



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Have you ever had your heart touched by a need, and you wanted to do something about it but didn't have the resources to make a difference?

Well, that is the catalyst for 'Missional Hubs'.

The Strategic Plan adopted by the Annual Conference in 2017 includes the creation of 'Missional Hubs' in every district as a new way to 'make a difference'.

During the initial planning stages when the Holston Conference Strategy Team ('HCST') was meeting to evaluate the health of Holston Conference and began piecing together a strategy to strengthen our connection and ministries, the HCST recognized there were many churches within our districts who had a heart for similar ministries, but often times were unable to individually meet the needs they wanted to address. After several meetings and discussions with church leaders and innovators, the idea of Missional Hubs began to take shape.

A Missional Hub is modeled much like the first century church we read about in Acts 2. In the early church, believers gathered together and shared all they had so no one would be in need.

In a Missional Hub, churches from a similar geographical area gather together to look at the needs of their community, and then begin pooling their resources (i.e., workers, money, time, facilities, etc...) to meet these needs. For example, three, four or maybe several more churches from the same area may meet and determine there is a need to minister to the homeless in their community. They work with their District Superintendent - the 'Chief Missional Strategist' - to create and implement a plan for this ministry. At the same time, there may be four or five neighboring churches, within the same district, deciding to combine their resources to start a food or clothes pantry. The point being, there can be several different Missional Hubs within the same district.

The Holston Conference Strategy Team (HCST), continues to meet to evaluate the health of Holston Conference and implement the strategy plan designed to strengthen our connection and ministries - and the implementation of the Missional Hubs may be the most significant undertaking yet. It is our calling as United Methodist Churches to reconnect with one another to serve the kingdom of God by making disciples for the transformation of the world.

On Wednesday, July 24, the HCST met to discuss plans on how they could provide insight, resources, and help for districts to create and implement these Missional Hubs. Their discussion led to ideas addressing how to promote, how to launch, and how to serve this initiative. An HCST representative will meet with the Extended Cabinet on August 14 to review their plans and seek

additional input from our District Superintendents. The HCST will reconvene the following week, on August 20, to work on a proposed Missional Hub timeline.

Please continue to maintain the Holston Conference Strategy Team in your prayers as they seek guidance to fulfill God's vision for the future of the Holston Conference. We also ask you to begin praying, now, about how you can make an impact on your community by participating in a Missional Hub.

About the Holston Conference Strategy Team –

The Holston Conference Strategy Team initially convened in September of 2015 to evaluate the life of Holston Conference and to find more effective ways to share a contemporary and relevant vision for bringing people into a transformative relationship with Jesus Christ. The Team is comprised of up to 15 members and includes laypersons, local church pastors, district superintendents, members of the Conference executive team and the Bishop. The Strategic Plan proposed by the HCST was formally adopted by the Annual Conference in June 2017.

For more information about the HCST and its members, please visit www.holston.org, or contact us at holstonstrategyteam@gmail.com.