Bishop Gwinn supports change for sake of mission

Long ago the Church learned that WHAT we do must never change (The Great Commandment and The Great Commission) but HOW we do it must always be changing to address current realities. Current reality has shown us that a majority of our churches in this annual conference are getting weaker instead of stronger (although we are the fourth fastest growing state in the Union and over 50% of our present population is unchurched)! So it seems so appropriate that the Connectional Ministries Team would seek to find more effective ways to resource our local congregations as they address this current reality.

Further, the Council of Bishops and the General Church's Connectional Table as well as all of our general boards and agencies have called upon the Church to concentrate upon disciple-making by focusing upon leadership, revitalization, new faith communities, global health and ministry with the poor. So our Connectional Table has structured itself into four teams – Leadership, Outreach, Spiritual Formation and Stewardship in order to focus its efforts in helping our local congregations truly be strong disciple-making centers. The action to staff according to this alignment will, in my opinion, assist the Connectional Table greatly as it seeks to assist our local congregations in becoming more vital and healthy in their ministries of radical hospitality, Spirit-filled worship, Spiritual formation, risk-taking ministries and mission to the world and extravagant generosity.

Surely we all know that change is never easy, though necessary. And, often change is made even more difficult when it affects the lives of others. So this is a time when much prayer is needed – for those who must lead in the change, for those who are significantly affected by the change and all who are seeking to understand the change. As I am praying for all of these I am claiming the promise of Romans 8:28. Please join me!

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