

2. Report of the Leadership Team

1
2
3 The Leadership Team provides guidance and leadership for the denomination
4 and executive leadership for Annual Conference committees. It is composed
5 of the Annual Conference officers (Moderator, Moderator-elect, and Secretary),
6 the General Secretary, a district executive representing the Council of District
7 Executives, and the Director of Annual Conference serving as ex officio.

8
9 The Leadership Team serves as the executive committee for Annual Conference;
10 provides general oversight of Annual Conference in consultation with the An-
11 nual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee and the Conference
12 Director; delegates tasks from Annual Conference actions; interprets Annual
13 Conference decisions and denominational polity; and reviews recommended
14 changes in Annual Conference guidelines and policies.

15
16 Through in-person meetings, video conferences, and email exchanges through-
17 out 2023, the Leadership Team responded to correspondence from individuals
18 and congregations expressing a variety of concerns, considered a funding re-
19 quest for the Standing with People of Color committee, and discussed the need
20 for a draft mandate for the upcoming Review and Evaluation process. The
21 Team also reviewed business items coming to Standing Committee and An-
22 nual Conference in 2024, including queries coming from districts, and when
23 requested, provided support to the Standing Committee subcommittees
24 developing agency covenants and a process for addressing concerns with
25 agencies.

26
27 The Team considered updates to the *Manual of Organization and Polity*, includ-
28 ing the need for an updated translation into Spanish and translation into Hait-
29 ian Creole. A decision regarding the distribution of funds received through a
30 Church of the Brethren partnership with Brotherhood Mutual benefitted dis-
31 tricts, undergirded the Annual Conference budget, and will provide support
32 for a future Leadership Summit with the Leadership Team and the Council of
33 District Executives.

34
35 The Team acknowledged lament and grief over the departure of 143 congre-
36 gations that have been officially reported since 2019 and the loss of the
37 churches of Puerto Rico District. Continued outreach to the Puerto Rican
38 church leadership is ongoing in an effort to better understand the contexts
39 that have resulted in our disparate perceptions of their withdrawal so that we
40 can be better informed and equipped to walk alongside and help heal divi-
41 sions within the Body of Christ moving forward with careful listening and mu-
42 tual respect. An additional concern was the future sustainability of Annual
43 Conference, which the Team will continue to address in 2024 while also find-
44 ing ways to keep the denominational vision front and center in congregations
45 and districts.

Madalyn Metzger, Moderator	1
Dava Hensley, Moderator-elect	2
David Shumate, Secretary	3
David Steele, General Secretary	4
Torin Eikler, representative from the Council of District Executives	5
Rhonda Pittman Gingrich (ex officio), director of Annual Conference	6
	7
	8
	9
	10
	11
	12
	13
	14
	15
	16
	17
	18
	19
	20
	21
	22
	23
	24
	25
	26
	27
	28
	29
	30
	31
	32
	33
	34
	35
	36
	37
	38
	39
	40
	41
	42
	43
	44
	45
	46