

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE**

Leadership Summit

August 28, 2010

Saint James United Methodist Church :: Montgomery, AL

{notes compiled during the session by Bishop Paul L. Leeland}

***Board of Ordained Ministry – Conference Core Team- Board of Laity
Council on Finance and Administration – Ministry Cabinet***

I.

As Conference Leaders, we recognize the following to be the Essential Focus of our work and ministry and believe they are non-negotiable:

- **Demonstrating the Love of Christ in meaningful expressions that are visible to others;**
- **Engaging the Un-Churched;**
- **Identifying Effectiveness and living into greater Accountability;**
- **Modeling lives of Holy Living, which includes being good stewards of all God has entrusted into our care as we move from maintenance to engagement;**
- **Creating greater Effectiveness among our leaders:**
 - **People and Churches are mentored and taught;**
 - **Increase our professions of faith as our primary focus;**
 - **To expect all to be in covenant and accountability with others;**
- **Becoming a more authentic Church, open to all people:**
 - **Focused outwardly in mission;**
 - **Sustaining one another spiritually;**
 - **To be an Authentic witness to young people;**
- **Affirming the Local Church is the Hope of the World:**
 - **Leadership sees and supports the local church as the priority of strengthening and building the connection;**
- **Remembering that connectional, missional giving is embraced as “non-negotiable”:**
 - **Increase greater awareness of the ministry and mission of our connected ministries;**
- **Fulfilling the Great Commission:**

- Personalizing this for each congregation;
- To live out a winsome faith which is contagious;
- Reviving systematic structures:
 - Changing them when necessary to produce disciples;
- Cultivating transformational leaders;
- Making Disciples is non-negotiable:
 - Receiving and sending all people;
 - Making disciples from our Wesleyan heritage;
 - Insisting on bold leaders;
 - A renewed commitment to a changed heart for Jesus alone.

II.

As Leaders, we believe the next Essential Steps for our Conference are:

- To assure Effective Clergy to fulfill the Great Commission:
 - To create an environment to foster greater leadership both clergy and lay;
 - To standardize a “Leave Policy” for renewal;
 - To encourage every congregation to foster Spiritual Formation Leave ;
 - To create a “Be Well” campaign emphasizing physical, spiritual and mental health;
- To create a collective set of “Vital Signs of Effectiveness” for fruitful pastors and healthier congregations;
- To move toward full participation (100%) in Missional Giving:
 - Reimagining our missional priorities;
- To Distribute the areas we have identified as “non-negotiable” in strategic ways and to get the word out to all leaders and congregations;
- To lift the message, vision, and mission at every opportunity:
 - To do so in a transparent way as we deploy our resources;
 - Create a way to make others “thirsty” for the gospel;

III.

Each Leadership Team identified the following as the criteria for how they could be a more Effective Team for our Conference:

- **Board of Laity** - We don't need to start new ministries:
 - Simply continue to do what we are doing, but to do it well;
 - To create a "Tool Box" that can be used by other leaders and congregations that will introduce and encourage our ministries.
- **Board of Ordained Ministry** - We continue our conversation as to how we might become a stronger team:
 - Reviewing how we can "front load" candidates to be ready for ordination;
 - Look more closely for leadership qualities & calling around The Great Commission;
 - Increase partnerships to find future leaders;
 - Increase communication and receive more feedback from other teams.
- **Conference CORE Team** - Continue working toward greater transparency:
 - We seek to be more accountable to our non-negotiables:
 - Continue to become a better resource for others;
 - We can contribute to other conference teams by encouraging each other to remain focused on the non-negotiables.
- **Extended Cabinet** - To affirm each leadership team in our conference is about the same business, Kingdom Business:
 - We need to create more windows and doors and not build walls of separation;
 - We need to connect others to the "why" of what we are doing;
 - Continue to look at how we are evaluating ministry;
 - To remember it is not my "expectation" that is being met, but my "contribution" being fulfilled.
- **Council on Finance and Administration** - Think in terms of total stewardship:
 - We want to be more transparent.