

Visioning the Future Core Ministry Team

Report for Conference Annual Gathering 2024

Team Members: Carla Clennin, Rev. Tony Coleman, Rev. Nick Knoblauch, Dennis Knipmeyer, Rev. Paula Lafferty, Tammy Linningham. Rev. Mary Nelson, Duana Russell-Thomas, *ex officio*

The purpose statement of the Visioning the Future Core Ministry Team:

The Visioning the Future Core Ministry Team listens, assesses, and evaluates the Conference today, in order to imagine and engage the Conference of tomorrow. We do this through:

- Working toward common goals across the MMS Conference
- Asking churches where they want to be in 10 years
- Planning for General Synod in 2025
- Looking at the Constitution and Bylaws every 2 years
- Understanding online membership/community as the Church emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic
- Attending to financial development in order to sustain and enable thriving ministry in the MMS Conference.

The Visioning the Future Team has found it challenging to meet regularly this year, but we do have wonderful conversations and dream big dreams when we get together. We'd like to understand more about where our Conference churches are now, so that we can get a better sense of how to move forward. We have been working to create a survey of our churches, and we hope for strong Conference-wide participation when it's ready.

Also note:

The Local Arrangements Committee for General Synod 2025 is in the process of forming.

An *ad hoc* Bylaws Team of the Board submitted bylaws revisions for consideration at the 2024 Conference Annual Gathering.

