

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES TEAM

Rev Nancy Cushman, Chair

Bishop Bob Hoshibata formed the Connectional Ministries Team after Annual Conference 2020. With the uncertainty of the conference's finances due to the stresses caused by the COVID pandemic and the change in travel demands on the Appointive Cabinet, he decided to create a team with existing staff rather than appointing a new person to the Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM). The four District Superintendents, the Director of New and Vital Faith, the Director of Outreach, and the Conference Lay Leader make up the Connectional Ministries Team.

The work of the team is summarized by the three C's- Collaborating, Coordinating, and Cooperating. Each person on the team provides essential support and serves as a connector for the ministries of different conference committees, task forces, and teams that fall under Connectional Ministries. The team members then collaborate, coordinate, and cooperate with the other team members and conference staff.



*Collaborating, Coordinating,
Cooperating*

The Bishop and team began by assessing the many tasks of the DCM and assigning them to team members. These assignments were considered carefully and adjusted over the first few months. The team members worked with the committees to find areas that needed additional support, those that were functioning well, and those that were not functioning; then moved to collaborate, coordinate, and cooperate to support their work. The team coordinated and collaborated to support the year-long Western Jurisdiction media campaign called Where Love Lives. Different people and groups prepared supplemental material related to the monthly theme while the Communications Commission developed the materials for the jurisdiction's theme in April. The team also addressed safety concerns at our churches who served as polling sites during the election. They coordinated between teams working on support for our churches and clergy as they meet the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the year the team has been finding ways to collaborate, coordinate, and cooperate between and among committees to support vital fruitful ministry across our conference ministries. The Connectional Ministries Team will continue this important work until the DCM position refilled or a new structure is envisioned.

The work of the Connectional Ministries Teams is dependent on the active fruitful ministry of our conference committees. Our Clergy and Lay Leadership Development Committee is always looking for people with a passion for ministry. We are making an intentional effort to include people who represent the different voices in our Annual Conference. If you are ready and willing to serve, please contact us at <https://dscumc.org/conference-service-and-leadership-application/> and we will match you with ministry.