



Commonwealth East District

New England Annual Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ESSENTIALS & CONNECTIONS

Commonwealth East District Mission Strategy 2022-23

Mission Statement:

To connect, support, and collaborate with the leaders and churches of the Commonwealth East District to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The State of the District

Our life together as a new district is still in the midst of unforeseen and unsettling realities of COVID-19. People are relearning what the true essentials are in life in this unsettling time and rediscovering what true connections mean in this season of isolation. We as a district unit of United Methodist Mission is called to rediscover the essentials for being the body and presence of Jesus Christ in this new reality and reclaim our connections as a spiritual and missional means of grace.

The Essentials: The District Core Values

- **Deepening the Spirituality (1 Cor 3:16)-Reclaiming the true self:** The COVID-19 reality is a wakeup call to our ever materializing and outer growth focused life/world that what is essential in authentic living is one's spiritual capacity/inner space of being. The church needs to focus on helping people find and grow this ever-expanding inner relationship with God. Leaders need to be creative and intentional in equipping people to rediscover and build up their inner sanctuary as the center of their faith and life.
 - ***As a leader, create your own individual discipline/practice for spiritual reflection.***
 - ***Provide at least one on going spiritual formation opportunity in your ministry.***
- **Small is Powerful (Matt 18:20)-Rediscovering authentic relationships:** The circle of life has drastically been reduced to a few essential relationships. The quality, not the quantity, of relationship matters much more deeply. Even before the COVID-19 world, the church has known this reduction. The church needs to rediscover being small as the source of spiritual and missional energy. The ministry should be focused more on helping people engage in authentic/honest relationships for life/spiritual connections.
 - ***As a leader, engage in at least one small group for spiritual growth.***
 - ***Identify and recruit leaders in your community for small group leadership.***
- **Beyond dualistic mind/binary construct (Ephesians 2:14)-Reimagining the world:** The world, especially America, is suffering from the dark and spiritual powers of dualistic thinking and system. The persistent bondage of racism and the ever hardening polarization in this country are most recent examples of this divisive, destructive, and delusional power of dualistic mind and binary system. The church needs to be a community that embodies Jesus who has broken down the walls of the dualistic mind and world. Helping people overcome the dualistic mind and transform it into the mind of Christ that embraces the difference and the ambiguity in grace is a critical mission of this generation.
 - ***Provide at least one learning program in your community to dismantle the systematic sins of racism and dualistic thinking.***
 - ***Work with your church, your hub, and colleagues to learn about the illusive and divisive powers of the binary thinking/system and to build habits/practices/relationships that confront these powers within and outside.***

The Connections: District Mission Practice

- **Small Groups in the local churches:** Given the COVID-19 reality and restriction, each congregation has an opportunity to create small groups among its members and friends for more authentic and manageable connection. I encourage each church to find ways help people to belong to at least one small group for spiritual and communal fellowship and practice. Methodist Class Meeting can serve as an example of this practice. The district will provide the small group leader training.

- **Regions and Hubs:**
 - Each region will serve as a missional unit within the district.
 - Under the guidance of the regional elder, each region will work together to develop missional connections.
 - DS will meet with each region twice a year for consultation and collaboration.
 - Each hub's clergy will meet every other month. The purpose of the hub is to build a spiritual relationship and trust among clergy and to connect churches in the hub for spiritual and missional growth.
 - Each church in the hub is encouraged to name one program/project/event a year to which churches in the hub are encouraged to attend/participate.
 - DS will work together with each region for a joint Annual Celebration in the fall.

- **Passion/Gift Hubs:** Connect those who have and/or need similar ministry gifts for mutual development and support.
 - Walking with Youth: Annual district/regional youth mission; Establish District Youth Ministry Team by the end of 2022
 - Faithful Stewardship: Annual stewardship studio
 - Social Gospel: Advocacy Day at the State House
 - Climate Justice
 - Dismantling Racism/Binary Thinking
 - Reimagining the church property for missional and sustainable purposes
 - Wholistic Health
 - Lay Leadership Development: Lay Servant Academy; Ministry Learning days

- **Resource Connection**
 - District Resource Day: Context based and long-term commitment
 - Small group leader training
 - Regional Resourcing/Coaching
 - Ministry Learning Day: peer learning days in the district/region
 - Lay Servant Academy /Certified Lay Minister
 - Regional Appointment Making: When making new appointments, discern the shared needs of the regional hub to create a team of clergy leaders with various gifts
 - BU STH: Connect with STH for practical ministry opportunities

Regions and Hubs as of 6/22/2022

	Hub	Church	Town
Northshore Region: Rev. Myung Park			
Hub 1: Rev. Myung Park	Northshore/1	Grace UMC	Lynn
	Northshore/1	Holy Trinity	Danvers
	Northshore/1	Gloucester UMC	Gloucester
	Northshore/1	Living Faith	Ipswich
	Northshore/1	Connection Church UMC	Lynn
	Northshore/1	St. Stephen's UMC	Marblehead
	Northshore/1	Merrimacport UMC	Merrimac
	Northshore/1	People's UMC	Newburyport
	Northshore/1	Rockport UMC	Rockport
	Northshore/1	Wesley UMC	Salem
	Northshore/1	East Parish UMC	Salisbury
	Northshore/1	First UMC	South Hamilton
Boston North Region: Rev. Peter Hey			
Hub 1: Peter Hey	Boston North/1	Wilmington UMC	Wilmington
	Boston North/1	Good Shepherd UMC	Malden
	Boston North/1	Aldersgate UMC	North Reading
	Boston North/1	Old South UMC	Reading
	Boston North/1	East Saugus UMC	Saugus
	Boston North/1	Family UMC - Brazilian Ministry	Saugus
	Boston North/1	Wakefield-Lynnfield UMC	Wakefield
Hub 2: Bill Hoch	Boston North/2	Woburn UMC	Woburn
	Boston North/2	First Community UMC - Medford	Medford
	Boston North/2	Wesley UMC	Medford
	Boston North/2	First UMC	Melrose
	Boston North/2	Crawford Memorial UMC	Winchester
Boston Region: Rev. Cynthia Good			
Hub 1: Jay Williams	Boston Region/1	Union UMC	Boston
	Boston Region/1	Old West UMC	Boston
	Boston Region/1	Community UMC	Brighton
	Boston Region/1	Nueva Vida UMC	Chelsea
	Boston Region/1	Glendale UMC	Everett
	Boston Region/1	Connexion UMC	Somerville
	Boston Region/1	First Church of Winthrop UMC	Winthrop
Hub 2: Tom Getchell-Lacey	Boston Region/2	Parkway UMC	Milton
	Boston Region/2	Greenwood Memorial UMC	Dorchester
	Boston Region/2	Wesley UMC	Dorchester
	Boston Region/2	St. Andrews UMC	Jamaica Plain
	Boston Region/2	Bethany First UMC	Roslindale
	Boston Region/2	St. Stephen's UMC	West Roxbury
Hub 3: Cynthia Good	Boston Region/3	Calvary UMC	Arlington
	Boston Region/3	Newton UMC	Newton
	Boston Region/3	Belmont-Watertown UMC	Belmont
	Boston Region/3	Harvard-Epworth UMC	Cambridge
	Boston Region/3	Grace Vision UMC	Watertown

Boston South Region: Rev. Abraham Waya				
	Hub 1: Abraham Waya	Boston South/1	Central UMC	Brockton
		Boston South/1	Heritage UMC	Braintree
		Boston South/1	Bridgewater UMC	Bridgewater
		Boston South/1	Pearl Street UMC	Brockton
		Boston South/1	East Bridgewater UMC	East Bridgewater
		Boston South/1	Chartley Norton UMC	Norton
		Boston South/1	Cochesett UMC	West Bridgewater
		Boston South/1	Whitman UMC	Whitman
		Boston South/1	Quincy Community	Quincy
		Boston South/1	South Walpole UMC	South Walpole
		Boston South/1	First UMC	Stoughton
	Hub 2: Chris Longman	Boston South/2	Harbor UMC	Scituate
		Boston South/2	Bryantville UMC	Bryantville
		Boston South/2	Holbrook UMC	Holbrook
		Boston South/2	St. Nicholas UMC	Hull
		Boston South/2	Church Hill UMC	Norwell
		Boston South/2	Faith Community Church	Plymouth
		Boston South/2	New Family UMC	Weymouth
West Region: Rev. Sandra Bonnette-Kim				
	Hub 1: Sandra Bonnette-Kim	West/1	Carter Memorial UMC	Needham
		West/1	First UMC/Wesley UMC (Beacon of Hope)	Framingham
		West/1	Franklin UMC	Franklin
		West/1	St. John's Korean UMC	Lexington
		West/1	Fisk UMC	Natick
		West/1	Sudbury UMC	Sudbury
		West/1	Community UMC - Wayland	Wayland
		West/1	Weston UMC	Weston