

**Vision 2032 – Southeast District, Mt. Pleasant
(11.16.2019)**

Concerns:

- perception of the institutional church
- lack of vision in past and now
- lay people aren't being the church
- aging/declining membership
- closing churches
- finances/giving
- where will we go if churches close/when they change denominations
- difficulty having dialogue together
- simple existence
- commitment
- lose touch with the missionary mindset
- meeting people where they are
- lack of diversity within the church
- Whether Iowa UMC will be here
- Giving LGBTQ inclusion
- clergy availability
- cost of pastor's health insurance
- No parsonages for smaller churches
- stuck in tradition
- connect with younger generations.
- Becoming socially oriented versus biblically
- losing as United Methodist our biblical foundation to please society
- Do we really have to have open minds, can we change our hearts
- disagreements over conservative and progressive views
- interpretation of Scripture is not agreed upon by all
- lack of members age 18 to 35.
- United is an oxymoron.
- We will split
- internal division external division.
- Demographics
- unreliability of attendance comfort level and familiarity influence new ideas
- disconnection of people in the pews
- churchianity
- functional congregations
- Spectators versus participants
- attendance in church and SS.

- People are easily offended.
- Respect differing opinions
- trust in our own understanding rather than Jesus.
- lack of energy
- lack of imagination
- spiritual immaturity
- focusing on petty concerns instead of working together on important things
- not knowing God fully enough both individually and collectively

Excited:

- There is talk and communication of vision for us.
- God is still present.
- We are being proactive
- people are sharing their gifts and talents
- Seeing congregations that are excited to do ministry.
- We love Jesus
- common mission
- See our churches on fire for the Lord.
- Seeing churches that take mission seriously.
- By sharing God moments.
- Bringing children to church
- seeing new faces come through the door
- willingness to learn
- Wesley's grace explanations, prevent trust justifying sacrificing
- local outreach global connection
- Kids in church
- energy and leadership of new young clergy and laity
- commitment to finding solutions
- food, and social gatherings
- multi-generational churches
- openness to new ideas
- church family with love and support
- efficient effectiveness.
- Small Group discipleship
- rediscovering the spirit
- willingness to get out in the community
- Focus on relationships
- willingness to tackle issues that are divisive
- openness to community groups aligning with church
- church together
- Service first
- relationship first

- No litmus test
- Shared community
- youth are most more mission focused
- Millennials are amazingly creative and imaginative
- new ideas are going to be good again
- Technology connecting people
- Knowing Jesus is a blessing, true faith
- Jesus will never forsake us
- Rekindle of the Catholic spirit
- our relationships are real
- firm theological convictions, not just ideas of what is right and wrong in the mind

What can we do with a \$6 to \$8 million budget

- requires efficiency in all areas
- human communication is important
- need strong connectionalism of conference to our local churches
- less Wesleyan?
- local churches do more, like in campus ministry
- Fewer DS's
- Step out, support local pastors, by elders
- more assigned laity
- local programming
- communications
- treasurer
- improved, efficient technology between conference center and local churches
- Stop wasting paper and office supplies
- Reduce, Reuse repurpose
- increased local training for LLP and lay servant CLM serving churches
- video conferencing technology
- utilize United Methodist college space for trainings
- streamlined
- Technologically sound.
- Permission to fail
- more decentralized ministries
- more autonomy
- fewer conference demands for part time pastors and new pastors
- more time for ministry
- Actually empowering laity
- Clearly, aligned around developing leadership
- clear vision

- more laity leadership
- focus on Jesus
- more technology
- use "Mission Insite"
- get back to our roots
- get rid of the "E.G.O.s" i.e. Edging God Out
- rely more on technology for communication
- consolidate smaller churches
- have Annual conference every two years
- investigate ways to lower health insurance costs, freeing up funds for local churches so they might be able to pay more apportionments
- make it easier for lay people to have pastoral type duties or leadership
- have abundance thinking instead of scarcity thinking
- live stream meetings
- making sure all members understand what opportunities are, why they are important
- led by the Holy Spirit rather than the dollar
- praying and having faith
- Shorter annual conferences
- video conferencing, instead of travel
- Utilize more lay/local people as resources
- consolidate resources
- how do we do ministry to reflect on our Methodist heritage?
- more intentionally in developing lay leadership.
- Virtual or digital services and responses
- strategic partnerships
- non duplication
- IAUMC need needn't be the sponsor parent of every ministry
- Individual churches would have direct responsibility of their mission and ministry beyond apportionment giving