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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
*Tuesday, August 22, 2017*

The Holston Conference Strategy Team ('HCST') is scheduled to meet on August 24, 2017 to continue its work to evaluate the health of Holston Conference and to implement the components of the Comprehensive Conference Strategy Plan designed to strengthen our connection for relevant and innovative ministry and shared mission.

This will be the second full meeting of the HCST since the adoption of the Comprehensive Conference Strategy Plan at Holston Annual Conference in June 2017.

At its last meeting on July 11, 2017, the HCST determined that the most urgent priority was to determine the location, size and boundaries of the 9 new Districts approved by Annual Conference so that churches and individuals can begin the process of living into this new structure.

The following week, HCST met with the Extended Cabinet to review the overall strategic plan and to begin coordination of efforts to begin implementation of its provisions.

The members at this joint meeting discussed the development of missional hubs and the process for determining the new boundaries of the districts in accordance with the Strategic Plan. We reviewed a survey to be sent to all members attending Holston Conference as well as members of all churches located within Holston Conference to seek data and guidance on the process of mapping the new district boundaries. Once all of the data is received and processed, a first-draft map will be created and published for additional input from members of the Conference. During September, lay and clergy in the presently existing districts will have an opportunity to share additional input regarding the first draft of the map showing the reconfigured districts. Following this second phase of input

from lay and clergy, the Cabinet will finalize the Conference map. The goal is to have the new Conference map completed by mid-October.

At its July meeting, the HCST also agreed to expand the membership of the Strategy Team to include representatives of segments of the Holston Conference family whose representation on the HCST would strengthen and broaden the spectrum of persons 'at the table'. This expansion would include another lay member, a clergy member representing our younger pastoral leadership and a local pastor who also belongs to an underrepresented ethnic and/or racial demographic in the Conference, if possible.

At the upcoming meeting on August 24th, HCST will be looking at the additional roles of groups and collaborative relationships that will be necessary to carry out the components of the Strategic Plan, finalize the expansion of the HCS Team and initiate work on a proposed timeline for full implementation of the Strategic Plan.

*About the Holston Conference Strategy Team –*

*The Holston Conference Strategy Team initially convened in September of 2015 to evaluate the life of Holston Conference and to find more effective ways to share a contemporary and relevant vision for bringing people into a transformative relationship with Jesus Christ. The Team is comprised of up to 15 members and includes laypersons, local church pastors, district superintendents, members of the Conference executive team and the Bishop. The Strategic Plan proposed by the HCST was formally adopted by the Annual Conference in June 2017.*

For more information about the HCST and its members, please visit [www.holston.org](http://www.holston.org), or contact us at [conferencestrategyteam@gmail.com](mailto:conferencestrategyteam@gmail.com)