



HCST

Holston Conference Strategy Team

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, October 4, 2018

The Holston Conference Strategy Team ('HCST') met for its regularly-scheduled meeting on September 11, 2018 to continue its work evaluating the health of Holston Conference and implementing the components of the Comprehensive Conference Strategy Plan adopted by the Annual Conference in 2017. The Strategic Plan is designed to strengthen our connection for relevant and innovative ministry and shared mission.

This was the twelfth full meeting of the HCST since the adoption of the Comprehensive Conference Strategy Plan at Holston Annual Conference in June 2017.

The Team focused on the core initiative of the Conference Strategy Team: District Missional Hubs. It recognized that a major challenge in the implementation of Missional Hubs is that some districts have a history of missional hub development while others do not. The aspiration of this Strategy implementation is to insure that all districts are able to achieve robust and consistent missional activity from one end of the Conference to another.

In furtherance of that goal, a training event was envisioned for this Spring to include leaders that will be instrumental in planting and nurturing missional hub initiatives throughout the Conference.

The Team also spent time examining other elements of the Comprehensive Strategy Plan, including Exercising Financial Stewardship and Revitalizing our Conference through Boards and Agencies. The Team was excited to learn of new technological advances on the horizon that will not only allow churches to ascertain its financial position with more easily accessible data, but help design evaluative tools to insure financially healthy churches.

Finally, it should be noted that the Conference Strategy Team regularly takes note of any developments in the work of The Commission On The Way Forward to consider from a practical standpoint how actions of the called General Conference might impact the Comprehensive Strategy Plan adopted by Holston Conference.

The Conference Strategy Team continues to affirm that its commitment is to finding innovative and relevant ways to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the World; furthermore, the Comprehensive Strategy Plan was intentionally designed to be responsive and adaptive to change. Thus, the Strategy Team feels that Holston Conference is uniquely prepared to adapt to whatever changes might take place – and to continue its mission to make disciples of Christ - irrespective of any decision made by the General Conference in February 2019.

At the upcoming meeting on October 11th, HCST will be examining the steps necessary to fulfill the goals of the Conference Comprehensive Strategy Plan between now and the end of this calendar year.

Please continue to maintain the Holston Conference Strategy Team in your prayers as it seeks guidance to fulfill God's vision for the future of Holston Conference.

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