

North Carolina Conference Vision Statement

“Healthy Congregations and Effective Leaders in Every Place Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.”

Approved conference structure changes simplify language, address new ministry needs

By Bill Norton *

A modification of the conference structure from five circles of ministry to four teams of ministry was approved at the 2008 NC Annual Conference meeting in June.

The task force which studied the structure said the adjustments were needed to help clarify language, better empower the local church, address the Council of Bishop’s Seven Pathways of ministry, and to improve communication between conference groups and local congregations.

The previous structure of five circles and the Conference Connectional Table (CCT) was adopted before the Council of Bishops announced The Seven Pathways.

Conference groups were related to a circle, and the circles to the CCT.

With the new structure, “we moved from circles, a word that could convey silos or territory, to teams—teams of people moving out to empower the local church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Teams of people enhancing our connectedness,” said Emily Innes, conference lay leader and chair of the task force on Structure Review.

With the new structure, the teams are: Christian Formation, Leadership, Outreach Ministry, and Stewardship.

On a diagram of the proposal, Communications is shown circling the structure.

A member of the Conference Communications Committee will be on each team to support interpretation and communications within and outside each team.

Designated groups from each team will have a representative on the CCT, and there will also be three at-large members of

the CCT on each team.

“The functions of the CCT are to state, cast forth, and implement the vision; interpret the mission; prioritize the budget; and hold the church accountable to the vision with measurable results,” Innes said.

Each team’s purpose has been defined: The Leadership team will equip leaders who implement the vision, Christian Formation will form and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ, Outreach Ministry will carry forth ministry that transforms the world, and Stewardship will empower ministry.

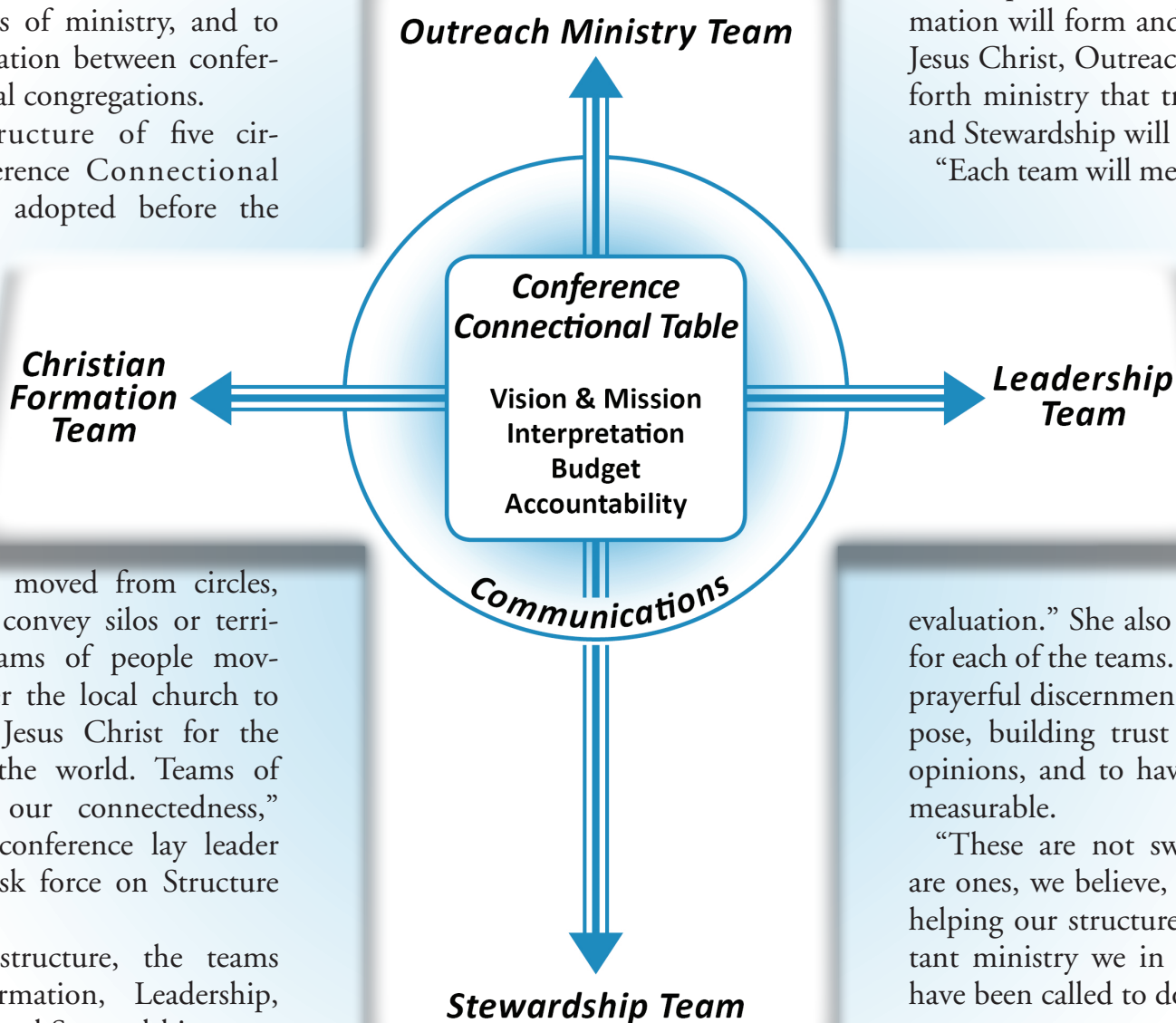
“Each team will meet quarterly and each quarter will have a specific focus,”

Innes said. “The first quarter will be visioning, the second will be strategic planning, the third will be budget, and the fourth will be

evaluation.” She also listed six core values for each of the teams. These values include prayerful discernment, having a clear purpose, building trust even with different opinions, and to have outcomes that are measurable.

“These are not sweeping changes but are ones, we believe, will be important in helping our structure support the important ministry we in the NC Conference have been called to do,” Innes said.

* Bill Norton is conference director of communications and NCC Advocate Editor.



7 The Seven Pathways

The Council of Bishops identified Seven Pathways to focus on while making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

1. Transforming existing congregations
Revelation 1-3
2. Developing new congregations
Acts 1:8
Acts 16:9-10
3. Strengthening clergy and lay leadership
Philippians 3: 13-14
2nd Timothy 2:14
4. Teaching Wesleyan model of reaching and forming disciples of Jesus Christ
Matthew 28: 19-20
5. Reaching and transforming the lives of new generations of children
Matthew 19:14
Acts 2:39
Proverbs 22:6
6. Eliminating poverty in community with the poor
Deuteronomy 15:7
Luke 10
7. Expanding racial / ethnic ministries
Acts 10:28

Core Values of the NC Conference Teams

- ⊙ Prayerful discernment and worshipful work centered on Christ
- ⊙ Clarity of purpose in meetings
- ⊙ Covenant to be prepared, present, and to participate fully
- ⊙ Value diversity
- ⊙ Build trust to embrace differences of opinion and move toward consensus
- ⊙ Ongoing evaluation of measurable outcomes

Focus for Quarterly Team Meetings

- ⊙ First Quarter: Visioning
- ⊙ Second Quarter: Strategic Planning
- ⊙ Third Quarter: Budget
- ⊙ Fourth Quarter: Evaluation

NC Conference Connectional Table

- ⊙ Functions to state, cast forth, and implement the vision
- ⊙ Interprets the mission
- ⊙ Prioritizes the budget
- ⊙ Holds the church accountable to the vision with measurable results

The NC Conference Teams

Outreach Ministry Team

The Outreach Ministry Team serves to carry forth the ministry that transforms the world.

Missions *

MERCI / Disaster Response
Zimbabwe Orphans Endeavor
Society of St. Andrew
Stop Hunger Now
Project AGAPE
Peru Covenant
Golden Cross
Disabilities (Special Needs)
DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministries
Criminal Justice & Mercy
Yokefellows
Kairos Prison Ministry
Refugee & Immigration

UM Women *

UM Men *

Board of Institutions *

Methodist Home for Children
Methodist Retirement Homes
Colleges/Universities
Asbury Homes

Communications **

Christian Formation Team

The Christian Formation Team serves to form and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ.

Evangelism *

Church & Society *

Congregational Development *

Education & Nurture *

Youth
Young Adults
Children
Older Adults
Camp and Retreat Ministries
Higher Education & Campus Ministry
Media Center
Archives & History

Spiritual Life *

Worship

Communications **

* Indicates a seat on the Conference Connectional Table

** Communications will partner with each team.

Leadership Team

The Leadership Team serves to equip leaders who implement the vision.

Multicultural & Racial Ministries *

Hispanic/Latino
African American
Native American
Asian
Monitoring and Accountability

Nominations

Board of Laity *

Board of Ordained Ministry *

Continuing Education

Bishop's Day Apart

Sexual Ethics

Clergy Care

Clergy Counseling

Administrative Review

Investigation

Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns *

NC Council of Churches

Ministerial Relations

Conference Staff Relations *

Episcopacy

Communications **

Stewardship Team

The Stewardship Team serves to empower ministry.

Council on Finance and Administration *

Equitable Compensation

Itinerant Clergy Moving Expenses

Stewardship *

UM Foundation

Information Technology

Pensions & Past Service Liability *

Insurance

Trustees *

Episcopal Residence

Annual Conference Program

Conference Rules

Communications *

Treasurer's Office

Conference Secretary's Office

Connectional Ministries Office

Bishop's Office Support

Communications **