

**Vision 2032 – Conference Center - Central District
(November 20, 2019)**

Concerns

Churches not working together

People not wanting to change

Lose people in church

Finances

Competing interests with church

Demanding expectations of the pastors

Theologically grounded leadership

Clarity of mission statement

Do I want to be ordained into this church?

Young people

Diversity

New people

Can it be exciting

Why bother?

Getting younger people into the church

How will we involve/engage the younger generation?

How will time be made in people's lives for church?

Different priorities now

Turmoil, split stagnation

New membership growth and How are we going to do that?

What is getting left off?

lack of participation quickness of changes churches?

Who choose not to pay?

Global Impact

role of young people

meaningful experiences for youth

Maintaining church family

Fear of change

breakup of church

Lack of change.

Churches withholding apportionment

Not having church business being more important than the spiritual side.

We feel like we are already at 2032.

We feel as if theology and relationships are becoming further apart than they should be.

We feel as though these two things like theology is important.

We also feel that financial is crashing and is decreasing us giving aging congregation

money for connectional on ministries, youth ministries camps.

Campus ministries Wesley foundations
recruiting and retention of clergy.
Do we believe God is present
are we listening to God
how do we get everyone on the same page of vision
communication to everyone in the church filters down
disconnect with large churches.
Maintaining intimacy with flexibility.
What is not working with the current system.
we don't become too single issue focused.
Closing churches economy.
Membership declines
amount of money spent on current debate and fighting versus mission and
purpose of church
gone from inclusiveness to a form of exclusive
spend too much time and focus on the drama.
Current LGBTQ issue is causing tribal mentality.
Hard to spend money for the future when current issues could impact future
our attachment to our stuff churches building etc.
LGBTQ community expectations.
The existence of the church acceptance.

Excites

Not fighting about sexuality
Seeing what happens in the church
More people feeling welcomed
Getting more youth
Safe place to build community
Nimble
Collaboration
God is still going to show up
More of us joining God
Faithful response to remain— creates a fire
Discussing different topics that haven't been brought up before
New ideas from all ages
New opportunities
Mission trips
Connecting churches ideas and activities
Nimble flexible
True dialogue regarding sexuality
Voices of youth heard
Brighter days ahead
New relationships
New partnerships

Reaching unchurch
Closing gaps
Care and love of people
New opportunities to serve
Renewed sense of mission and ID
Reset at conference level
Acknowledgment of imperfection
Stopping harm
More inclusive
Area where people are together in the church physical place at the church
The conflict of sexuality will be behind us by 2032
Use of technology will be used more for church like live streaming worship for the disabled
The way people will worship with each other kindly in 2032
Finding what connection on ministries truly is relationship focused
Excited that you can't stay the same
Living in a transition
That the Bible is the living word
That cluster and refining connection all ministries
Moving from clergy centric ministry
Opportunity to do things differently
Opportunity to change which could result in more energy for ministry
UMC is good at seeing a need and then filling it
Using technology to facilitate different forms of church
Seeing young people participating
Youth mission trips are valuable
There is movement—a mindfulness—people are looking for deeper spirituality
Hope for the future
More kids and young adults
Everybody needs a place with the church and God
Still be honest and loved
Community
What the church will become

What we could do if we had a \$6 to \$8 million budget

Keep good music and worship
Building?
Leadership
Community
Ministry inside and out
Hunger for God
Utilizing the growing retired population to help manage daily operations long
Dash unpaid versus paid staff
Better use of technology—virtual office

Some of the ministry cost to the church—decide by the people not a conference

What could be supported in different ways

Targeted giving to specific ministries

Lower overhead too top-heavy currently

Less top down decision-making

more local input

Let excitement locally prompt better giving

Use a cluster model to decrease expenses --requires fewer district superintendents

encourage more true connectional ministry driven from a more local level

Promote bottom up

Reduce unnecessary buildings at other things

More activity to connect us

Recognize the issues

More like people prepared to lead

Support pastoral leadership

Younger people step up

Different supervisory structure

- circuits of churches
- More leadership--led by elders

Worship outside of church

More superintendent smaller districts with superintendent also pastoring a church

Smaller groups to build relationships faster

More modest building

More lady involvement

Tithing more than money time and gifts and skills

Energy efficiency

New purposes for building

Aligning staff with mission not administration

Less direct administration

More local connection

Stronger focus on increasing membership

More and better use of local church facilities

Stronger emphasis on social media outreach

Outside grants for new and emerging ministries

More visitation in local communities

Putting friendly face on conference staff

Stronger economical relationships and interface

Relatable topics with everyone seeing the needs

Keeping up with technology

Keeping telling the stories of what we can't do alone

Physical communication

Happy medium between physical and technological communication

Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness

Lower apportionments equal more local ministry

Where is the money for shared ministry?

- why pay appointments if we can't see the good
- more than salaries

Addressing local needs

Empower Laity

Empowered laity

Bi-vocational clergy

Clarity clarify mission that underlies conference functions

Reduce conference communications

Nimble

Size opportunities seize opportunities

Let go of stuff

Fewer buildings

Creative church /ministry/building use (use our spaces better)

Stop making financial decisions on buildings

Rethink church space

Vision, relationship, and money all interweave

Partner ministry

Virtual meetings

Business expenses cut

Better use of technology

More use of volunteers