

**Vision 2032 – Carroll First - Southwest District  
(November 17, 2019)**

Concerns

Church position on human sexuality

Anxiety and distrust with our general conference and Iowa conference

Some concern about too much for Ryan he in worship

Sustainability

Uncertainty, what will our future be?

Demographics

Number of “nones” increasing

Can we change fast enough? Will people follow?

Communication between conference and local

Not meeting our apportionments

Fiscal viability

What about the churches, will there be less financial support from the annual conference?

Pastoral support and stress

If churches need to close, will the UMC lose members?

Pastoral support and stress

As we adapt to change, how do we keep people active and engaged?

Lack of Young families

Lack of willingness to serve

Maintain our worldwide connectiveness

Tension of the possible split

Finances

Economic hardships

Local churches splitting on human sexuality

Are there churches on aware of potential for split

That one issue defines our identity

Future splitting of the church, how will it affect attitudes of worshipers

Who retains property in a split

Why did we choose this topic for discussion?

How new will it really be?

- Will it be new wine in old wine skins?

Will churches embrace new things

We are divided/divisive

When we begin cutting it off and creates a downward spiral

How do we help the laity to take on more leadership

Does our current structure make creativity harder?

Excites

Youth involvement in Carroll church  
New young families  
Leadership in education Department of our church  
Variety of worship  
Outreach  
Leadership action  
Putting human sexuality question behind us  
Future as blank slate, what can we create?  
Let's be assistance to new ideas  
Wesley's principles to guide us  
Youth  
Young families  
Opportunities to improve and be heard  
Having a vision  
Intergenerational work  
Increasing leadership in laity  
Church is going to look differently (not typical worship)  
New and different ways to connect  
More open doors, more acceptance  
Opportunities to change our communities  
New enthusiasm in our church  
Leadership  
New programs  
Willingness to serve  
Grassroots empowerment  
Great need and opportunity  
We care about each other  
We love each other  
Love and service to others  
Potential is greater to spread God's word  
Stand firm on religious beliefs  
Building relationships  
Possibilities of bi-vocational ministry  
Redefining what church is

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

Way to share programs and ideas – a repository of resources from Iowa churches for Iowa churches  
Better job using tech tools – helping churches with this

- Bell up a list of people willing to help

Streamline bureaucracy to facilitate creativity  
Improve communication  
Reduce paperwork

Church clusters, adjust apportionments

Review better ways to handle costs

Do a better job of spreading Christ's love to all

A way for conservative United Methodists and liberal United Methodists can stay together with integrity

Increased lay leadership

- Video conferencing
- Meeting length/agendas
- New model for educating lay pastors that is affordable
- Better use of technology

Grants for local churches to improve/expand technology

Training for IT people in local church

Traveling IT person

Embrace technology

Redefine the role of the yearly annual conference meeting

- Make more effective use of our time, be very specific about work to be done

Work towards giving representation to all clergy, licensed local pastors get voting rights

Embrace new worship and ministries – don't just say it, do it

Work towards more laity leadership in the conference

Communication between conference and local

Re-organization of world structure

Training in church leadership

Guidance to local churches for individual needs, requests

Reevaluation of programs offered

Org chart of the United Methodist church in Iowa

Director of review of programs to determine what gets cut

Solve the sexuality issue

May compassion be our guide

- Closing churches
- Differing opinions

Clear expectations and guidelines

Foster local leadership

Concentrate on local control

Annual conference

- Video conference
- Every other year

Develop lay ministry

- One step is SLM

More circuits with Les leaders

Conference level specialists to solve local church needs

- Fewer DS's

More electronica meetings

More live streaming to reduce travel

Conference sharing new, best worship practices

Establish new collaborative relationships