

Connecting Missions Goals

Each Connecting Mission will determine how to address the following basic goals:

- ◆ strengthen the ministries and discipleship of local churches
- ◆ increase connectionalism and awareness of district, conference and general church resources, programs and ministries
- ◆ facilitate stewardship of congregational and conference resources: personnel, supervision, finance
- ◆ meet the identified needs of local congregations and communities to strengthen both
- ◆ provide a forum for discussion of ministry, resources, leadership, and direction

Connecting Missions

Connecting Missions are based on these principles:

- 1. Every congregation has a purpose.**
God has a purpose for every congregation. Every congregation is a part of God's outreach to the world.
- 2. Each church has its own personality.**
It is possible for United Methodist congregations to preserve their own unique identities and still serve a collective, coordinated witness.
- 3. Effective ministry is not based on size or location.**
Neither the size of a congregation nor its location is a guarantee of success or failure in ministry. A church of any size in any location can be an effective witness of God's grace.
- 4. We do the best ministry when we work connectionally.**
One of the great strengths of The United Methodist Church is its sense of connection with other churches and the larger church at district, conference, national and international levels. Though there are circumstances in which local congregations require connectional support, they thrive by working collectively and connectedly.

To learn more about Connecting Missions, contact your district superintendent or



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Oregon-Idaho
Annual Conference

"There is but one ministry in Christ, but there are diverse gifts and evidences of God's grace in the body of Christ."

— Ephesians 4:4-16

What is Connecting Mission?

A Connecting Mission is a group of congregations, ministry settings and faith-based communities within the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference gathered together by common geography, ministry or other factors. Although there are many forms and models of churches working cooperatively, the Oregon-Idaho Conference will use the Connecting Mission model to enable our common mission and strengthen each individual church.

Will my church be part of a Connecting Mission?

By 2005, the entire Annual Conference will be organized around the concept of Connecting Missions. Each group of ministries formed into a Connecting Mission will discern God's call in their work together and will determine together a faithful response to that call

How is a Connecting Mission organized?

In consultation with congregations, ministry settings and faith-based communities, the ministry cabinet will form Connecting Missions. Each Connecting Mission will have an ordained elder designated as the Connecting Mission coordinator to provide leadership, guidance and resources. Each Connecting Mission will also have a leadership team made up of appointed clergy, the lay leader and one other lay person from the partnering organizations. Each Connecting Mission will determine its own meeting schedule, though there will be at least one meeting per year with the district superintendent open to all who wish to attend.

What will Connecting Missions accomplish?

At the very least, every congregation will be more aware of what neighboring congregations are doing in ministry and mission. Based on the assumption that many churches together can do what individual churches cannot, Connecting Missions will enlarge the possibilities for mission and outreach for local congregations. Faith-based communities will pool resources such as ideas, personnel, financial and other resources to build stronger, broader ministries. Faith communities can also provide spiritual energy and renewed enthusiasm to each other for making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Why Connecting Missions?

One of the great strengths of The United Methodist Church is its commitment to a connectional life. No congregation stands alone. Every United Methodist congregation and ministry setting is connected to every other congregation and ministry setting locally and globally. No ministry is subservient to another. All United Methodists are summoned and sent by Christ to live and work together in mutual interdependence guided by the Spirit.



What does the Discipline say?

“Connectionalism in the United Methodist tradition is multi-leveled, global in scope, local in thrust. Our connectionalism is not merely a linking of one charge conference to another. It is rather a vital web of interactive relationships. We are connected by sharing a common tradition of faith, including our Doctrinal Standards and General Rules; by sharing together a constitutional polity, including a leadership of general superintendency; by sharing a common mission, which we seek to carry out by working together in and through conferences that reflect the inclusive and missional character of our fellowship; by sharing a common ethos that characterizes our distinctive way of doing things.”

— ¶ 103, 130
The Book of Discipline