

**ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
REQUIRING ACTION OR CONSIDERATION BY THE
2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

Action Item 31: Redistricting the Wisconsin Annual Conference

Submitted by: The Cabinet

Rationale: The United Methodist Church is a connectional system that values relationships, communication, spiritual leadership performance, accountability and mutual support. Critical to this work is the ministry of the District Superintendent. For eleven years, the Wisconsin Annual Conference has assigned the work of eight districts to four district superintendents. With changes in the focus of circuits and the challenge to “Imagine Wisconsin Anew,” the current structure of the Wisconsin Annual Conference makes it increasingly difficult for superintendents to carry out and fulfill their duties as described in the 2012 Book of Discipline, ¶¶401-435.

In 2013-2014, a task force was formed to study our conference structure and to examine options for a healthier, more effective and sustainable conference alignment. This work revealed need to improve communication and connection throughout the conference. **In the judgment of the task force, four District Superintendents are inadequate to sufficiently cover the whole conference, and the best way to improve relationships, communication, performance, accountability and mutual support is to increase the number of superintendents from four (4) to five (5).** A very careful analysis of costs versus benefits was conducted, and the recommendation takes into account the significant costs, but determines that the benefits are much greater.

WHEREAS the Wisconsin Annual Conference functions best when the District Superintendents are well connected and deeply engaged with the clergy and laity leadership of the local congregations and indigenous ministries, and;

WHEREAS the Wisconsin Annual Conference is committed to “Imagining Wisconsin Anew” through launching new, and revitalizing existing, ministries that are connected to our changing multicultural communities and are engaged in mercy and justice ministries in every location throughout the state, and;

WHEREAS the cabinet of the Wisconsin Annual Conference is dedicated to constantly strengthening and improving ministry throughout the conference through healthy relationships, open communication, high-level leadership performance, honest accountability and mutual support, and;

WHEREAS a consensus exists among clergy and laity leadership that the current structure constrains and inhibits our district superintendents from adequately knowing, understanding, and responding to the critical needs of the local church,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wisconsin Annual Conference, establish five (5) new districts with new boundaries and new names that will better serve the mission and vision of the Wisconsin Annual Conference. Each district will be guided by a District Superintendent, and the pastoral charges of the Wisconsin Annual Conference will be realigned in a manner intended to maximize the impact of the role and responsibility of the DS.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two superintendents (NE and NC) be co-located with offices in the current regional office in Appleton. The other three remain in their current office locations. Funding for the new district superintendent and related administrative costs for 2015 will add \$90,000 to the 2015 conference budget, with Annual Conference approval, after being referred to the Implications Committee of the current (forty-fifth) session.