

SEPTEMBER 2021

Bishop's Days on the Regions

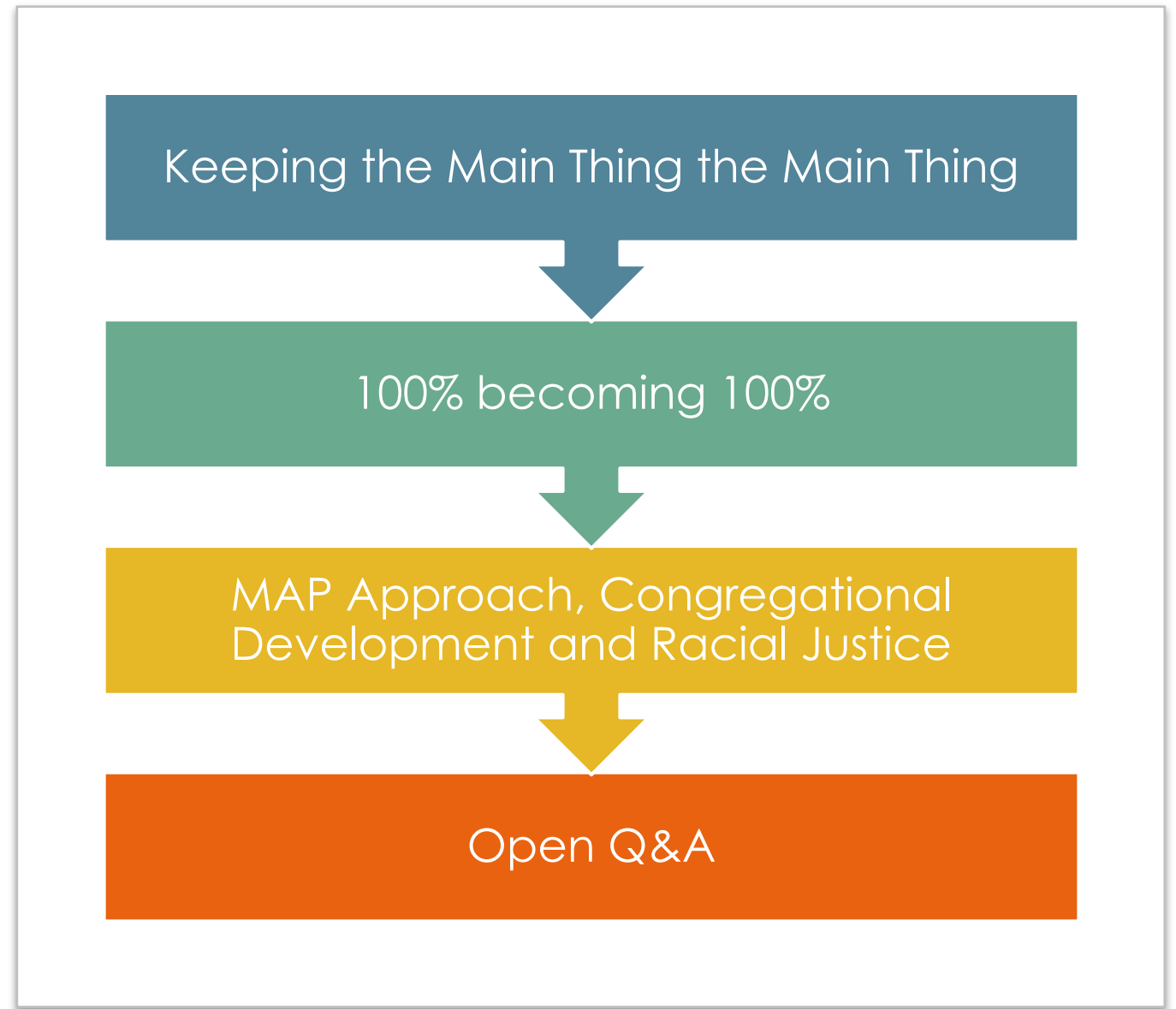
Greetings, Introductions and Prayer



Introduction of Conference Leaders Presenting Today

- ▶ Delores Martin – Conference Lay Leader
- ▶ Rev. Erica Robinson-Johnson – Chief Administrative Officer
- ▶ Christie Latona – Chief Program Officer/DCM
- ▶ Rev. Bill Brown – Director of Innovative Evangelism
- ▶ Rev. Stacey Cole Wilson – Exec. Min. of Beloved Community

Overview of Our Time





The Uncertainty of Liminal Times, The Certainty of Christ

Postponed Sessions of General and Jurisdictional
Conferences

New Streams of Methodism

Multiple Pandemics

BSA Litigation

WE ARE THE CHURCH!

Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

Inspiring and equipping local faith communities to develop disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world so *that more transformed lives transform lives*.



We achieve our mission through



- ▶ **Leadership Development:** Center for Vital Leadership and Clergy Care and Renewal
- ▶ **Young People's Ministry:** Working the Strategic Plan
- ▶ **New Faith Expressions:** New and Renewed Congregational Development Pathways
- ▶ **Advocacy & Action:** Creation Care, Gender Equity, Immigrant Rights, Gun Violence Prevention, Racial Justice, Restorative Justice, LGBTQIA+ justice, Wealth equity, Native American Ministries, Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Ministries
- ▶ **Wellness & Missions:** ERT/VIM and Wellness Resources
- ▶ **All 5 Foci:** Deaf Ministry, Hispanic/Latino Ministry, Catalyst Initiative, We Rise United for Beloved Community, and Missional Action Planning



**Which Requires 100% of Our Churches
Becoming 100% Vital**

Isaiah 61: 1-4 (NRSV)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

Isaiah 61: 1-4 (NRSV)

to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

Acts 2: 37-47

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2: 37-47

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

4 Pillars & Reinforcing Activities of Vital Congregations

DEEPEN DISCIPLESHIP

Grow in faith by cultivating Christian practices

FOLLOWING JESUS

Witness through acts of justice, compassion, devotion, and worship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit

LIVE & LOVE LIKE JESUS

Live out clear gospel values and mission

CULTIVATING CULTURAL HUMILITY

Results in an inclusive, diverse, equitable, and antiracist church

CONNECTING THE WHY, WHAT, AND HOW

Strategy, discipleship, pathway, values, vision, mission, call, asset mapping

SEE ALL THE PEOPLE


Build relationships with neighbors to understand your changing social and cultural context

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY

Relationships across lines of difference, being in ministry with the community for the thriving of all people

MULTIPLY IMPACT

Measure what matters and increase capacity to lead and evangelize

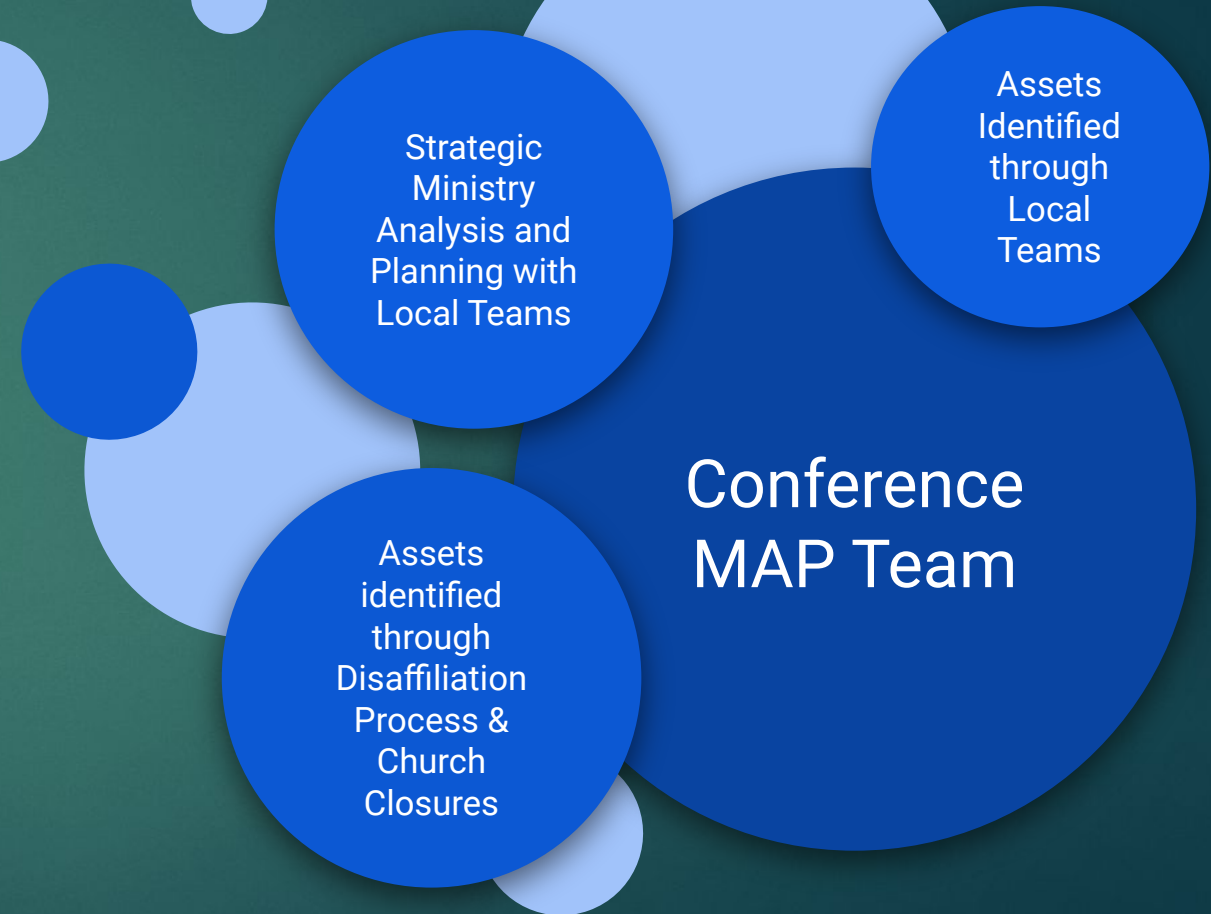


Missional Action Planning is A Major Strategy Toward Vitality. Why?

- To live out an expression of Acts 2 and Isaiah 61
- To care for the missional impact of Disaffiliation
- To assist 100% of our churches becoming 100% vital

Missional Action Planning: Leveraging & Strengthening Our Presence for the Good of All

1. Look across the conference for places that don't have outward facing mission and create it
2. Assess instrumental locations for New Faith Expressions
3. Identify people in each district who will be point people who know and are well connected to their community



Missional Mindset

- Mission Minded Not Membership Driven
 - Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
 - Reconciliation – First to God, Then with One Another
 - Blessed to be a blessing
- Ministry *With* and not Ministry To
 - Sharing Leadership with Community
 - Entrusting the Community (Not Almsgiving)
 - Embracing the Skills and Abilities of Those in the Community
- Authentic and Relevant not Status Quo: If there is a church tradition that is getting in the way of our mission to be with and for our community, we will not be afraid to choose our community (as Jesus did)

Conference MAP Team

Purpose: To develop and equip a conference-wide strategy for leveraging and strengthening our United Methodist presence for the thriving of communities

Membership:

- Pastors with Missional Action Experience
- Trustee's Chair
- CFA Chair
- Treasurer
- Dean of the Cabinet
- Director of Innovative Evangelism
- Executive Minister of Beloved Community
- DCM
- CPO and Project Coordinator

District/Regional MAP Team

- **Purpose:** To identify, prioritize and resource potential projects
- Membership:
 - District Superintendent
 - New Faith Expressions Board Member or someone with a track record of growth
 - District Board Member
 - Property Analyst
 - MissionInsite Analyst
 - Community Organizer

MissionInsite Analysts Identified by October 30

Position Description:

- Working with congregations to upload congregants
- Run thematic and other reports as needed to support the work of the Regional and Local Teams
- Who to look for:
 - Fluent in analytical software
 - Confident in using online software
 - Analytical mind
 - Detail oriented

Conference level: Lauren Harris

District Level: TBD

Local MAP Team

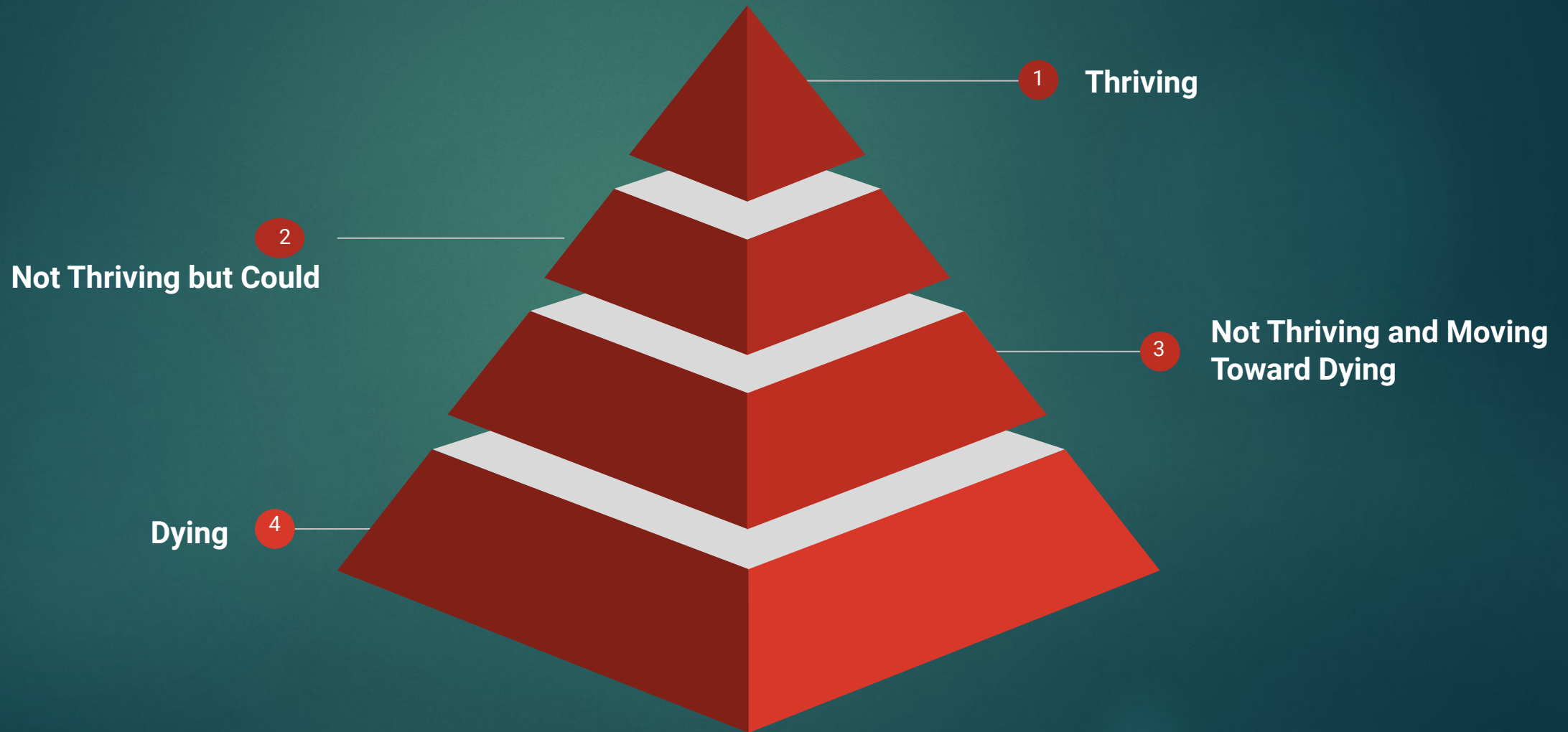
- **Purpose:** To lead a Missional Action Project into fruition
- **Membership:**
 - Local Church Leaders
 - Local Community Partners
 - Others as project dictates



New & Renewed Congregational Cohorts

To help congregations take their next faithful step

Texas Methodist Foundation



Discovering the Next Faithful Step



New & Renewed Congregational Pathways



BWC Response to the NEJ Call to Action: We Rise United toward Beloved Community



bwcumc.org/justicenow

1. Engage in Brave Conversations Across Lines of Difference for the Good of Community: Join a Regional People's Supper Group.
2. Become a Church Committed to Antiracism
3. Get Needed Support by Workgroups:
 - a. How to Get Started and/or get more persons involved in Antiracism for Building Beloved Community
 - b. Developing Change Agents for Racial Justice
 - c. Legislation and Policy for Change
4. Schedule a Consultation: advocacy@bwcumc.org

COVENANT TO CREATE BELOVED COMMUNITY

SEEK RELATIONSHIP.

RESPECT DIFFERENT
FORMS OF EXPRESSION.

EXAMINE MY OWN
ASSUMPTIONS AND
PERCEPTIONS.

ASSUME POSITIVE INTENT.

LISTEN FOR
UNDERSTANDING.

EXERCISE CULTURAL
HUMILITY.