structure: 12 members (*BOD 543.2*)
- Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns or equivalent structure: 4 members (*BOD 641.2*)
- Native American Concerns or equivalent structure: 4 members (*BOD 653*)
- Disabilities Committee or equivalent structure: 4 members (*BOD 652*)
- Church and Society or equivalent structure: 8 members (*BOD 628*)

Center for Connectional Resources



Connectional Resources Individual Team Composition

- Conference Council on Finance and Administration: (see Note below) (*BOD 610 and 611*)
- Conference Board of Trustees: (*BOD 639 and 2512*)
- Conference Commission on Archives and History: 1 member from each District plus a chairperson. (*BOD 640*)
- Conference Services: Safe Sanctuary, Communications, Conference Service Center (*BOD 640*)
- Conference Committee on Communication: 4 members (*BOD 645*)

NOTE

The Conference Fiscal Officer is mandated by *The Book of Discipline* to serve as an agent of CF&A

CENTER FOR CONNECTIONAL RESOURCES

Purpose

To provide fiscal oversight, property management, and archives and records to undergird the mission and ministry of the Texas Annual Conference. Our expectation is that the Conference will pay 100% of its apportionments and provide adequate financial and physical resources and archival records to ensure fruitful mission and ministry.

Conference Council on Finance and Administration

PURPOSE: As stipulated in *The Book of Discipline*, 610 and 611.

Conference Board of Trustees

PURPOSE: As stipulated in *The Book of Discipline*, 2512.

NOTE: All property concerns within the Conference (including those associated with Lakeview, Lon Morris College, and The Cramer Center) are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees. It is recommended that all capital projects and capital budgets for entities listed above be approved by the Conference Board of Trustees.

Conference Commission on Archives and History

PURPOSE: As stipulated in *The Book of Discipline*, 639 and 2512.

To record and preserve the history of the Conference to connect with the visions and missions of our heritage as the ground of our present ministries and future vision.

Committee on Communications

PURPOSE: As stipulated in *The Book of Discipline*, 645.

To work with the Communications Officer in developing an effective and coordinated Conference communications program. Composition: four members who are specialists in communications and marketing.

Conference Services

Conference Service Center

PURPOSE: To provide effective operation and maintenance of the Conference Service Center.

Safe Sanctuary

PURPOSE: To implement and monitor Conference-wide safe sanctuary programs.

Additional Teams and Committees

Committee on Episcopacy: 4 laity and 4 clergy (*BOD 636*)

Episcopal Residence Committee: (*BOD 637*)

Nominations Committee

PURPOSE: To identify and enlist vision-oriented leadership reflecting the diversity of the Conference for all Conference ministries. The Core Leadership Team is charged with developing a new nominations process to be presented to the 2007 Annual Conference Session.

ACTIVITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS OF CENTERS

Centers will carry out their activities in support of the Texas Annual Conference, its local churches, districts, and the larger church.

Center for Congregational Excellence

As stipulated in *The Book of Discipline*, par 609, these agencies and equivalents in the Center for Congregational Excellence, shall relate to the local church, district, conference and general agencies in the following ways:

- 1) Each group may work directly with congregations consistent with their specific mission and the mission of the Texas Annual Conference.
- 2) Each group may work directly with districts consistent with their specific mission and the mission of the Texas Annual Conference.
- 3) Each group will relate directly to the Center for Congregational Excellence. The Center for Congregational Excellence is directly accountable to the Core Leadership Team and the Texas Annual Conference.
- 4) Each group will relate directly to the general agency consistent with their mission, including general agency members serving on the Congregational Excellence groups.
- 5) All disciplinary and constitutional requirements shall be maintained.

Center for Clergy Excellence

As stipulated in *The Book of Discipline*, par 609, these agencies and equivalents in the Center for Clergy Excellence, shall relate to the local church, district, conference and general agencies in the following ways:

- 1) Each group may work directly with congregations consistent with their specific mission and the mission of the Texas Annual Conference.
- 2) Each group may work directly with districts consistent with their specific mission and the mission of the Texas Annual Conference.
- 3) The Board of Ordained Ministry, Committee on Equitable Compensation and Board of Pensions will report directly to the Texas Annual Conference. The Committees on Investigation, Administrative Review, and Incapacity shall report directly to their appropriate bodies. *BOD 2706.5b (2 and 3), 635 and 651d*
- 4) Other teams will relate directly to the Center for Clergy Excellence. The Center for Clergy Excellence is directly accountable to the Core Leadership Team and The Texas Annual Conference.
- 5) Each group will relate directly to the general agency consistent with their mission, including general agency members serving on related groups.
- 6) All disciplinary and constitutional requirements shall be maintained.

Center for Missional Excellence

As stipulated in *The Book of Discipline*, par 609, these agencies and equivalents in the Center for Missional Excellence, shall relate to the local church, district, conference and general agencies in the following ways:

- 1) Each group may work directly with congregations consistent with their specific mission and the mission of the Texas Annual Conference.
- 2) Each group may work directly with districts consistent with their specific mission and the mission of the Texas Annual Conference.
- 3) Each group will relate directly to the Center for Missional Excellence. The Center for Missional Excellence is directly accountable to the Core Leadership Team and the Texas Annual Conference.
- 4) Each group will relate directly to the general agency consistent with their mission, including general agency members serving on related groups.
- 5) All disciplinary and constitutional requirements shall be maintained.

Center for Connectional Resources

As stipulated in *The Book of Discipline*, par 609, the agencies and equivalents listed on page 20, shall relate to the local church, district, conference and general agencies in the following ways:

- 1) Each group may work directly with congregations consistent with their specific mission and the mission of the Texas Annual Conference.
- 2) Each group may work directly with districts consistent with their specific mission and the mission of the Texas Annual Conference.

- 3) All groups will relate to the Center for Connectional Resources. The Council on Finance and Administration and Board of Trustees will report directly to the Texas Annual Conference. Additional teams will report to the Texas Annual Conference through the Center for Connectional Resources.
- 4) Each group will relate directly to the general agency consistent with their mission, including general agency members serving on related groups.
- 5) All disciplinary and constitutional requirements shall be maintained.

HOW THE MODEL FOR MINISTRY RELATES TO LOCAL CHURCHES

Each local church will continue to structure itself to meet its unique ministry and mission needs in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*. The Model for Ministry recognizes that our ministry and mission are appropriately carried on by Districts and local churches. The Texas Annual Conference provides support and resources. It also provides visioning, support, oversight, and accountability structures.

COMMITTEES OF THE TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Model for Ministry lists all committees of the Texas Annual Conference. Only teams, committees and groups contained in the Model for Ministry will continue. The Core Leadership Team, the Centers of Excellence, and the groups listed within them may appoint task forces and other groups necessary to carry out their function. The focus throughout the Model for Ministry is strengthening ministry in Districts and local churches, not establishing a network of committees to supplant local efforts. Affiliated groups are listed on page 33.

ASSESSING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MODEL FOR MINISTRY

The Core Leadership Team will, on behalf of the Conference, direct and oversee implementation of the Model for Ministry. The Core Leadership Team and the Bishop will visit every District in February and March 2007 to gather suggestions and feedback concerning initial implementation of the Model for Ministry. They will report their findings to the May 2007 Annual Conference session and will recommend necessary adjustments or improvements.

CONFERENCE AGENCIES

The following mandated or equivalent structures of the Model for Ministry shall correspond to those agencies outlined in the 2004 Book of Discipline as noted below. *BOD 609.1*

Model for Ministry

Administrative Review
Archives and History
Board of Ordained Ministry
Board of Pensions and Health Benefits
Board of Trustees
Center for Congregational Excellence
Center for Congregational Excellence
Center for Missional Excellence

Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

Commission on Status and Role of Women
Committee on Communications
Committee on Episcopacy
Committee on Investigation
Committee on Religion and Race
Council on Finance & Administration
Disabilities Committee
Episcopal Residence Committee
Equitable Compensation
Ethnic Local Church Concerns
Higher Education and Campus Ministries

Lay Leadership Development Ministry
Native American Concerns
Restorative Justice

Sending Ministries, Mercy Ministries
Small Membership Churches
Social Principles Impl. Ministries
United Methodist Men
United Methodist Women
Young Adult Ministry Council
Youth Ministry Council

The Book of Discipline

Administrative Review *BOD 635*
Committee on Archives and History *BOD 640.1*
Board of Ordained Ministry *BOD 634.1*
Board of Pensions *BOD 638.1*
Board of Trustees *BOD 639*
Board of Discipleship *BOD 629.1*
Board of Ordained Ministry *BOD 634.1*
Committee on Parish Community Development
BOD 632.5
Committee on Christian Unity and Interreligious
Concerns *BOD 641*
Committee on Status and Role of Women *BOD 643*
Committee on Communications *BOD 645*
Committee on Episcopacy *BOD 636.1*
Committee on Investigation *BOD 2703.2*
Committee on Religion and Race *BOD 642.1*
Council on Finance & Administration *BOD 610.1*
Committee on Disabilities *BOD 652*
Episcopal Residence Committee *BOD 637.2*
Equitable Compensation *BOD 624.1*
Ethnic Local Church Concerns *BOD 631.1*
Board of High Education and Campus Ministry
BOD 633.1
Board of Laity *BOD 630.1*
Committee on Native American Ministries *BOD 653*
Committee on Criminal Justice & Mercy Ministries
BOD 655
Board of Global Ministries *BOD 632.1*
Committee on Small Membership Churches *BOD 644*
Board of Church and Society *BOD 628.1*
United Methodist Men *BOD 647*
United Methodist Women *BOD 646*
Council on Young Adult Ministry *BOD 649*
Council on Youth Ministry *BOD 648.1*

EVIDENCE OF FRUITFULNESS

2007 Conference-wide Measures

- **Professions of Faith** – 5% annual growth in number of churches having at least one profession of faith, increasing to 75% of all churches in 2010.
- **Worship Attendance** – Net gain in worship attendance of 1,000 in 2007. Annual net gain of 1800 thereafter, achieving growth roughly at rate of population growth.
- **Hands on Mission** – Annually increase percentage of members per church involved in hands-on mission. Baseline to be established in 2006.
- **Connectional Generosity** – Improve percentage of Annual Conference apportionments paid by churches by 0.75% each year, reaching 95% by 2010.

Acts 2 brings us a powerful testimony to the fruitfulness of the early church as led by the Holy Spirit. Our concern for professions of faith (Acts 2:41), worship attendance (Acts 2:42), hands on mission (Acts 2:45), and connectional generosity (Acts 2:45-46) makes us continuators of ministry and mission begun at Pentecost.

Fruitfulness is evidence we are achieving our mission. More professions of faith, more people in worship, and more members actively in mission mean we are better equipping congregations to make disciples for the transformation of the world to the glory of God. Improving our connectional generosity helps us live out our belief in extravagant generosity and connectional ministry, undergirding mission and ministry beyond the local church.

These measures of fruitfulness unite our Conference in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission and emphasize our responsibilities to one another as part of our connection.

As we focus on evidence of fruitfulness, the Conference will seek to strengthen the ministry and mission of each local church. These measures will provide benchmarks to help us identify areas for improvement. Achieving them will give us reason to celebrate our success. Looking at evidence of fruitfulness will keep our focus outward, on changing lives and reshaping futures for Jesus Christ, rather than focused inward on structures or committees.

ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Entities Owned by the Texas Annual Conference

Organization

Lakeview Methodist Conference Center
Lon Morris College
Methodist Hospital

Center

Congregational Excellence
Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence

Affiliated Entities within the Texas Annual Conference

Organization

Houston International Seafarer's Center
Methodist Retirement Communities
Shalom Mobile Health Ministry
UMArmy
United Methodist Foundation
Wesley Community Center
Wiley College

Center

Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence

Affiliated Entities within the State of Texas

Organization

Methodist Children's Home
Methodist Mission Home
Texas Methodist Foundation
Texas United Methodist College Association

Center

Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence

Affiliated Entities within the South Central Jurisdiction

Organization

Lydia Patterson Institute
Mount Sequoyah
Perkins School of Theology
Saint Paul School of Theology

Center

Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence
Missional Excellence

Entities Outside the South Central Jurisdiction

Organization

Gulfside Assembly

Center

Missional Excellence

Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him, they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship, about risking themselves totally.

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: “God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.” MATTHEW 28:16-20
(PETERSON, THE MESSAGE)

On November 19, 2005, The Texas Annual Conference voted to re-claim our mission to “equip local churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, to the glory of God.” This mission Jesus is all-consuming. It requires the best of everything. It will require a new way of life in this Annual Conference. It will require significant training for us and others. It will require a major re-allocation of our resources. Jesus’ promise is this one, “I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.”