

FINAL REPORT TO MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

31 August 2015

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Thanksgiving

I first want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful group of volunteers. Ministry Development Team is a vital part of the work of conference. To be able to consider how to tangibly work at implementing the “big picture” of conference is a valuable asset to all of us. Thank you so much for all your diligence and creativity!

My Prayer for MDT

I thoroughly enjoyed theology and doctrine in seminary. I still do. But my experience as a congregational pastor was that what attracted people to engage in congregational life was not doctrine or theology, but practical ways of living out one’s faith. Those folks who focused on doctrine or theology generally came to debate and discuss, not live out a joy-filled gospel life. I think MDT is perfectly situated to help our congregations discover or rekindle those practices and disciplines that lead to a joy-filled gospel life. That’s why we intentionally sought folks who were creative thinkers as well as folks who could put the practical “wheels” to our creative “vehicles”. And we wanted people to focus on our three core emphases of faith, witness, and worship. My prayer for you is that you be able to carry this vision forward to help empower our congregations in ministry in their local settings and together in our conference.

Preliminary conversations with the Leadership Team suggest that in this interim time as conference discovers what will be the best staffing pattern going forward, resource teams may have to play an even larger role in the resourcing of our pastors and congregations. I believe that we have a good level of creativity, experience, and dedication among the members of MDT to consider how to create resource teams that will equip our pastors and congregations to be more effective ministers and witnesses in their contexts. As Leadership Team and staff make suggestions about possible resource teams that may be needed, may MDT be able to help form and support such teams.

Blessings on each one of you as you go forward with the work of Ohio Conference!