

1. How does the geographic distribution of districts/churches impact the mission of the connection?

- Planting the churches where the people are
- Execution of the mission
- Effectiveness of the leadership
 - The landmass is too large to be effective
 - Geographic area
 - Presiding elders should handle this duty
- Area of heavy population should have effective ministry
- Regional cultures should be analyzed
- Research political & economic conflicts
- Territorial concerns
- Power depletion of Episcopal districts
- Maximize our political influence
- Impede/hinders the mission of the church if the district is too large
- Smaller districts/groups can be more effective
- The idea of a rural church does not mean that they are ineffective
- Rural churches are becoming congregational (Baptist) because of the lack of the ability to maintain full time pastors (some only meet 1 to 2 times a month)
- Centralize the functions of the district
- Pastors are living in areas where they can have a secondary income
- New church planting is discouraged/encouraged
- Geographical rivalry
- Geographic distribution does not impact the mission of the AME church. It affects everything else.
- Regional differences
- Manageability and admin support
- Equitable distribution of resources
- Evangelism
- Create disunity or unity
- Variance in tradition
- Economic disparity
- Districts with educational institutions support the institution(s) more than those that do not
- Promote synergy
- Too much burden on local congregations

2. What are the desired outcomes of redistricting?

- Strengthen the churches
- a strong evangelical thrust
- church growth
- better use of resources
- economic strength
- reach max amount of persons
- make Episcopal districts more equitable in size
- meet the needs of the people
- church planting/consolidation
- evaluation of the churches

- efficient use of pastors
- more visibility and presence on societal issues
- more young people
- less professional competition
- a larger commitment to cooperative ministry
- equity in
- size
- revenue
- improved accountability
- enhancement of qualified personnel (lay and clergy)
- reinforcement of itinerancy

3. What are the impacts of inequities in the size of the membership in the districts?

- Competition
- Imbalance
- Population shifts (Industry shifts)
- Leadership
- Smaller districts have less resources
- Territorial integrity
- Underserved areas
- Low moral
- Mission not fulfilled
- Power struggles (classism)
- “taxation without representation” (number of delegates at the general conference)
- budgetary allotment
- geographical location or size does not represent ability
- greater financial burden
- inaccurate reporting
- limited bonding
- sense of futility
- lack of promotional opportunities
- lack of inclusiveness
- dissatisfaction
- membership loss
- slow growth
- less influence in representative body
- inability to plant new churches
- lack of inclusiveness

4. What are the major impacts of redistricting?

- Strengthen weaker churches
- Upward mobility
- Accountability
- Unknown outcomes
- Redefining regional relationships (disturbance)
- Who gets the meat...bones?
- Equitable and more effective districts

- Meet and expand the mission of the church
- Redistribution of finances (budget)
- Change in management
- More evangelism (ministries)
- Greater resource pools
- Enhance educational opportunities
- Stronger districts
- Loss of identity
- Adjusting to change
- Planting churches in underdeveloped areas
 - Rural ministries
- Ensure integration of an annual conference into a new configuration (appointments)

5. What are the advantages/disadvantages of redistricting?

Advantages

- Serving the present age (contemporary)
- Catching up with the times
- Pooling resources
- New models of ministry
- Equalize the playing field
- Human nature
- Orientation/preparation
- Update and renew mission and vision
- Renewed visibility
- Positive utilization of our history
- Equity in
 - membership
 - financial responsibility
 - Episcopal assignments
- Clearer jurisdictional lines
- Weaker areas made strong
 - Motivation for growth
- Workable configuration of churches
- Fair access to growth regions
- Address population shifts

Disadvantages

- Fear of loss of identity\control
- Cultural differences
- Merging of Episcopal districts
- Elimination of current boundaries
- Hostility (reluctance to change)
- Splits (Schisms)
- Interrupting historical relationships
- Having to make new relationships
- Loss of membership
- Human nature
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