

Vision 2032 – North Central District  
(November 16, 2019)

Concerns

Youth in the church (decline)  
Lack of trust  
Declining membership  
Inerrancy of Scripture  
Hub-county churches  
Biblical teaching  
Wesleyan Heritage  
Older congregations  
Fewer young people coming in  
Clergy focus = care, funerals  
For people to offer financial support  
Leadership gap – “passing the mantle”  
Culture shift  
Buildings  
Human sexuality  
Decrease in membership  
Decrease in morale  
Decrease in finances  
Shifting priorities for Sunday and Wednesday  
Maintenance of facilities and equipment  
Aging demographics  
Decline in giving  
Staff cuts  
Tech issues  
Closed minds  
Do we truly have a plan to develop leaders

Excites

Relationships with others in and outside the church  
Reaching out to community  
Love to go  
Ripe opportunities for ministry  
Need to connect  
Technology  
Relationships matter  
Partnerships are building  
Laity are stepping up  
Increase in ecumenical relationships  
Community vitality  
Rejuvenation

Inclusiveness

Holy spirit “fire!”

Growth in youth programs in certain churches

Growth in people hours of mission and local communities

Virtual offices

Open minds are there

Focus on relationships

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

Staffing to equip local churches in respect to technology

Do we need a conference center?

What is the right number of districts or district superintendents?

Apportionments

- Change formula?
- What do we actually need to apportion for?

More focus on the local churches to be the hub of ministry

Fewer districts

less staff

Better tech

Do we need the conference building?

Can the conference yoke with another denomination?

Cut the annual conference session down to two days

Use technology to reduce travel

- Limits in rural areas – hubs or county seats are important

Reduce conference real estate holdings

Merging or restructuring churches – interdenominational

District office in a church

Regional bishops office such as with Minnesota South Dakota and North Dakota

Keep the present number of districts (8) with each conference superintendent being halftime, thus bi-vocational

Ditch the conference center or share it with others – use existing churches during the week

Clarifying or providing guidance for membership

Less reports - “paperwork”

Providing shared specialist resources such as legal experts

Combine camp and retreat Center’s with others such as Lutheran, Baptist, etc.