

# A Strategic Direction for The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

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## Statement of Mission and Vision

***Boldly Making Disciples of Jesus Christ  
Vitalizing the Church, Transforming the World***

## Conference Leadership Team Goals and Commitment to Action

### **- Practicing Personal and Social Holiness**

***The Conference Leadership Team promotes and resources the practice of personal and social holiness throughout the annual conference with the following actions...***

- The 2008-2009 annual conference year is declared by the Bishop to be the “**Year of Personal Holiness,**” resourced through the Conference Leadership Team and emphasized in annual conference worship and workshops. Annual conference lay and clergy members are matched with **Prayer Partners** to pray for each other during the year. [Starting June 2008] All entities within the connection incorporate **Wesleyan “Works of Piety”** in their ministries. [Starting June 2008]
- Form **sister church relationships** within the conference to inspire and challenge each other through prayer, ideas, resources and gifts. [Starting July 2007]
- Every local ministry-setting “steps up” to the Bishop’s Initiative to Eliminate Hunger by starting, expanding or adding at least **one ministry that addresses hunger**. [June 2007 to May 2008] Bishop’s Initiative to Eliminate Hunger Task Force makes a progress report to the annual conference session. [June 2008]
- Each local church participates in at least one **United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM)** experience. [By June 2008]

### **- Making New Disciples**

***The Conference Leadership Team promotes and resources the making of new disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the annual conference with the following actions...***

- Every ministry-setting develops and implements **intentional discipleship systems and ministries**. [By January 2009]
- Every local church experiments with **innovative and creative worship** at least four times a year. [First round by June 2008]
- Each church annually conducts at least one “**Community Relations**” celebration in which an aspect of life in the surrounding community is highlighted in corporate worship and to which members of the community are invited. [beginning in 2008]
- Every local church completes the Igniting Ministries “**Welcoming Congregation**” program. [By June 2008]
- Establish **three new ongoing faith communities** (one being a new church start) to reach non-churched populations. [By June 2009]
- Establish a “**Cyber-Faith Church**” with appointed pastor and ministry team. [By June 2009]

## **- Encouraging Excellence in Lay & Clergy Leadership**

***The Conference Leadership Team promotes and resources excellence in lay and clergy leadership throughout the annual conference with the following actions...***

- Create a conference **lay leadership pool** with a procedure for identifying lay persons with skills, experience and passion for both conference nominations and referrals to local churches with special needs. [By Jan. 2008]
- Each district provides **spiritual gifts** training. [2008]
- Determine **training needs for local church officers and leaders**. [By Dec. 31, 2007] Produce a program for addressing those needs [For 2008 and beyond]
- Develop and adopt guidelines for a conference-wide **culture of holistic health**: spiritual, mental, physical, social/emotional. [By Dec. 31, 2007] Communicate guidelines to new pastors through the Residents in Ministry Program. [2008]
- Adopt a definition of “**healthy practices for clergy morale**” and a program for equipping Staff Parish Relations Committees to encourage them. [By Jan. 1, 2008] Train SPRC’s on these healthy practices. [By June 2008] In cooperation with their appointed clergy, SPRC’s develop a written “understanding” outlining expectations and goals of healthy practices for clergy morale, to submit to the autumn charge conference. [Fall, 2008]

## **- Aligning with the Strategic Direction**

***The Conference Leadership Team will align the Oregon-Idaho Connection to the Strategic Direction with the following actions...***

- Review **ministries of all conference agencies** for alignment with the Strategic Direction. [By Nov. 2007]
- Create a Strategic Direction **print and electronic communication kit** for use by local ministry-settings, leaders and conference agencies. [By Sep. 2007]
- Offer Strategic Direction **training events** for pastors, lay persons assigned, lay leadership of the annual conference, and local churches. [By Jan. 2008]