

Design Team Scope & Authority

Source of Design Team Authority

Resolution adopted by the annual conferences in 2015

New Conference Resolution

1. Take all necessary action in order to create a new conference to be the legal successor to the two existing conferences.
2. Make a request to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church at its meeting July 13-16, 2016, in Peoria, Illinois, to:
 - approve the creation of the new annual conference,
 - define the boundaries of the new conference as the entire state of Michigan,
 - approve the new conference be effective not later than January 1, 2019.
3. Design Team to develop a detailed plan of implementation to be brought to a combined session where the two conferences would vote as one body on any amendments and approval of the detailed plan.
4. Reports will be given to the 2016 and 2017 sessions of the Detroit Conference and the West Michigan Conference for discussion, amendment and approval of components of the plan as they are designed.
5. New conference be formed in accordance with these guiding principles:
 - The local congregation is the most significant arena in which disciple making occurs.
 - A continuous process of evaluation and realignment of structures, programs, institutions, resources and personnel in order to increase the effectiveness of the Church in its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
 - Collaboration that encourages the natural formation of partnerships based on shared vision and priorities.
 - A process which allows portions of the plan to be presented to each annual conference for debate and amendment prior to adopting the Final Plan.
 - A willingness to be held accountable, both personally and corporately, to our covenant relationships to God and one another for the transformation and healing of the world.
 - A spirit of openness to explore new ways, models, and methods of being the Church, in an increasingly diverse world, with the expectation of learning from our successes and failures.

Timeline

2016 annual conference sessions

- Report to the annual conferences on work done so far, e.g., vision statement, development of timeline.

2017 annual conference sessions

- Present a complete proposal (structure and rules) for full plenary debate and amendment.

After 2017 annual conference sessions:

- Review structure and rules passed by each conference and draft a compromise proposal that blends what each conference has adopted.

2018 annual conference sessions

- Vote on final structure and rules.

Jan. 1, 2019

- New conference begins.

Name of the New Conference

The Jurisdictional Conference is requiring that we select a name for the new conference for inclusion with the enabling legislation to be adopted this summer. At the December meeting of the Design Team the name **Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church** was unanimously selected. We must submit the new name by April 4, 2016.

Agencies that will need take the lead in their respective areas

The Design Team lacks the knowledge and expertise in these areas.

- Boards of Trustees / Chancellors (with Design Team in Jan.)
- Councils on Finance and Administration (invited to February's Design Team meeting)
- Joint Distribution Committee (presented to Design Team in Dec.)

Areas for collaboration with appointive & full cabinets

- Equitable compensation philosophy
- Number of districts / load to be placed on district superintendents
- Program staff
- Development of bold, effective leaders
- Development of vital congregations

- For program agencies / connectional ministries, the Design Team should take the lead, with input and feedback from the agencies.

- If program agencies take the lead, we limit the possibilities for radical, new ways of organizing and implementing ministry and mission.

Personnel Issues

- Transition incentives.
- Is saving money a goal?

Legal Issues

- Trustees and Treasurers are best equipped for this work.