

Jeremiah Teams Conference Staff Alignment

FAQs

This resource attempts to answer some questions regarding the report of the Conference Staff Alignment Jeremiah Team.

What exactly would change at the conference office if this recommendation were approved?

It is important to know that this recommendation is about the structure through which conference ministries would operate, not any individuals. The primary recommendation of the team is the creation of “The Office of Congregational Excellence,” which would encompass both the continuing work of Connectional Ministries and the reshaped work of innovation and strategy related to Congregational Development.

The Office of Congregational Excellence would be led by the newly created position “Director of Congregational Excellence,” which would replace both the Director of Connectional Ministries position and the Director of Congregational Development position. Any decision about who would serve in the new position would be made after the Annual Conference determines the structure.

What about the work of the Congregational Specialists?

Under the recommendation, there would be three Congregational Specialists that would serve in specific ways. This work would no longer be organized by geography. Instead, the Congregational Specialists would reshape how they support and resource congregations.

How would the Director of Innovation and Strategy be chosen?

This would be a part-time appointment by the Bishop and Cabinet.

How would reducing Congregational Development to part-time reflect our commitment to reaching new people?

This recommendation is not about placing less priority on reaching new people. Rather, it is about adjusting our approach so that we can envision this important work differently, breathing new life into growing the church.

When would these changes take place?

A transition team would facilitate the details of the changes, which would become effective July 1, 2026, to coincide with the new appointment year.

Please clarify the role of the Convener of Conference Connectional Ministries.

The Convener of Conference Connectional Ministries is the Chairperson of Conference Connectional Ministries, elected from the Conference Connectional Ministries members upon nomination by the Conference Connectional Ministries Nominating Committee.

Who would be responsible for organizing the transition team?

Bishop Fairley would name the members of the transition team.

How would Congregational Development funding be managed in the new structure?

Oversight of Congregational Development funds would remain with the Conference Committee on Congregational Development.

Are we doing enough to make a significant change in the conference budget?

This recommendation would reduce the conference budget by \$400,000, approximately 4 percent.

How have the potentially affected staff been cared for during discussion of changes?

All staff have been kept abreast of the ongoing work of the Jeremiah Teams, and those persons that might be most affected by changes have been in individual consultation about possibilities going forward. Decisions about specific staffing changes are the responsibility of the Conference Staff Relations Committee, in consultation with the Bishop.

UMCSC staff members are dedicated employees who love Jesus and The United Methodist Church. Their dedication and loyalty do not go unnoticed. Open communication has been a priority throughout this process.