

A Note from Personnel Chair Ken Nelson

Ken Nelson
August 29, 2018

Dear members of the Connectional Table,

I am writing to announce that Cynthia Dopke accepted a position with Wespeth as Church Relations Manager. She will leave her role at the Connectional Table effective September 19, 2018.

Cynthia served the Connectional Table for nearly 12 years in various positions, most recently as the Assistant Connectional Ministries Officer. Though she served quietly and effectively, she has always been a lively member of our staff. Cynthia made valuable contributions to the CT in a variety of ways, including in her support and shepherding of advisory groups and management of CT's internal administration.

"I have known Cynthia for the past six years. I was grateful for her kind and effective guidance of our advisory groups when I was on the CT as a board member," said the Rev. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, CT's new Chief Connectional Ministries Officer. "I have been especially grateful for her expert leadership as I have come on as CCMO. Cynthia has brought and shared her understanding and long experience of the general church. She has brought expert administrative skill that has helped the CT move its work forward. And she has brought a deep spiritual centeredness and an easy ability to relate to people that have been gifts to the CT. We will miss Cynthia greatly but wish her well as she pursues new opportunities within the connection."

Bishop Christian Alsted, chair of the CT, added, "Cynthia has served the Connectional Table with excellence and integrity through the past 12 years. With her expertise and commitment, she has provided effective management and leadership through several transitions, while she remained focused on the task ahead. Cynthia's faith is a strong driver in her life, and she is eager for the church to pursue excellence in ministry by the use of research and evaluation. I had the privilege of working particularly closely together with Cynthia during the fall of 2017, when she served as interim chief connectional ministries officer, and her passion for the ministry of the Connectional Table and the high quality of her work impressed me deeply. I am profoundly thankful for Cynthia's service to the CT, and I congratulate Wespeth with adding a very resourceful and experienced person to their staff."

If you would like to express your personal congratulations to Cynthia, she can be contacted at cdopke@umc.org. Over the next weeks, Leadership Discernment and Community Life (LDCL), will find ways to express appreciation of Cynthia's service and celebrate her contributions to the Connectional Table.

In Christ,

Rev. Ken Nelson
Chair, Leadership Discernment and Community Life