Strategic Initiative #7: Organizational support of vision. Examine and then align the governance and committee structure within the Conference to be more inclusive, participatory and effective.

Ephesians 4:11-13
The gifts [Christ] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Guiding Image: Fishing Net

Everything in creation crosses paths and is connected, as is shown by the many intersecting points which make a net and give it strength and flexibility. The eyes (holes) in each net are important because their size determines what will be contained in the net, and what will pass through, in the dynamic present and in the future.

The net, the structure, is a tool. It is directed, thrown, as one unit and serves the purpose of nourishment to sustain human life. Our church structures, too, do well to be aware of many individual fibers made stronger by joining together; aware of intersections with all of creation; and aware of what changing tides or fishing pools demand of our flexibility and our mutual purpose.

Context
The current organizational structure of the Conference is an artifact of a strategic planning effort that took place over 15 years ago. The structure is not well-designed to encourage initiative, flexibility or action on many fronts. With a new strategic plan in place, it is time to evaluate the governance and committee structures of the Conference to better serve God’s mission. While anticipating a new settled Conference Minister, we will use the interim to experiment with working groups to assist the current missional teams in getting traction on this year’s priority action items. We will assess what works well and track our progress as we prepare to make more significant shifts in the Conference’s organizational structure under a new Conference Minister.

Initial Responsibility
Administration Missional Team