

Title

The establishment of Nine (9) Districts in the Michigan Conference

Resolution

RESOLVED, that the Michigan Annual Conference will have nine (9) districts.

Report & Rationale

The district is the place, in the creation of the new Michigan Conference, where there is the most potential and Disciplinary flexibility for creative missional alignment to fulfill the conference vision. The creation of nine new districts would provide the energy and possibility for new relationships, staffing models, and structures needed to achieve conference-wide missional realignment with the new conference vision and director staffing model.

In the proposed Plan of Organization of the Michigan Annual Conference, the Bishop, Conference Directors, and the Conference Leadership Council will share the primary responsibility for stewarding the mission and the vision of the Annual Conference. The district will serve as a primary locus for connecting and equipping clergy and lay leaders and local churches in the fulfillment of the conference's mission and vision. Each district will have one District Superintendent, per the 2016 Book of Discipline and related Judicial Council Rulings, appointed by and directly amenable to the Bishop. The District Superintendent will serve as the "chief missional strategist" and will fulfill the duties of supervision and appointment outlined by The Book of Discipline.

The guiding values for the work of the district and District Superintendent will be relationship, contextualization, and missional alignment. The district will be a Christ-centered community where relationships with God, each other, and the world will be formed, nurtured, deepened. The district Superintendent, as "chief missional strategist," will be responsible for ensuring the Conference vision is discerned, interpreted and implemented appropriately within each local context. The district will play a crucial role in aligning leaders, congregations, missions and ministries with the Conference vision.

District Geographic Boundaries, Staffing Configuration Name and Office Location

The 2016 Book of Discipline provides in paragraph 415.4 that the Annual Conference determines the number of districts, and the Bishop "forms" the districts after the Conference determines the number. Bishop Bard has published on the Conference website the consultative process he will use to "form" the Districts if the "Nine (9) District Resolution" is approved at the 2017 Annual Conference session. This process will include working with District Superintendents and appropriate boards and agencies to determine geographic boundaries, staffing configuration, name and office location for each District.

Below is one possibility of boundary lines for nine (9) districts. These boundaries are provided solely for the purpose of visualizing a nine (9) district model. These are not final boundaries. This initial visualization of district lines is done with possible geographic and travel affinities in mind.



Michigan Conference Design Team
Glenn Wagner and Marsha Woolley, Co-Chairs