

Conference Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2008 – 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Individual members present:

Bishop Bob Hoshibata, Gerry Hill, Jo Japs, Ardis Letey, Deb Payne, Greg Nelson, Tom Wogaman

Agency members present:

Cabinet: Donna Pritchard, CFA: Jim Monroe, Trustees: Brian Nelson-Munson, Board of Ordained Ministry: Joanne Dobrinski, Camp and Retreat Ministries: Todd Bartlett

Absences:

Jesse Bynum, Kim Fields

Vacancy: *Ethnic member*

Ex officio present:

Scott Harkness, Turella Woods, Linda Sullivan, Joan Collison, Bob Meyers

Guests: *Jonathan Enz, Al Trachsel, Carol Johnson, Steve Ross, Lee Hunefeld, Dean Hollomon*

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Opening and Welcome—Bob Hoshibata

Bishop Bob Hoshibata asked for a moment of privilege as he opened the meeting. He thanked the Annual Conference for so much support during his mother's illness and death. He also said it was a blessing to be able to be away knowing that the Conference was in the hands of good leadership. He concluded by saying, "Your spirit of love traveled over the miles and we felt it. We are doing well as a family. Of course there is sadness and loss, but God provides his strength in those times."

Recommended reading:

Rekindling the Mainline, Stephen Compton

Reflections on Food and Justice, Larry Hollar, Ed.

Aligning with Strategic Direction

Financial Results 2008—Bob Meyers, Jim Monroe

Action requested: Applause, cheering

Bob handed out copies of the financial reports. He said, "We ended the year about 3% up from the previous year. Our projections model shows where we are each month, and according to that data, in 2007 we were ahead of the 5-year average. Based on the summary, we will create a spending plan, but have not yet had a chance to do so; we plan to do it in the next couple weeks."

The next step is for CF&A to approve it, and then agencies will be informed of their spending limits. "Remember that in 2007, we had \$319,000 less in the budget than in 2006," Bob said. "This year (2008) we have \$176,000 more than 2007. We hope to keep ahead of the game. In January we were surpassing our model, so we're off to a good start for 2008."

Jim Monroe added that CF&A started the quadrennium in 2004 concerned about the general fund balance (reserves). The Conference needs approximately three months of operating funds on hand, or about \$1.5 million. In the two prior years, we had somewhere between \$1.2 million and \$400,000—we had eaten that far into the general fund balance. Because of the spending plan, we have been able to double where we were before, and have put back \$250,000-\$300,000. CF&A appreciates the spirit of working together and staying within the spending plan.

Aligning with Strategic Direction

Capital Campaign—Jim Monroe

Action requested: Endorse a campaign to take to Annual Conference

A task force was authorized by Annual Conference to study our camping program with an eye toward improving facilities and program. That task force has now made 18 recommendations which CF&A has adopted and will be taking to this year's Annual Conference. CF&A is now asking CLT to sign on and support the effort. The capital campaign has to do with Camp and Retreat Ministries and the Oregon-Idaho Foundation.

Todd presented the recommendations approved in consultation with a fundraising firm, RSI. The list has been approved by CFA.

1. **Proceed with campaign planning** using RSI suggestions.
2. **Retain fundraising counsel** rather than try to do it on our own.
3. **Conduct a capital campaign with primary focus on solicitation of major gifts.** This is the usual method for major fundraising drives. The final goal is based on the total of these preliminary gifts.
4. **Promote the opportunity for making designated gifts to the campaign.** Theory has changed during the last 10-15 years from seeking undesignated gifts to designated gifts, allowing people to feel more ownership of their donations.

5. **Give further consideration to a congregational component of the campaign.** There is a fundraising project offered by RSI in which the Annual Conference takes on a consultation fee for local churches that stipulates that 10% of everything raised comes back to the Conference. RSI has had some success in this area including some projects that have raised more than the 10% stipulated.
6. **View this campaign as providing both present and future benefit.** Managing the funds will be the work of the Foundation; this money could leverage more opportunities.
7. **Test a tentative campaign objective of \$5 million.** This figure could change depending on major gifts solicitations. The original goal was over \$7 million.
8. **Promote near-term giving; prepare for receiving planned gifts.** For the first 3-5 years, money raised will go directly to Camp and Retreat Ministries, but we can also encourage people to leave gifts to CRM in their wills.
9. **Adopt a strategic plan to maximize fundraising potential.** The following nine items are all part of the strategic plan.
10. **Adopt a three-phased, 18-month campaign timetable.** This gives time for additional study, gathering major gifts, and opening the campaign up to the public. The plan is to launch the major funds drive at Annual Conference in 2009.
11. **Prioritize the campaign among Annual Conference leaders and staff.** This is the educational piece—get everyone on board, answer questions. The campaign will be named by the bishop in consultation with RSI.
12. **Enlist and prepare a fundraising team.** The vision is to have regional teams in addition to the central team.
13. **Appoint a campaign communications committee.** This group would make sure the word gets out effectively.
14. **Conduct prospect review.** Some of this has already been done, but it needs to be reviewed and refined. New prospects can be added.
15. **Following prospect review and early solicitation activity, determine a campaign goal.** No goal is set in stone. It might be better for the team to speak in terms of “a multi-million-dollar campaign.”
16. **Determine congregational components and benefits from the campaign.** Who are the congregations that might benefit from consultations?
17. **Conduct awareness and cultivation programs for pastors and donor prospects.** Though some never want to hear it, pastors are key in any fundraising campaign.
18. **Create a fundraising infrastructure** to collect information, determine spending, etc.

CLT added its support to the recommended capital campaign.

Aligning with Strategic Direction

Program Funding Scenario—Scott Harkness

Action requested: Feedback on whether to proceed; ideas, concerns, affirmations

To start, Scott explained that he was sharing some “out-loud thinking,” some bold thinking, about how our Strategic Direction is shaping—and must shape—our program and ministry.

CLT set up the “Out of the Box Funding Task Force” to take a new look at how the budget reflects the ministries of the Annual Conference. We could be reorganizing around some of these ideas as early as 2009, but at the moment it has not even gone to the Connectional Ministries Table.

Before he went further, he made it clear that he wanted to talk these ideas over with CLT and asked that, for the time being, it stay at the CLT table and not be shared outside the group.

Scott then presented a Power Point called, “Funding Our Mission,” which contained the following concepts:

1. Maintain the bottom line for the Conference Benevolence Budget
2. Effective organization around the Strategic Direction
3. Priority on starting new faith communities
4. Use coaches/consultants instead of committees where feasible

He also shared a possible funding scenario and asked for discussion. The main source of funding for congregational development comes from The Collins Foundation and a Conference asking that garnered \$45,000-\$50,000. The target amount for congregational development in the Benevolence Budget would be \$135,000.

Campus Ministry would be funded by a block grant, a significant cut, so Campus Ministries would have to find funding from other sources if they want to continue ministry at the same level.

The \$65,000 for ethnic ministries would come out of current funds. We’re looking for ways to connect with local ministries.

Bishop Hoshibata said that every change requires other changes—there are other people or groups we need to consult before we move on this. We need to know which groups we need to work with.

Brian pointed out that the Conference Development Team has made its fundamental emphasis new ministries instead of redevelopment. He said people were hurt that the shift wasn’t more publicized at the time it began. He noted that there is great potential for hurt and disappointment if we don’t include people from the very beginning. He asked, “What efforts are we going to make to have open discussions? Are we going to do our work better by church development than through Campus Ministry?”

Bishop Hoshibata asked Scott what he was asking of CLT.

Scott’s reply was that he was just presenting some thinking and hoping to get a response to determine whether this is the right direction so a decision can be made about whether to proceed or not.

Ardie said, “I think we’re sending a mixed message. We say we want to emphasize ministry to youth, but then we take support away from Campus Ministry. I’m not opposed to doing things in new and better ways, but if we take money away from Campus Ministry, we need to find other ways to support it. It’s important to put real energy and funding into ministry to young people. This could be throwing the baby out with the bath water.”

Jim asked if anyone in Campus Ministry had been in on the conversation. Scott answered that they know funding of Campus Ministry is an issue and that it may not continue as it has been.

The bishop said, “We know that Campus Ministry is a hot button issue, but let’s not focus only on Campus Ministry to the exclusion of everything else. We are aware of the pitfalls of even entering this area. Still, we need to focus on the whole, not just on individual parts.”

Bob M. said, “We have to decide where we’re putting our energy and funds. Where can we get the biggest bang for the buck? We have to start making big decisions. If we believe in new development, the only way we can implement it is to begin with the budget. I don’t believe we can do this work with the configuration of our present budget. We need to find ways to turn our

congregations around. We need to find a way to redeploy our funds. If we don't start with the budget, we can't accomplish what we want and need to do."

Greg pointed out that it's also about timing. He said, "Lots is happening denominationally. We need to be prepared to embrace the work of the General Board of Discipleship as it starts innovative, bold programs. Let them know we want money out here in the West. We would be strengthened by partnering more than we do with the denomination."

The bishop asked if CLT supports further conversation. He asked members to consider it during lunch.

Encouraging Excellence

Conference Treasurer Search—Jim Monroe

Action requested: Report only

We are continuing the search process. We've made no decisions; interviews are continuing.

Scott said Jim's story of a handicapped man reminded him of the Interfaith Disabilities Network of Oregon. It is an interdenominational group, but there are no United Methodists involved. **We would really like to find a member to serve on that group.**

Personal and Social Holiness

Cabinet Border Experience—Donna Pritchard

Action requested: Report only

In January the Oregon-Idaho Ministry Cabinet joined the Desert Southwest Appointive Cabinet for a close-up look at the US-Mexican border area. Donna made the following report.

"We saw water stations set up by Humane Borders, we heard about the difficulties of Mexican immigrants trying to enter the US. We met with people providing help and emergency assistance to immigrants, most of whom will not make it to the US in several tries. It was a powerful experience.

"What difference will it make in our ministries? We now desire to do more partnering in mission with the Desert Southwest Conference and with Mexico. We understand better the importance of exposing ourselves to different perspectives, and being exposed to others' world views, others' realities. That can also happen at home. We are finding ways to engage in conversation and relationship and engage in ministry with people who are already in our area."

Tom Wogaman said he identified with everything Donna said. He continued, "I was impressed with the work of groups like Humane Borders and church organizations. I was also impressed with government agencies being concerned on a human level for people seeking any kind of reasonable life, risking privation and death in the process. They try to cross the desert in extremes of both heat and cold. We learned about addressing human conditions, as opposed to focusing on the legal, political view. The situation is not encouraging, but people are trying to keep others as safe as possible under the circumstances.

"Ultimately the solution lies in people from Mexico and Central America not really wanting to leave their own countries, but being able to find a better life at home. But until there are economic opportunities in the areas they are leaving, illegal, dangerous immigration will continue. Until the larger problems are solved, we are doing what we can on a human level. I had no idea of the scope of the desperation, risks and needs."

Donna concluded by saying, "One of the things that has resulted from this trip is that Courtney McHill, associate pastor at Corvallis First, is looking for an opportunity to take young adults on a mission trip to help Humane Borders."

Personal and Social Holiness

Bishop's Initiative to Eliminate Hunger—Linda Sullivan

Action requested: Report only

Linda reported that she and Greta Hoshibata had fulfilled their assignment to create a brochure promoting the Bishop's Initiative.

Making New Disciples

Church Development—Lee Hunefeld, Steve Ross

Action requested: Conversation and patience

Lee Hunefeld reported, "We've only been able to send one potential new start pastor to the New Church Leadership Institute. All the others had conflicts. We need at least three. The Arkansas Annual Conference offers trainings; all Annual Conferences send potential new start leaders. **We should put a page on the website to advertise trainings.** We need men and women from all ethnic backgrounds, ages, experience—not only new pastors. Our people must do this training.

"We may have trouble meeting the CLT goal of starting three new faith communities (one being a new church start) by July 2009. The first effort has to be a success; we must give it our best shot. If that means delaying the goal a bit, that's what we'd like to do. We remain committed to our task and are working steadily to be ready to start our new church project as soon as possible. There are many challenges, commitments and priorities that already exist in the Conference.

"Bob Crossman, director of church development in the Arkansas Annual Conference, visited with us recently. They have been very successful; so has the denominational network. Learning best practices can increase our success dramatically. A 65% success rate is huge in this area. We intend to follow those best practices. Our timeline will have to be flexible to accommodate them. CDT, Cabinet, BOM, and CF&A met, but only about half of the members showed up.

"We must change the Conference culture to support the effort of starting new churches. None of us likes the Conference culture as it exists today, but we love the people and churches. It's where we grew up. We exist in a missional environment. Our current culture isn't effective anymore and we have to change.

"Crossman came to discuss that. He explained how church development is accomplished. We're laying out a communications plan. Laura Hibbert will help with communicating why we want to start new churches. We talked with CDT about the characteristics they should be looking for in leaders to start new churches and clarified procedures that need to be included:

- Gathering names of potential candidates
- Training of candidates and leaders
- Assessment of candidates
- Assessment of potential new church sites
- Formation of an inclusive team to support each effort, which includes representatives from CDT, Cabinet, CF&A, CLT and any other elements of our Conference whose participation in a project is required. This team helps create and then signs off on each new project.
- Assignment of coaches
- Coordination of supporting churches

"We have also created benchmarks:

- March 17, 2008 Have draft budget ready
Acquire demographic information from Greg
Have initial communication plan
- June 2008 Have 10-15 more locations we want to assess
- End of Jan. 2009 Have 5 candidates trained and assessed
Have 3 locations identified
Put funding together

“As for assessment of new church starts, we need to spend a lot more time and energy assessing sites. We used to be able to throw a rock out the window and find a place, but that is no longer the case. We must talk with other church leaders and communities to determine the nature of the communities and cultures. Then we will select people who have an affinity for those things. To develop a project, CDT draws in representatives from other parts of the Conference to support the new start, including whatever agency will help fund it. Whatever group helps has a representative on the team. The plan describes benchmarks for four years. Included are criteria for pulling the plug, a benefit for the success of the ministry, pastors, and congregation.

“Assignment of coaches costs money, but we don’t want to start without one. Each new pastor should have a coach. We are looking at models other than parachute drops, finding someone to just drop into an area. That method has only a 14% success rate. We need a close-by church with good DNA to provide moral support in several ways: office space, a computer, a phone, meeting rooms, etc. It all needs to be coordinated. We’ll also meet to create some benchmarks. By that time, we’ll have 15 people trained and ready.”

Steve added, “We don’t mean that we will buy a piece of property. Our plan cost over 3-5 years is \$250,000—none of it is dirt. We will never buy property; when a church can buy property, the church buys it.”

Lee continued, saying, “We have entered into a contract with Crossman that will extend through June 2010. His fee will come out of CDT funds. The contract covers unlimited phone and email communications. We wanted to fund a new staff position, but this is a good start. The task force is on a steep learning curve.

“The Conference that I love and grew up in has been in maintenance mode for a long time. I’ve been in three churches; my Idaho churches had the characteristics of churches in maintenance mode. In many ways those churches are wonderful, but we need to reassess.

“CDT wants to challenge our leadership to rethink the Conference budget in light of new priorities. We need to allocate funds to make a start in planting new churches. This is a significant challenge. CDT is looking at ways to provide funds; we already have \$200,000 in the bank through Conference Askings. We must address our budget with vigor so we can fund the priorities we’ve set.

“We need to change our thinking and we need to have more people trained. Round One of the School of Congregational Development is being held in October, the second round is in January 2009. Right now we have Eilidh and Jeff Lowry and Courtney McHill, but we probably need 10-15 people to begin training in order to end up with five who will finish. Most who start out decide later it’s not for them. As they learn more they change their minds.

Bishop Hoshibata added, “One of our goals was not just to identify those who would be good as new pastors, but to train everyone on how to bring vitality to existing churches, to learn things to put into current ministry; to begin to change the whole DNA of the church and the vision and nature of the Annual Conference. We need those who have talent and potential, but who also have the ability to change that DNA. We must provide other opportunities for everyone to come hear what it takes to become a new start leader. **We’ll have an Annual Conference luncheon, have a meal together; anyone who has interest in what a new church start looks like could come.** We need education to

help people understand. This conversation has tickled our imagination. We will be looking at more conversation at this table.”

Excellence in Leadership

Board of Trustees—Brian Nelson-Munson

Requested action: For CLT to be informed, to get input and response on background checks, insurance and titles

The Lyons church has been officially abandoned as of January. The Board of Trustees is approaching a constructive deal with the City of Lyons to purchase the property. Kudos go to Linda Grund-Clampett in the Western District Office. She helped fashion a procedure that works not just for the trustees but for everyone involved. This is the second time Western District Superintendent Kate Conolly has had to close a church.

The Board of Trustees would appreciate feedback on the PACT background check. Does it work, are there problems?

Trustees still need titles and copies of insurance policies from each local church so it can do some work on protecting them.

The board also needs input on how to more adequately serve churches in trustee matters.

Excellence in Leadership

Disaster Response—Al Trachsel

Requested action: Share some “out-loud” thinking and a lot of paper

Al handed out the proposed “Annual Conference Disaster Response and Preparedness Plan.” It’s the same one we’ve had in the past. It’s based on a collection of many conference disaster plans cobbled together using the best parts of all of them.

CLT needs to decide if we want to accept this plan, implement it and quit, or take it to Annual Conference for approval, which may or may not be necessary. All our churches already have the “Crisis Communications” booklet. We need to be able to get information in place from local churches to the Conference and back again.

We’d also like to ask Annual Conference for a little change in the nominations process; we need a disaster response coordinator in each district to make up the Conference team, along with the Director of Connectional Ministries, Director of Communications, and the Bishop’s Office. Refer to last page of the folder. Al said the Outreach Team had already ratified the plan. **CLT approved his request.**

When Al was asked how our disaster response plan had worked with the coast disaster earlier this year, he said, “By accident.” He said it was an excellent opportunity to test our plan; our Conference was hit really hard, especially at Magruder. “We have an ongoing project there,” he said, “We are still working at the plan, but it’s being done by Braille—we’re just feeling our way along. We’ve used the information we gained in this manual. We still have work to do in mitigation, preparedness, prevention, and foreseeing potential disasters. All churches have to make sure they are fully insured.”

Every local church should have a copy of the manual and to read it, especially pastors. It should be a 3-ring binder with removable sections that can be updated regularly. We need to separate the action plan from the reference materials.

Bishop Hoshibata asked if CLT affirmed what Al had done. **All voted yes.**

In terms of next steps, Scott said we still need to **complete and distribute the disaster response plan notebook to local churches and all ministry settings, including camps and campus ministries; we don't need to get approval from Annual Conference.**

Aligning with Strategic Direction

Ministry Review—Scott Harkness

Requested action: Aligning ministries to the Strategic Direction

This is a goal CLT set for itself: to get ministry reviews from all Conference agencies. Scott handed out a report he prepared that includes primary ministries, descriptions, and how each ministry fits the Strategic Direction. He said, “We want to seek ways ministry teams might partner with CLT for effectiveness.” He also said he hadn't pushed agencies to get their information to him, but will if CLT wants him to. Scott asked what value CLT sees in this effort. He asked members to read the handout and decide if their own ministries are aligned. If not, how do we proceed? Is it important enough to work on more? **The bishop said he will put this on the agenda for the next meeting.**

Excellence in Leadership

Leadership Pool—Tom Wogaman

Requested action: Report only

Many names have come in—a total of 164—from all over the Conference. **Now Disaster Response Team members need to be added.**

Excellence in Leadership

Traveling Training Teams—Ardis Letey

Requested action: Report only

We need to set a date for the “training the trainers” event. Some teams are all ready to go. Let's let them go, but not abandon the idea of holding a training. People want to get to work. **We need to flesh out our brochure with more information. We will include the Conference Development Team to help train in revitalization with local churches. We will also put a list of people willing to lead trainings in the catalog.**

Aligning with Strategic Direction

Special Sundays Schedule—Scott Harkness

Requested action: Set Special Sunday dates

CLT has the responsibility for setting dates for Special Sundays. Scott asked CLT to consider whether we have a manageable number of Special Sundays or are they too frequent? He handed out the following information, saying it is an attempt to spread Special Sundays out in a logical, effective way. There are six denominational Special Sundays, eight Conference Special Sundays, and two others that have come up in another way, secular or general.

2008 SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Dark Blue Bold indicates UM designated Sunday

Maroon Bold indicates AC designated Sunday

Green Bold indicates other designated Sunday

Jan:

06 –

13 –
20 – **Human Relations Day**/Ecumenical Sunday
27 – **Empty Bowl Sunday** (Hunger emphasis—no offering)

Feb:

03 – **Willamette University Sunday, Souper Bowl Sunday**
10 – Boy Scout Sunday
17 –
24 –

Mar:

02 – **One Great Hour of Sharing**
09 – Girl Scout Sunday
16 – Palm/Passion Sunday
23 – Easter
30 – **Campus Ministry Sunday*** (*originally designated for May 18*)

Apr:

06 –
13 –
20 – **Native American Ministries Sunday*** (*originally designated for Apr. 6*)
27 –

May:

04 – [*Golden Cross Sunday—Denominational designation; go with Nov. 9*]
11 – Pentecost Sunday
18 – **Peace with Justice Sunday**/Heritage Sunday
25 – **Memorial Day Weekend**

Jun:

01 – **NHTS Sunday*** (*originally undesignated*)
08 –
15 –
22 –
29 –

Jul:

06 –
13 –
20 –
27 –

Aug:

03 –
10 – **Youth Ministry Sunday**
17 –
24 –
31 – **Labor Day Weekend**

Sep: **Christian Education Sunday**—*any Sun in Sept.*
Hispanic Ministries Month* (*emphasis on Conference Asking during month rather than on Special Sunday offering*)

07 –
14 –
21 –
28 –

Oct:

05 – **World Communion Sunday**

12 –

19 – Laity Sunday/**UMVIM Sunday*** (*originally undesignated*)

26 –

Nov:

02 – All Saints Sunday

09 – Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday/**Golden Cross Sunday*** (*Annual Conference designation*)

16 –

23 –

30 – **UM Student Day**

Dec:

07 – **Global AIDS Awareness Day***

14 –

21 –

28 –

For 2008, some of the Special Sundays have already occurred. The date for Willamette University Sunday was fixed by the anniversary of something or other.

There was some discussion including these questions and answers:

Q: Why do we have Hispanic and Native American Sundays designated but nothing for Blacks?

A: *There is no offering for that group.*

Q: Is there a designated Hispanic Ministry Sunday?

A: *Hispanic Ministries used to have a date assigned to it, but the Conference Hispanic Council changed it to anytime in September.*

Q: Is there a special date for World AIDS Sunday?

A: *The Conference sent two people to be trained in AIDS work, but we have never designated a Sunday for it.*

Q: International AIDS Awareness Sunday is Dec. 1; why are we changing it? If we coincided with the international day, we might get better offerings. What about switching NHTS Sunday with Global AIDS Awareness Day?

A: *CLT agreed that was a good idea.*

The bishop stated that for next year we should handle the calendar during this year's fall meeting.

CLT voted in favor of the edited plan switching the date of Global AIDS Awareness Day (December 7) with NHTS Sunday (June 1). We need to set offering dates for a year at our fall meeting.

Align with Strategic Direction

Safe Sanctuaries—Deb Payne

Requested action: Agreement that policy be submitted on your behalf

CLT asked the Safe Sanctuaries group to present a draft of what CLT should take to Annual Conference. There are only two lines in the actual petition: “Adopt the attached ‘Safe Sanctuaries’ Policy effective, July 1, 2008 for events sponsored by the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference and its districts.”

The question was asked, “What are the legal consequences of having a policy and not enforcing it?”

Brian answered, “You can get bitten from either direction. If a standard is adopted, but we don’t follow it, we could be in trouble. It also works the other way: If the Conference doesn’t have a policy, we could be in trouble. The same goes for local churches. What we can do is provide local churches with clear, simple ways to maintain a policy. Not using it is no better than not having one at all.

Deb added that General Conference has already adopted a plan for the UMC, so we are already at risk as a Conference by not having adopted one and so are our local churches. **CLT voted to adopt the action request with one change: “Conference and district agencies” will be substituted for “ministry settings.”**

Excellence in Leadership

Nominations Committee—Scott Harkness

Requested action: Change Conference Rules in Journal, CLT guidance

We are always finding questions and confusion on what the following Conference Rules mean and how to apply them—there are some fuzzy places; e.g., task forces that act like standing committees are given to self-recruiting. How strictly do the rules need to be applied? What if a person wants to continue in a committee past the usual rotation? What if people want to ask for an exception to the eight-year rule? Suspending or changing the rule could be a can of worms. The Nominating Committee wanted to share that decision. The rules were written over a period of time, but the language hasn’t kept up with reality. When you start talking about specific situations, do the rules apply or not?

The second thing is that some groups organize themselves and elect their own leadership; the Conference sets the chairs for others. See the following:

Applying Conference Rules to Upcoming Nominations

13.030 Service on Boards and Committees. No person shall serve on any one Board, Council or Committee of the Annual Conference, or on any district board or committee whose members are elected by the Annual Conference, more than eight consecutive years, with the following exceptions and provisions:

Note: Does this rule apply to all Conference agencies, including Conference Commissions? “Task Forces” are presumably excluded from this rule. How shall we handle requests for exceptions to this rule?

1. One or two years’ service to fill a vacancy on a quadrennial Board, Council or Committee shall not be counted for the purpose of applying this rule.
2. In the case of Committees or Boards elected in three-year or other term classes, the maximum service shall be three terms, with the provision that a one-year appointment to fill a vacancy prior to the first term shall not be counted for the purpose of applying this rule.
3. Persons who are members of a Board ex-officio shall not be affected by this rule, except that non-salaried Conference or Board officers, such as Conference Secretary and Statistician, and Conference and District Lay Leaders and Associate Lay Leaders, shall be limited to eight consecutive years in any one of these Boards, Councils and Committees.

4. The Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference and the Board of Conference Claimants, Inc. are requested to follow the above-stated limitations of this section in nominating persons as trustees of said corporations.
5. No member of the Conference shall serve simultaneously on more than one Ministry Team or Council unless in an ex-officio capacity, by disciplinary requirement or as otherwise provided for in these rules. Division members who are thereby members of a Board are recognized as serving only on a single Board/Division and are in compliance with this rule.

Note: We no longer refer to Divisions, but we do not name “related teams” to various Conference Ministry Teams. The presumption is that these would in essence be a Division. Does this rule include the Commissions? In other words, to what Conference agencies does this rule not apply?

6. Members of the Board of Pensions shall be limited to one eight-year term, although two years’ service to fill a previous vacancy shall not be counted for the purpose of applying this rule.
7. If a member of any program Board, Division or Committee of the Annual Conference is absent from two consecutive, regularly stated meetings without cause, that body may, after notice to the individual, request the CLT to declare the position vacant. The CLT will then declare such vacancy to the Conference Nominating Committee.
8. Any changes in committee membership between sessions of the Annual Conference must receive the approval of the Executive Committee of the Conference Nominating Committee before becoming effective.
9. An elected member of the Board of Ordained Ministry may serve a maximum of three consecutive four-year terms (§634.1a).

13.040 Rules for the organization of Boards, Commissions and Committees:

1. Conference Boards and Agencies whose chairs are elected by the Annual Conference: The newly elected chair shall within 30 days of the end of the Annual Conference Session notify all elected members of the newly elected Board or Agency. The chair shall designate one of the persons as head of the Nominating Committee.

Note: “Boards and Agencies” to which this rule presumably applies:

1. *Communications Committee*
 2. *Connectional Ministries Table*
 3. *Nurture Team*
 4. *Outreach Team*
 5. *Witness Team*
 6. *Council on Racial/Ethnic Leadership*
 7. *Hispanic Ministries Council*
 8. *Native American Ministries Council*
 9. *Campus Ministries and Higher Education*
 10. *CUIC*
 11. *CORR*
 12. *COSROW*
 13. *UMVIM*
 14. *Commission on Equitable Compensation*
 15. *Rules Committee*
2. Conference Boards and Agencies that elect their own chair: The person who has been serving as the chair, whether or not he or she is eligible for re-election to the same group

and whether or not he or she is eligible for re-election as its chair, shall schedule a meeting during the Conference Session for the new Board or Agency to organize, and shall appoint a nominating committee of not less than three persons from the membership of the newly elected Board or Agency. The chair shall designate one of the persons as head of the nominating committee thus formed.

Note: "Boards and Agencies" to which this rule presumably applies:

1. *Conference Youth Ministry*
 2. *Board of Ordained Ministry*
 3. *Committee on Episcopacy*
 4. *Council on Finance and Administration*
 5. *Board of Pensions*
 6. *Board of Trustees*
 7. *Commission on Archives and History*
3. The nominating committee appointed in 1) above shall meet at a time and place convenient to them on call of the head of the committee and nominate at least two persons for each position (normally vice-chair and secretary), securing if possible the consent of each to serve if elected. Whenever *The Discipline* allows, both clergy and lay persons shall be represented among the nominees.
 4. The nominating committee appointed in 2) above shall meet promptly at a time and place convenient to them on call of the head of the committee and nominate at least two persons for each position (normally chair, vice-chair and secretary), securing if possible the consent of each to serve if elected. Whenever *The Discipline* allows, both clergy and laypersons shall be represented among the nominees.
 5. All voting shall be done by secret ballot for each position individually. (Rules Committee note: Under *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised Ed. 1970*, p. 348 "this requirement cannot be suspended even by a unanimous vote....It is out of order...to move that one person...cast the ballot...")

A number of questions followed:

- Q: In addition to the literal application, it's a fuzzier decision if a person has been on a group for eight years, but chair for four. Can that person be re-elected? What about two at once? Our district superintendents have asked to continue the same people on the same committee for special circumstances; if so, the rule may not be applicable.
- A: *If there is a special missional reason, that should come to the floor of Annual Conference to be decided as an exception.*
- Q: Does Nominations apply for the dispensation?
- A: *An asterisk or other "holy sign" should be placed right on the Nominating Report for consideration. We must do that very cautiously so as not to create a culture of expectation or open Pandora's door.*
- Q: Could we write a rule that makes exceptions?
- A: *No, it's cleaner not to have a new rule.*
- Q: Doesn't that put the onus on the Nominating Committee to explain why?
- A: *The rules can be suspended.*
- Q: It takes a 2/3 majority to change a rule; can an agency make editorial changes without changing the sense of the rule, for instance for outdated language? Does that have to be voted on?
- A: *The Rules Committee should make recommendations for any change; e.g., to eliminate all references to a specific word. No one can change a rule in any way without a vote.*

Greg Nelson pointed out that a rule states that lay members-at-large on CLT cannot be on any other committee. We might consider changing that. We want very active people on CLT, not people who just come to the meetings—or don't come. There are six at-large members of CLT. We may want to change that.

Q: Does Annual Conference have to do that, or does the Nominating Committee do it?

A: *For each exception, we need to have a vote. It would be best to have one or two, not 30; we must ask why this particular person has to be in this position.*

Scott will write up Action Requests for necessary rules changes and language clean-up. Do not include change to the "8-year-rule." Any individual asking for an extension must specifically get the rule suspended. Nominations can do this by using an asterisk "or other holy sign" right on the Nominating Committee report. Each exception must be voted on.

Excellence in Leadership

Clergy Wellness, Effectiveness—Joanne Dobrinski

Requested action: Report only

Kate Conelly has recently attended a Desert Southwest Appointive Cabinet meeting; they have recently eliminated a good number of clergy for ineffectiveness. They provide funds for alternative jobs or training. BOM has implemented an effectiveness instrument; Western District is testing it.

We will bring more information to the next meeting.

Excellence in Leadership

General Conference—Greg Nelson

Requested action: Report only

Greg reported that things are happening as preparations are made for General Conference. We will be doing more educating in a shorter time; things are more hurried and more stressful. There will be smaller committees this time. Many people from our Conference are going, perhaps 20 or more.

"Donna and I have met with other 'first-electeds' from other conferences in the Western Jurisdiction. We realize that we can't cover all the committees, we have no strength in numbers in any Western Jurisdiction conference; the whole Western Jurisdiction has only 30-40 delegates. We are trying to find a room where we can hold daily meetings. The 'first-electeds' are getting organized because we've learned through past experience that committee chairs, if their numbers are large enough, quickly railroad legislation. We're feeling good about heading in there.

"There are some big issues coming up—the worldwide church; do we treat everyone the same or will we continue to be US-focused; how do we act on the Israel-Palestine conflict; is the boycott of the Caterpillar Corp. the right thing to do? One of the hottest issues will be changing the number of bishops.

"Linda and I are working on a communications plan that will allow us to get as much as possible on our website as early as possible. There will be no wireless devices allowed on the floor during sessions, though we would like to have a two-way conversation with people in our Conference if possible."

Personal and Social Holiness

Bishop's Initiative to Eliminate Hunger—Jon Enz

Requested action: Inform and receive enthusiastic support

The task force is expanding on the idea of “Recipe for Enough” and is sending out a packet requesting that churches take on new projects for the next church year. The packet will supply recipes on how to do it.

Jon said, “We continue to expand our program. We are encouraging churches—even those with existing programs—to choose two items from the ‘ala carte menu,’ plus at least one appetizer and one dessert (second-mile giving). We encourage churches to get to know the ethnic diets in their communities and provide comfort foods in food pantries and feeding programs.

“Each church will have a dinner—potluck, soup or something simple—review the menu, and vote on projects to undertake. A pledge card will be included in materials for each church to fill out and return to the task force. We hope to be able to establish a cookbook with recipe cards for specific projects. We want churches to send in their own ‘recipes for success.’

“At Annual Conference we will ask each local church to describe projects they are or will be doing. We will display ideas on a ‘table of commitment’ so people can see what local churches are doing. Later in the fall, we will encourage churches to take the ‘Food Stamp Challenge’—to eat on about \$21/week. Oregon Food Bank is promoting a regional grassroots challenge.”

Joan pointed out there was an item on the website called, “What the World Eats” that she found offensive. **Take “we hope others eat better than this” off the “What the World Eats” item on the Conference website. And encourage whoever wrote it originally it to take the reference off everywhere.**

Excellence in Leadership

I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church—Jo Japs

Requested action: Report only

Jo Japs told the group that her church downloaded a study guide from the book Bishop Hoshibata asked CLT members to buy. She bought it and has been reimbursed as the bishop promised. It is an excellent program. Her church has done one session so far; people are impressed. Her church tries to take part in connectional things. They are bringing six people to the Metro training; out of nine programs, they will attend seven.

Other

Living the Vision—Joan Collison

Requested action: Report only

Joan attended the “Living the Vision” workshop in San Francisco, along with about six others from Oregon-Idaho. The point of the conference was “dealing with our own culture and reaching out to others.” Joan will be doing a short workshop for our Ministry Cabinet. She’d like to encourage, if not mandate, having other workshops around the Conference. This is a change that will help everyone make strides in encouraging disciple-making. The original sin of the church for United Methodists is that we are lagging behind the secular world. The world is pulling the church into more sensitivity.

The bishop responded, **“We want to follow up on the “Living the Vision” event and how information gained can be passed along to the rest of the Conference.”**

Aligning with Strategic Direction

2007 Annual Conference Follow-Through—Scott Harkness

Requested action: Report only

This body is the group that monitors Annual Conference actions. Right now there are none for CLT to care for. Scott sent a letter to all agencies that had 2007 action requests referred to them, letting them know that they should be prepared to give a response as part of their reports at Annual Conference. CLT needs to make sure groups report back when asked to do so.

Aligning with Strategic Direction

AC Report—Bob Hoshibata

Requested action: Report only

As the word gets around that we will be at Annual Conference on Sunday, the bishop is feeling some tension. But he says he is “unrepentant.” He thinks this will be a very good experience.

“To update you about the special concert,” said the bishop, “I’m aware there has been some concern about timing. A formal offer is in to the promoter who represents ‘Jars of Clay.’ He has had the request for two weeks. Bob Meyers is following through with the legal aspects; our Conference chancellor will be reviewing the contract. As soon as it is signed by both parties, lots of information will be going out.”

A task group was called together in which Bishop Hoshibata asked some young people to make a recommendation for a group; they decided on “Jars of Clay.” If they are not available, the task group will seek another group. Conference funds will not be used for this concert; it will cost about \$50,000. So far, \$33,000 has been raised.

The bishop said, “I was feeling kind of down about having only \$33,000, but Greta told me to ‘do the math.’ We have only \$17,000 left to go! We have gifts in place from the Azumanos, our lay leader, a local church, the Central District, and several individuals. I have just received another pledge for \$2,000.”

The bishop asked anyone who knew of someone who might be willing to donate to get in touch with him right away.

The theme of 2008 Annual Conference is “Boldly Making Disciples of Jesus Christ: Vitalizing the Church.”

Aligning with Strategic Direction

CLT dates – Scott Harkness

Requested action: Set dates

CLT meets 4-5 times per year. This year, 4 times seems reasonable. Jesse Bynum has asked that we schedule meetings on Saturdays. She could meet Tuesdays or Saturdays. Scott asked how others felt about Saturdays.

The bishop said he will get together with Scott to find a Saturday or two on his schedule.

Greg suggested meeting in Woodburn. Scott suggested CLT set the date for the first meeting, then get back to the others later. **The next meeting will be May 20 at Parkrose UMC. We will look at the next two quarters at that time trying to avoid scheduling on Wednesdays because of scheduling problems for some people.**

Aligning with Strategic Direction

Nominations—Scott Harkness

Requested action: Report only

We are trying to be aware of fairness at this table. Dean Yamamoto had filled our “ethnic” seat, but since he resigned, we have not been able to find anyone to take his place. **We will ask for nominations for this seat from COREL.**

Statistical Report

CORR Report – Joan Collison

Persons of color:	1
White:	22
Men:	14 who spoke 70 times
Women:	9 who spoke 25 times
Clergy:	12 who spoke 47 times
Laity:	14 who spoke 47 times
Youth:	0
Staff:	4 who spoke 20 times

Ethnic concerns:

- “Ugly Laws” used as reason to evict an “ugly” person from a restaurant
- Ethnic ministries somewhat lacking in Lee’s presentation
- New faith communities need to consider the needs of racial ethnic persons
- Need for offering for Strength for the Journey
- Black Church in the 21st Century
- Report of Ministry Cabinet’s trip to Mexico
- Native American Task Force may need to retain some existing members for the next quadrennium.
- “Recipe for Enough” to include needs of ethnic racial persons and their comfort foods
- Continuation of Western Jurisdiction “Living the Vision” to help our Conference become culturally competent
- Prejudiced comments: “Cotton-pickin’ hands”

Joan mentioned a 31-minute DVD called, “Legacy of Faith” that sells for \$20. **She requested that it be publicized in the UMConnector. She will provide information.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be May 20 at Parkrose UMC, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

CLT Decisions

Capital campaign	CLT added its support to the recommended capital campaign. (p. 3)
Church Development	Approved creating a page on the Conference website to advertise church development trainings. (p. 6)
Disaster Response Team	Al Trachsel’s request for the Nominating Committee to find district disaster coordinators was approved. (p. 8)
	CLT voted to accept the Disaster Response Plan. (p. 8)

Special Sundays	CLT voted in favor of accepting the new Special Sunday schedule with one amendment of changing NHTS Sunday to June 1 and AIDS Awareness Sunday to Dec. 7. (p. 11)
Safe Sanctuaries	Accepted Action Request about Safe Sanctuaries with one amendment: “Conference and district agencies” will be substituted for “ministry settings.” (p. 12)
Next Meeting	The next meeting was set for May 20, Parkrose UMC, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (p. 17)

Assignments for Next Meeting

Bishop Hoshibata

- Arrange for an Annual Conference luncheon and a meal together for anyone who has interest in what a new church start looks like. (p. 8)
- Put Ministry Review on agenda for next meeting. (p. 9)
- Follow up on the “Living the Vision” event and how information gained can be passed along to the rest of the Conference. (p. 16)
- Look at the next two quarters of CLT meeting schedule at the next meeting; try to avoid Wednesdays because of schedule conflicts for some members. (p. 17)

Linda Sullivan

- Put a page on the website to advertise Church Development/New Start trainings. (Scott to provide information.) (p. 6)
- Take “we hope others eat better than this” off the “What the World Eats” item on the Conference website. And encourage whoever made it to take the reference off everywhere. (p. 16)
- Advertise “Legacy of Faith” DVD in Connector. Joan will provide information. (p. 18)

Tom Wogaman

- Add Disaster Response Team members to the Leadership Pool report (p. 9).

Al Trachsel

- Seek change in the nominations process through an Action Request to put a Disaster Response Coordinator for each district on the Conference Disaster Response Committee, along with the Director of Connectional Ministries, Director of Communications, and the Bishop’s Office. (p. 8)
- Complete and distribute Disaster Response Plan to every local ministry setting. All plans should be collected and put in a notebook—one to each ministry—that contains the action plan in one section and reference materials in another. (p. 9)

Scott Harkness

- Find a member of CLT to serve on the Interfaith Disabilities Network of Oregon. (p. 5)
- Provide content for church development page on website. (p. 6)
- Work with Al Trachsel to complete and distribute the Disaster Response Plan notebook to local churches and all ministry settings, including camps and campus ministries; we don’t need to get approval from Annual Conference. (p. 9)
- Put Special Sundays calendar on agenda for fall meeting. (p. 11)
- Write up Action Requests for necessary rules changes and language clean-up, but do not include change to the “8-year-rule.” (p. 15)

- Bring meeting schedule for the next two quarters to next meeting; avoid Wednesdays. (p. 17)
- Ask COREL about someone to fill the “ethnic member” seat on CLT. (p. 18)

Ardis Letey

- Set date for “Training the Trainers” event. (p. 9)
- Flesh out and finish brochure. (p. 9)
- Include Conference Development Team members as trainers in revitalization. (p. 9)
- Include a list of people willing to lead trainings. (p. 9)

Deb Payne

- Change Action Items to reflect the change in wording from “ministry settings” to “Conference and district agencies.” (p. 12)

JoAnne Dobrinski

- Bring to the next meeting updated information about the clergy wellness program being tested in Western District. (p. 15)

Joan Collison

- Follow up on “Living the Vision” events and how information can be passed along to the rest of the Conference. (p. 16)
- Get information to Linda about the “Legacy of Faith” DVD for placement on the Conference website. (p. 18)

Notes taken by Linda Sullivan