District Visits to Assess the Model for Ministry

March 2007

Q: Why are we here?

A: Resolution #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*

3. *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.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Model
for
Ministry

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

Evidence of Fruitfulness

Professions of Faith

5% annual growth in number of churches having at least one profession of faith

Evidence of Fruitfulness

Worship Attendance

Net gain of 1,000 in 2007.

Annual net gain of 1,800 thereafter (rate of population growth).

Evidence of Fruitfulness

Hands on Mission

Annually increase percentage of members per church involved in hands-on mission. Baseline to be established in 2006.

Evidence of Fruitfulness

Connectional Generosity

Improve percentage of Annual Conference apportionments paid by churches by 0.75% each year, reaching 95% by 2010

Evidence of Fruitfulness 2006

	2005	2006	Growth
Professions of Faith	5,726	5,778	52
Churches with POF	390	408	4.62%
Worship Attendance	108,264	105,877	(2,387)
Apportionments	91.52%	93.43%	1.91%
Hands on mission	N/A	30,958	Baseline
Members	283,617	285,652	2,035

History of TAC Budgets

| YEAR	BUDGET	YEAR	CHANGE
2000	$15,204,592	2000-2001	2.28%
2001	$15,550,835	2001-2002	6.49%
2002	$16,560,088	2002-2003	5.67%
2003	$17,499,591	2003-2004	7.78%
2004	$18,861,417	2004-2005	8.29%
2005	$20,425,951	2005-2006	2.62%
2006	$20,961,222	2006-2007	2.78%
2007	$21,543,094		

Funding for New Church Starts
and Congregational Transformation

New Church Funding		New Church Transformation		District New Church Funding	
Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount
2006	$244,000	2006	$300,000	2006	---
2007	$1,250,000	2007	$250,000	2007	$1,000,000

Overview of Major Structure Components

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                    │     Texas Annual        │
                    │      Conference         │
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                    ┌──────────────────┐
                    │      Bishop       │
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                    │      Cabinet      │
                    └──────────────────┘
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                    ┌──────────────────────────┐
                    │   Core Leadership Team    │
                    │  (between Conference       │
                    │       Sessions)           │
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  │Congregational│ Clergy   │  │ Missional │  │Connectional│
  │ Excellence │  │Excellence │  │ Excellence │  │ Resources │
  └──────────┘  └──────────┘  └──────────┘  └──────────┘
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TAC
Local
Churches
In
Mission

Core Leadership Team

Bishop

Cabinet

Extension Ministries

Centers

District Leadership Team

Q:
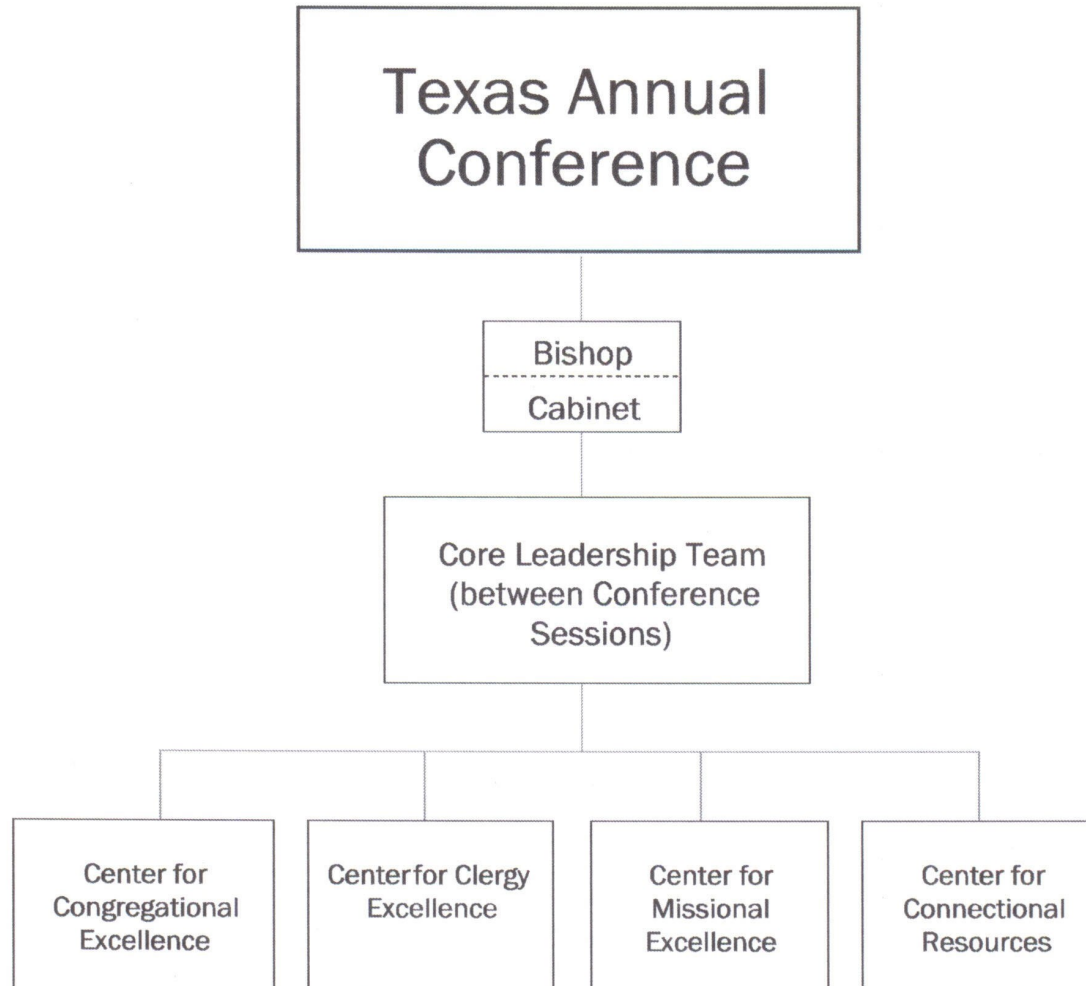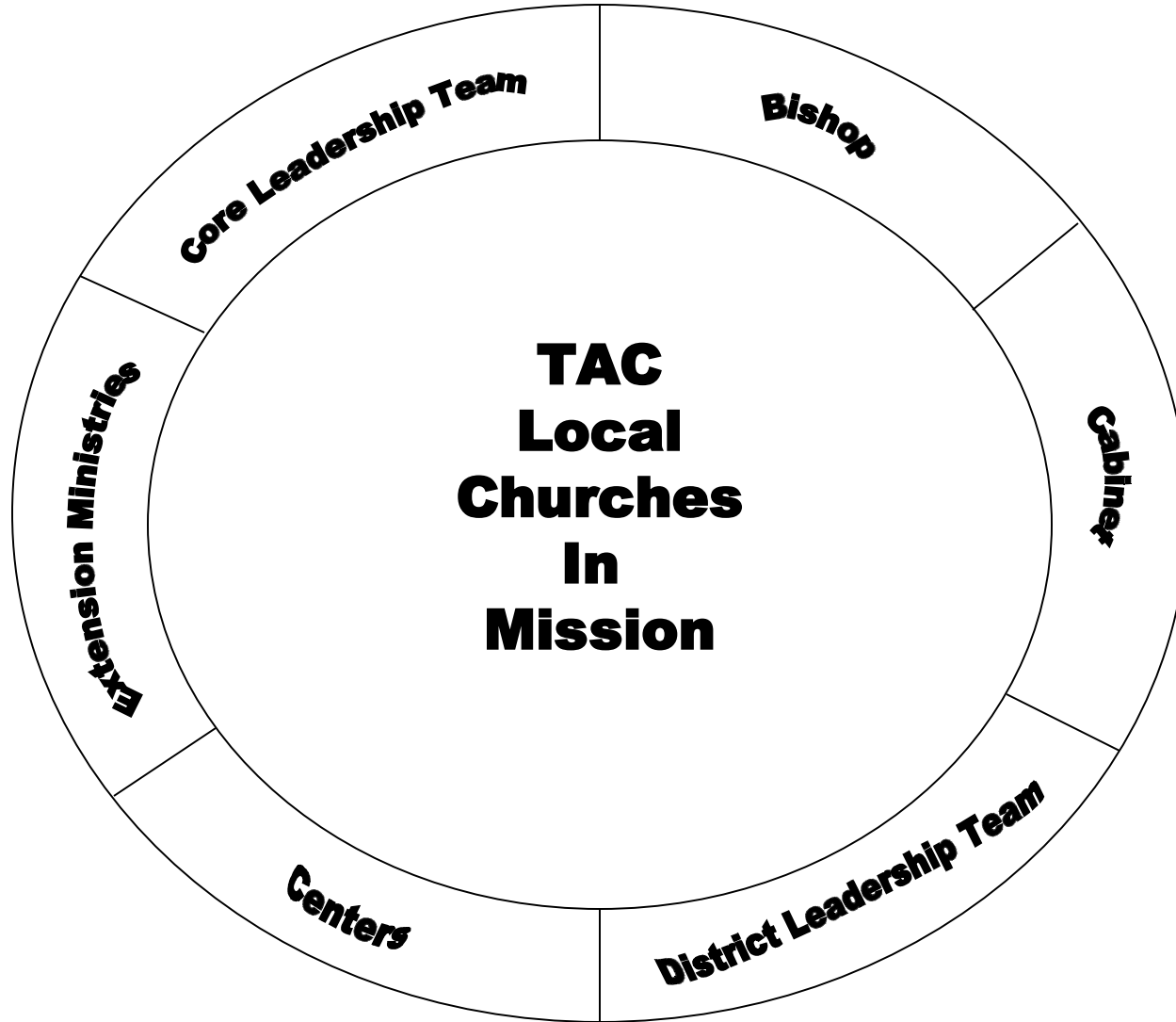
What changes have occurred in Districts?

Answer:

- Every district has new structure to align with conference

- Most districts have a leadership team in place

- Many districts have organized ministry teams

- Many districts have created cluster groups for clergy and laity

- Districts are developing missional strategies to become more fruitful

- Many tried new Charge Conference models

- District office hours are consistent

ACCOUNTABILITY

Q:
What changes have occurred at the Conference level?

Center for Congregational Excellence

Church Transformation

- 224 congregations participating in three-year transformation process led by Don Nations and Dave Herman

- Representing 55% of conference membership

Center for Congregational Excellence

New Church Starts

- 12 graduates from 2006 New Church Leadership Institute

- 14 pastors attending 2007 New Church Leadership Institute

- Beginning approximately seven new faith communities this June

Center for Congregational Excellence

Camping

- Creating new avenues to address our need to reach youth, particularly senior highs. Example: week of Conference-wide senior high camp.

- Increase number of clergy in leadership in planning camping ministry.

- Summer camps planned to match core beliefs over next several years.

Center for Congregational Excellence

Equipping Events

Clif Christopher Stewardship

Marcia McFee Passionate worship

Jan Floro   Welcoming congregations

Leadership Development seminar for
 Lay Leaders and Council Chairs

2006 Transformation Scores
(Self Reported)

District	Declining	Maintaining	Transforming
Central North	14	31	4
Central South	26	45	2
East	53	58	1
North	65	42	2
Northwest	66	41	1
South	20	37	1
Southeast	25	31	1
Southwest	27	22	2
West	29	59	1
Conference	325	366	15

Total Churches Reporting: 706

FRUITFULNESS – ACCOUNTABILITY

Center for Clergy Excellence

Identification and support of gifted, young, diverse clergy

- Pastoral Intern Project launches this summer, applications accepted now

- Visits to six United Methodist seminaries this spring

- Regular e-mail contact with candidates and prospects

- Quarterly meetings with "under-40" pastors

- "Exploration" style event planned for high school through college students

Center for Clergy Excellence

Clergy Development and Spiritual Formation

- Peer groups for all clergy: five options

- Marriage renewal retreats (second event slated for April)

- "Dealing with Problem Parishioners" workshop led by Dr. Gerald DeSobe

Center for Clergy Excellence

Clergy Accountability

- Planning optional personality and leadership style assessments

- Planning optional 360-type skills and values assessments

- Developing strategies and resources for growth in clergy effectiveness

Center for Missional Excellence

- Focus on enabling/encouraging congregations to be directly involved in mission rather than the Annual Conference doing mission

- Developed Conference disaster response plan

- Working on Conference plan for Hispanic Ministries

- Initiated Values Integration Program

Center for Missional Excellence

- Developing excellence standards for campus ministry

- Developing assessment and accountability processes for conference-funded ministries

- Developing the strategy of holy conversations to discuss issues of justice and social conference in the Annual Conference

Center for Connectional Resources

Restructured and created a stronger network in communications and technology

- Cross Connection
- Website
- Daily E-mails

Center for Connectional Resources

Provided congregational support

- Workshops
- Stewardship assistance
- Fiscal Management

Center for Connectional Resources

Continued Development of Local Church Assistance Programs

- Property and casualty program assistance
- Safe Sanctuary
- Electrical Co-op
- Safety Workers Compensations Program

Center for Connectional Resources

- Developed online monthly reporting process for Vital Signs of Discipleship

- Developed SDW (Status Data Warehouse) on every local church and pastor

Core Leadership Team

- **Replaces former Joint Program Committee and Conference Council on Ministry**

- **Meets monthly to coordinate and implement vision/mission of annual conference**

- **Developed nominations proposal to submit to Annual Conference**

Core Leadership Team

- **Developed resolutions proposal to submit to Annual Conference**

- **Reviews strategic plans of each Center Director**

- **Developed the assessment process for all entities**

Q:

What changes have occurred at the Conference Service Center?

Conference Service Center

- **Change in approach to be more "service" center**

- **Staff spends a large amount of time traveling/working throughout the Annual Conference**

- **Planning another Service Center Tour this fall**

Conference Service Center Staff Changes

	Prior to June 1, 2006	Now
Clergy	7	5
Laity	21	21
Houston Board of Missions	3	0
District Superintendents	12	9
Total	**43**	**35**

* This report excludes Bishop Huie, Nancy Hinshaw and the United Methodist Foundation, which are funded by sources other than the Annual Conference Budget.

<u>Questions</u>

1. What potential do you perceive the Conference Model for Ministry has in supporting your local church in fulfilling its hopes and addressing its challenges?

3. How is your local congregation beginning to implement the conference priorities, especially related to evidence of fruitfulness? Give a couple of examples.

3. What adjustments in the Conference Model for Ministry would you like to see implemented?

What potential do you perceive the Conference Model for Ministry has in supporting your local church in fulfilling its hopes and addressing its challenges?

How is your local congregation beginning to implement the conference priorities, especially related to evidence of fruitfulness? Share some examples.

What adjustments would you like to see implemented in the Conference Model for Ministry?