

The New Regional Superintendency Plan FAQs

1.) Why are we making this change now?

We are making these changes in order to continue living our mission in a fruitful and sustainable way amid much denominational uncertainty.

We are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That purpose never changes, and we must always seek ways in which we can live the mission even more effectively and fruitfully than we have in the past.

The current reality of The United Methodist Church is one of uncertainty. While we cannot predict the results of General Conference 2020, we do know that change is coming. To the extent we are able, we want to be ready to live into these changes.

And, while we celebrate the resources of God at work in the Upper New York Conference of The United Methodist Church, we must also realize that we have some difficulties in relation to sustainability. We believe this plan will help create better sustainability.

For these reasons, we believe it is necessary for the UNY Conference to make this change so we can most effectively carry out the mission of the UMC given the current reality of our denomination and in order to remain sustainable.

2.) How will decisions made at the 2020 General Conference impact this plan?

We cannot predict the actions of the General Conference delegates. No matter the results of General Conference, we believe this plan will position the United Methodist Church in UNY to live the mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” in a more effective way.

3.) Are District Superintendents supportive of this plan?

Yes. The Cabinet of UNY offers this plan unanimously after a year of prayer, discernment, and conversations.

4.) What are the financial implications of this change?

This will result in some financial savings, but more importantly, will allow the reallocation of financial resources to better equip clergy, laity, and local congregations to carry out the mission.

5.) Does this require an AC vote?

No, it does not. The number of Districts is not changing. The *Book of Discipline* gives the AC the authority and the responsibility to set the number of Districts. The Bishop and the Cabinet are given the authority and the responsibility to set the boundaries of Districts. The Bishop is given the authority and the responsibility to determine and appoint appropriate leadership for the Districts.

6.) How were the Regions determined?

In planning for how to best connect Districts into Regions, we aimed to take advantage of shared geographies, histories, pre-existing relationships and common ministry needs in such a way that will maximize the ability to live out the UMC mission through regional shared leadership. While there will never be a perfect configuration, we believe these regions will enable fruitful collaboration and support.

7.) Who will be my District Superintendent?

Every pastor and local congregation will be assigned one District Superintendent to supervise them. These assignments will be shared prior to July 1, 2020.

8.) Will my District office remain the same?

Yes.

9.) What are Regional/District Associates?

The UNY Conference will hire a Regional/District Associate for each Region to work under the supervision and help the District Superintendent(s). Only the District Superintendents will handle appointments, supervision, and evaluation.

The Regional/District Associates to implement strategies for leadership development training for both clergy and laity; develop and implement strategies for mentoring and coaching pastors and congregations, conflict resolution within congregations; and pastoral care to clergy and clergy families.

Additionally, the appointed Regional/District Associate will develop and implement strategies related to the work of District Boards of Location and Building, re-alignment of charges, new faith community development and congregations moving to legacy/closure after initial consultation/conversation between superintendent and local church(es).

[Click here](#) for a full job description.

10.) Who covers the cost of District parsonages?

These financial costs will continue to be the responsibility of the Annual Conference. The Board of Trustees in consultation with the Cabinet will determine an appropriate strategy to deal with any vacant District parsonages that represents the best interest of the Annual Conference.

11.) When will I find out who my District Superintendent is?

The Cabinet plans to have this information available by the end of April if not sooner.

12.) Why were the District Committees on District Superintendency the first to learn about the Regional Superintendency plan?

It is a requirement of the *Book of Discipline* that the Bishop consult with the District Committee on Superintendency before making an appointment change for District Superintendents so that was the best place to start.

13.) Does this change the committee structure in the District/Regions?

No, it is required that all Districts have a District Committee on Superintendency and all other structures will remain the same.

14.) Is this a step toward reducing the number of Districts?

No. We believe, given our current reality as a Conference and a denomination, there is value in maintaining the number of Districts, building upon the relationships, resources, and strengths of each District. This is a new model of providing leadership to the Districts and creating a regional strategy linking Districts to one another that will increase the vitality of local congregations.

If you have additional questions related to the new Regional Superintendency Plan, send them to questions@unyumc.org.