

Connectional Table Objectives in the Book of Discipline

*The Purpose of the Connectional Table
(Book of Discipline Para. 904.)*

The purpose of the Connectional Table (CT) is for the discernment and articulation of the vision for the church and the stewardship of the mission, ministries and resources of The United Methodist Church as determined by the actions of the General Conference and in consultation with the Council of Bishops. As part of the total mission of the church, the CT is to serve as a steward of the vision and resources for mission and ministry, provide fiscal responsibility, and establish policies and procedures to carry out the mission of the church.

Below are the seven objectives that comprise the essential functions to be carried out by the 60-member body of the CT. We invite you to reflect on each objective and share your thoughts with us as we prepare for our spring meeting.

Feel free to share with us your name and annual conference. If you prefer to remain anonymous, please skip this section.

Name: _____

Annual Conference: _____

1. Identify up to two conversations the Connectional Table needs to discuss related to Objective 1 below. (Please summarize each response in one or two sentences.)

Objective 1: To provide a forum for the understanding and implementation of the vision, mission, and ministries of the global church as determined in consultation with the Council of Bishops and/or the actions of the General Conference. (BOD Para 905.1)

Response:

2. Identify up to two conversations the Connectional Table needs to discuss related to Objective 2 below. (Please summarize each response in one or two sentences.)

Objective 2: To enable the flow of information and communication among annual conferences, jurisdictions, central conferences, general agencies, and the Council of Bishops. (Para 905.2)

Response:

3. Identify up to two conversations the Connectional Table needs to discuss related to Objective 3 below. (Please summarize each response in one or two sentences.)

Objective 3: Consistent with actions of the General Conference, to coordinate the program life of the church with the mandates of the gospel, the mission of the church, and the needs of the global community by listening to the expression of needs, addressing emerging issues, and determining the most effective, cooperative, and efficient way to provide optimum stewardship of ministries, personnel, and resources. (BOD Para 905.3)

Response:

4. Identify up to two conversations the Connectional Table needs to discuss related to Objective 4 below. (Please summarize each response in one or two sentences.)

Objective 4: To review and evaluate the missional effectiveness of general program-related agencies and connectional structures of the church as they collectively seek to aid annual conferences and local churches as they fulfill the mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (BOD Para 905.4)

Response:

5. Identify up to two conversations the Connectional Table needs to discuss related to Objective 5 below. (Please summarize each response in one or two sentences.)

Objective 5: To recommend to the General Conference such changes and implementing legislation as may be appropriate to ensure effectiveness of the general agencies. (BOD Para 905.5)

6. Identify up to two conversations the Connectional Table needs to discuss related to Objective 6 below. (Please summarize each response in one or two sentences.)

Objective 6: To provide leadership in planning and research, assisting all levels of the church to evaluate needs and plan strategies to carry out the mission of the church. (BOD Para 905.6)

Response:

7. Identify up to two conversations the Connectional Table needs to discuss related to Objective 7 below. (Please summarize each response in one or two sentences.)

Objective 7: In order to be accountable, along with the General Council on Finance and Administration, to The United Methodist Church through the General Conference, the Connectional Table shall have the authority and responsibility in the following matters:

- a) to collaborate with the General Council on Finance and Administration in the preparation of budgets for the apportioned funds as provided for in Para. 806.1 and 810.1.
- b) To receive from the General Council on Finance and Administration and approve all general agency budget reviews.
- c) To review and approve special offerings and churchwide appeals. (BOD Para 905.7)

Response:

8. Of the responses you entered, please indicate the two most important conversations you believe need to be discussed by the Connectional Table and why.

Response: