

# CONFERENCE NETWORK

The Conference Network Team is made up of the Bishop (chair), NC Secretary, Associates (4), and District Field Directors (13). They are:

- Bishop Hill, Chair
- Rev. Kirk Marks, Secretary
- Rev. Gary Brown
- Rev. Jeffrey Byerly
- Rev. Charles Campbell
- Rev. David Carr
- Rev. Leslie Cool
- Rev. Bradley Hatter
- Mr. Kevin Henry
- Rev. Gary Kuehner
- Rev. Marlin Lafferty
- Rev. Gordon Lewis
- Rev. Keith Miller
- Rev. Paul Miller
- Rev. Ralph Owens
- Rev. James Price
- Rev. Jeffrey Schell
- Rev. Randall Sizemore
- Rev. Sterling Trimmer

The regular schedule of meetings includes:

1. A Daily Check-In, a five minute “stand-up meeting” between the Bishop and Executive Director.
2. All the members of the CNT will participate in a 45 minute Bi-Monthly Tactical teleconference.
3. The BEDAS Group (Bishop, Executive Director, Associates and NC Secretary) holds a two-hour meeting once a month.
4. The entire CNT membership meets at least twice a year in a Strategic Meeting format.

At the beginning of the restructuring it was said that the District Field Directors (DFDs) were the key people in reviving the district system and facilitating open lines of communication. I am thankful to be able to report that our DFDs are doing a good job. One of the significant projects completed this year was the writing of a District Field Director Handbook. This “simple” project eventually resulted in a 96 page Handbook. It is believed this will help our DFDs understand their responsibilities as they assist pastors and churches in reaching their potential in carrying out the Great Commission. Special thanks to Administrative Assistant, Jodi Earhart, for working with the Bishop in the development of this Handbook.

During the course of our meetings we have discussed the NC2017 “Kingdom & Community Experience and how we can continue to coach ourselves forward in the conversation about helping churches understand the ways our communities can assist them in greater health and effectiveness. The DFDs are bringing elements of that experience into conversations when appropriate. The District Field Directors are doing a good job of helping to lead times of prayer, study, and discussion within the various districts. There is a growing sense that while we have a number of little churches, they are little churches doing important ministries. We celebrate those ministries that are impacting communities with the Good News about Jesus. We will rely on the DFDs’ as they facilitate our discussion times during the NC2018 Kingdom & Community Experience on Thursday afternoon and, once again, help to keep those conversations alive long after we leave Conference.

We are pleased that as we meet we hear stories of more pastors and churches becoming involved in district gatherings. The DFDs have continued to report that these times have been important in building a stronger vision of teamwork. We are thankful that when one of the pastors / churches experiences a time of challenge or stress the others respond and help where and when they can. Praise the Lord for local leaders who see ministry with a Kingdom point of view! The work of leading a district as well as the participation of the DFDs in both the CNT Tactical and CNT Strategic meetings fosters greater sense of community and cooperation within their district and across district boundaries.

The DFDs and Associates are working well together; and facilitating ongoing conversations individually and within the districts as a whole; providing opportunities for the Associates to engage with local leaders. I believe we are already

seeing fruit come from these conversations and will see an even greater harvest as the conversations and relationships mature in the years to come. The summer of 2018 will see the transition of our Global Ministries Associate from Randy Sizemore to Ted Rathman. We will certainly miss Randy's perspective and input in so many areas; but look forward to hearing a new voice as Ted joins the team.

It is my joy to chair the Conference Network Team. We, as a denomination are blessed to have these men lead our denomination as they follow Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

***Bishop Bruce D, Hill***  
***For the Conference Network Team***