

Vision 2032 – South Central District
(October 27, 2019)

Concerns

Declining membership

How are we going to be church outside the walls?

Are we losing the gospel message for entertainment?

Division

So much energy is going to one draining issue

Finances

Authority of scripture

What happened to love and being non-judgmental

When will we go outside the four walls?

Membership decline: death, lack of interest, no need for church

How to attract younger members and families

Bothered by only focus on relationships vs theology

Loss of churches in communities: loss/declining membership

More churches closing Financial issues

Can United Methodists come to an agreement on peace with one another

We aren't praying like we should be

Declining attendance

Why are people not attending we have lost sight of who we are as United Methodists

Judging other people

Change will not come - status quo

May lose people

May lose congregations

Difficult to define the United Methodist Church

Increase in apportionments

Decreased trust

Doing the same thing on a new scale

Not speaking to the realities

Global environment

Conflict

Unclear mission and vision

Fear of imagination

Ministry falls through the cracks

Evangelism

Immigration

Excitements

Increased attendance

Use of social media

Change can be good

Energy of youth

New membership
Strong laity
Local mission
District leadership
Praise music
We need to be excited about Jesus
Make sure we are clear all people will be excepted
A lot of young people in faith, attending faith events
Revival coming
Very active in helping or eating the community in needs such as poverty, hunger, shelter, suffering
Bishop Laurie's message of hope
God has a purpose for us
Church is worth fighting for
Fresh expressions of ministry: new opportunities for new people
Revitalization, lay ministry, worship, evangelism, discipleship
Clarify and define the United Methodist Church
Conference as equipping agent
Lay leadership and witness
Opportunity
Not just revising, but re-creating
More openness
Whole person theology
We have a chance to not be hypocrites

What could we do with a \$6-\$8 million budget?

Not all decisions need to be made annually at the Iowa Annual Conference
We don't always have to meet in person
May change appointment system in a way that simplifies and saves finances
Use resources we have already
District wider, elders supervise more, tap into laity more
Stop carving and start building
How do we know what matters and how to prioritize? What needs to remain?
Organic ministry and buildings disappear: hold on to God above real estate Circuit riding clergy, distance between worship (excellent worship for all churches)
Fewer conference things and more district and local things
Use more part time contract employees with flexibility
Push for health and wellness and effective ways
More local church identity: make more of their own decisions
More local church authority
More laity leadership
Less being dictated by the conference
Increased vision in local churches

Increased equality between all clergy, elders, and local licensed pastors

Use of technology: webinars, Skype, Zoom

Key conference functions: human resources

- Pastor recruit and deploy
- Training for laity and clergy
- Coaching and consulting

Streamline annual conference meeting

- Focus on training
- Focus on worship
- Minimize legislative actions

District structure

- Regional Hubbs by clusters
- Reduce the number of districts

A lot of things that don't cost money: prayer, hospitality

Conference staff making more contact with churches, pastors, laity

Lay people be more informed and involved in conference decisions

Need to use technology: social media, more of every aspect of ministry

Sell the conference facility and work "virtually" or through churches...utilize as office space

Do we need all staff

We will be forced to rely solely on God

Rethink meetings including annual conference

Reclaim our connection in Iowa by meeting at our camps

Local ownership of charge conferences

More potlucks

Use Methodist affiliated organization to develop programming, messaging, and connections for the church beyond the walls

Use ICN for virtual conferencing

Use technology to streamline meetings and church work

Relationship, relationships with Jesus Christ and other people

Change to biannual conference

Capitalize on technology: keep current with it

Create larger parishes by combining faith communities

Better, earlier, more thorough communication for laity especially college kids to go to the annual conference session

Use present resources more: hymnals, Bibles, etc.