

## Conference Vision Implementation Team Report

During the 2015 Conference Annual Gathering last June, delegates approved the Vision Team's proposed strategic plan and vision for the work of our Conference. An Implementation Team was then formed and has been working diligently to ensure ongoing implementation and review of this plan.

The first major effort in achieving this was our first Conference Annual Planning Event which was held November 14, 2015. This event was held in conjunction with the introduction and approval of our new Conference minister, Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel. Covenanted Ministries each shared their purpose and the work being done and also gathered input from those attending to help us as we move forward in the process. The Vision Implementation Team then reviewed the reports submitted by each covenanted ministry to prepare a report that was submitted to the Conference Council. This report was then utilized by the Council as it set priorities and prepared the budget. Thanks to all the wonderful feedback received!

As we move away from the "hub and spoke" model, it is our hope to develop a new matrix or web that will unite us utilizing mutual interests and ministries. Intentionally utilizing the special talents and experiences that congregation, pastors and lay members have will hopefully nurture authentic covenantal relationships strengthen our congregations, and support authorized ministers in all settings. Enhanced communication is key in making this happen.

We are currently in the process of establishing a Network Action Team (six-ten lay members and pastors) to lead this ongoing transition. If you have the gift for implementation and transforming a concept into an action plan, we would look forward to having you on this team.

It has been an exciting year in the life of our Conference and we look forward to 2016-2017. **The second annual Conference Annual Planning Event (CAPE) is scheduled for September 10, 2016 at Columbia U.C.C. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. You are the conference and your input is important.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Bathke, Chair