

Q8 Is there anything else important that you think the Task Force needs to know or consider in this work?

Answered: 371 Skipped: 217

	IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE IMPORTANT THAT YOU THINK THE TASK FORCE NEEDS TO KNOW OR CONSIDER IN THIS WORK?	TOTAL
Q12: Less than 25	100% 59	16% 59
Q12: Between 26-49	100% 111	30% 111
Q12: Between 50-99	100% 88	24% 88
Q12: Between 100-249	100% 65	18% 65
Q12: Between 250-499	100% 38	10% 38
Q12: 500 or more	100% 10	3% 10
Total Respondents	371	371

#	Q12: LESS THAN 25	DATE
1	I get lots of support from my DS, guidance, spiritual support, ministry ideas, etc	6/24/2022 8:30 AM
2	No	6/22/2022 11:13 PM
3	Surprise visits	6/22/2022 6:25 PM
4	no	6/22/2022 4:54 PM
5	No	6/22/2022 4:14 PM
6	Fresh Collaboration and embracing a concept of new frontier in ministry I believe is essential in moving about and out from recent and current disorienting times. I earlier in this survey noted 11 districts as preferable, but with this notation, so state that realistically 11 likely unsustainable; 9 more likely. DS move from Chief Missional Strategist to Primary Ministries Navigator. I believe local congregations feel a disconnect between themselves and the District/DS who is viewed as a/the primary catalyst in whom they receive as appointed pastor and who helps them navigate (beyond the local church leaders) issues and concerns that are uniquely relevant to them.	6/22/2022 3:04 PM
7	No	6/22/2022 2:23 PM
8	None	6/22/2022 1:52 PM
9	Do not expect small membership churches (less than 15 active participation) to do what larger churches do. There may be some "rules" smaller churches cannot follow.	6/22/2022 1:31 PM
10	The current state of leadership at the DS level and above is very poor. From my observation, pastors receive poor support from senior leadership. Laity receive even less.	6/22/2022 1:06 PM
11	North Mississippi should be one district. Tupelo district. They are too close together. It makes sense to combine these 2 districts. And it needs to be done sooner than later with so many churches leaving the conference.	6/22/2022 12:15 PM
12	probably but not enough space or time to do it	6/22/2022 12:09 PM
13	No	6/18/2022 9:27 AM
14	No	6/17/2022 7:59 AM
15	no	6/16/2022 11:52 PM
16	No	6/16/2022 4:08 PM
17	Churches need to be more connectable.	6/16/2022 10:40 AM
18	In my job we went from 9 regional directors to 5. It took time to readjust but it didn't take that long to readjust.	6/15/2022 3:08 PM
19	I am not sure how often district superintendents worship with congregations except at charge conferences if you count those as worship.	6/15/2022 1:24 PM
20	Our churches need to know all outcomes of conferences as soon as possible. How the United Methodist Church is headed and deadline of All Inclusive or Traditional .	6/15/2022 10:46 AM
21	At the present time, I cannot think of anything.	6/15/2022 9:59 AM
22	I expect transparency from from the conference and from our DS. I expect truthful information and I expect answers	6/14/2022 3:51 PM

District Realignment Survey of Laity and Clergy

to reasonable questions. I expect some accountability and reporting as to how the DS spends his or her time.

23	No	6/14/2022 1:42 PM
24	Those responsibilities NOT CHECKED in the previous question #7, although equally significant to those CHECKED, could possibly be fulfilled by the DS acquiring a necessary number of "experienced" elders within the district to assist the DS.	6/14/2022 12:37 PM
25	None	6/14/2022 11:43 AM
26	no recommendations	6/14/2022 11:19 AM
27	I RECOMMEND CONSOLIDATING THE DISTRICT OFFICES.	6/14/2022 10:31 AM
28	Our D.S. is very important to the local churches and need to be readily available to us and giving them more churches will prohibit them from spending time at one particular church.	6/14/2022 8:31 AM
29	There are many Full Elders out there who can help DS's fulfill their charge conference obligations.	6/14/2022 8:31 AM
30	Limit the term of service for the DSs and spread out the opportunities. More spirituality and less politics.	6/14/2022 8:03 AM
31	No	6/14/2022 7:14 AM
32	no	6/14/2022 7:03 AM
33	DS that knows and is supportive of clergy and thus knows and understands the individual congregations	6/14/2022 12:34 AM
34	Local churches need communication about the possible breakup of the U M Church due to the homosexual issue.	6/13/2022 9:14 PM
35	Not at this time	6/13/2022 8:07 PM
36	To make sure that the People serving as DS know they are Appreciated. They do an awesome and difficult job.	6/13/2022 6:05 PM
37	Not at this time.	6/13/2022 5:56 PM
38	No	6/13/2022 4:28 PM
39	go smaller and more personal...cut salary by having DS serve a local church...build relationship and trust with God's people.	6/13/2022 3:38 PM
40	If we have lost 1/3 of our churches since '91, it seems logical to reduce the number of districts/superintendents by 1/3. Other than the somewhat more extensive travel aspect, it would seem that the workload would be proportional to the reduction in churches. Perhaps travel circuits could be arranged effectively with careful attention to proximity of churches.	6/13/2022 3:33 PM
41	Consider sending pastors that's familiar with the community they're serving and not just send someone because he or she need a church. Pastors are coming to these small rural churches with having no growth for the church because they do not have any community or city relationships.	6/13/2022 2:39 PM
42	He should be assessable if needed.	6/13/2022 1:55 PM
43	Ds have normal office hours and be in office and not out doing something outside the district. They should be in district and in their offices just like pasotrs are expected to be.	6/13/2022 1:53 PM
44	DS needs to listen to laity and visit churches who have legitimate concerns with pastors.	6/13/2022 1:33 PM
45	Helping small churches in all aspect	6/13/2022 12:29 PM
46	No	6/13/2022 11:48 AM
47	No	6/13/2022 11:05 AM
48	The District Superintendent is the face of the connectional system. While not every United Methodist can spend quality time with the DS, every church should have lay members who speak of quality time with the DS and other leaders in the connection.	6/13/2022 11:04 AM
49	With finances as they are, the possibility of smaller districts with the DS as the lead pastor of a local church which would be responsible for a portion of the salary. Supervision would be more intimate. A possible down side to this would be an unwieldy cabinet. While social media is here to stay, it cannot be denied that the connection suffers when the personal is lost.	6/13/2022 10:57 AM
50	Giving less authority in The Discipline to local clergy.	6/13/2022 10:54 AM
51	None	6/13/2022 10:46 AM
52	No.	6/13/2022 10:43 AM
53	NA	6/13/2022 10:37 AM
54	I feel that the superintendent should act as a sounding board or a referral point to a specific Conference group when a local church approaches with a new worship type/mission goal/overall questions of "can we do ...".	6/13/2022 10:28 AM
55	All D.S.'s need to stand behind their Pastors at PPRC committee meetings the way that Rev. Vicky Baldwin and Rev. Rusty Keen do!	6/13/2022 10:16 AM
56	None	6/13/2022 10:13 AM
57	None	6/10/2022 8:34 AM

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58	In person local/district meeting for information and questions re news and changes coming more often	6/9/2022 9:36 PM
59	Nothing else at this time.	6/9/2022 7:22 PM
#	Q12: BETWEEN 26-49	DATE
1	As a longtime Lay Delegate I feel my personal relationships with DS has been very good for both me and my church.	6/24/2022 7:40 AM
2	No	6/23/2022 3:16 PM
3	Not at this time.	6/23/2022 9:49 AM
4	Much less top down pressure and much more local church resourcing of their visions and conceived need	6/22/2022 10:09 PM
5	God loving dedicated DS with real hope for districts to become disciples . If the DS is too stressed with the job they should resign rather than complain about how busy they are. Leadership has been lacking.	6/22/2022 8:23 PM
6	None	6/22/2022 6:50 PM
7	No	6/22/2022 4:35 PM
8	No	6/22/2022 1:44 PM
9	Not at this time	6/22/2022 1:22 PM
10	n/a	6/22/2022 1:15 PM
11	Cradle Methodist	6/22/2022 1:14 PM
12	No	6/22/2022 12:59 PM
13	Yes - the cost of having multiple DS offices and DS's. A reduction to 4-6 DS positions would save the conference a significant amount which could be deployed to better advance Christ's commandment to go & make disciples. Bureaucracy has destroyed the spirit directed mission of the Methodist Church.	6/22/2022 12:35 PM
14	NA	6/22/2022 12:19 PM
15	Most people can't really tell you what district superintendents do other than appointments because they don't see them some of them often enough to know that they do anything else. It would be helpful for congregations to understand their function to hold them accountable to that as well as hold themselves accountable for their expectations of their district superintendents and themselves.	6/22/2022 10:09 AM
16	No changes	6/21/2022 11:19 PM
17	I believe that clergy should have access to the DS. Either by phone or in person if needed.	6/20/2022 9:29 PM
18	Issues should be addressed, realistic decisions about reorganization, and the future of the churches/districts should be the core of every action. Discernment and prayer as precedent!	6/20/2022 9:03 AM
19	The DS job is very hard they need a lot of help with all the changes and world problems.	6/19/2022 8:25 PM
20	NO	6/19/2022 7:28 PM
21	Pastor with long term appointments, is not good for pastors nor members. This is very inconsiderate both parties.	6/19/2022 7:01 PM
22	Feel the laity of each church should be knowledgeable and informed of the activities within the district and conference level	6/19/2022 9:47 AM
23	Pastors work care	6/19/2022 3:05 AM
24	Not at the moment	6/18/2022 2:57 PM
25	Parishes seldom feel connected to district leadership	6/17/2022 9:59 AM
26	No	6/16/2022 4:10 PM
27	No	6/16/2022 3:51 PM
28	No	6/16/2022 11:50 AM
29	Not at this time.	6/15/2022 9:18 PM
30	The DS and their support staff need to have more interaction with local churches and help sponsorer district events especially for youth.	6/15/2022 8:48 PM
31	Reigning in clergy who steer to far away from Methodist doctrine and practices in their churches.	6/15/2022 8:42 PM
32	No	6/15/2022 7:59 PM
33	Do not take away local ds	6/15/2022 7:32 PM
34	It is important to develop relationships with the ds and all churches. And help the church learn to grow and develop new ministries	6/15/2022 7:23 PM
35	Need to know and understand the needs of the churches in their district.	6/15/2022 6:57 PM
36	There is already a disconnect between the local church and the annual conference. Any reduction will the number of DSes will only make it worse.	6/15/2022 6:41 PM

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37	Not at this time.	6/15/2022 6:39 PM
38	Pastors and laity need that presence of the DS to maintain a connectional system. Without seeing and having personal relationships there is a break down in the connection and seeing the local church as a part of the larger church/mission of spreading Christ.	6/15/2022 6:28 PM
39	No	6/15/2022 5:37 PM
40	The PPRC at St Paul UMC of Moss Point has been hand pick by our Pastor and any complaints submitted are trashed by the PPRC chair. The superintendent refuses to talk with any of the church members and has only made one trip to our church since his appointment. Our church is being destroyed and we need help.	6/15/2022 12:55 PM
41	not at this time	6/15/2022 10:55 AM
42	no	6/15/2022 9:19 AM
43	The spiritual, physical and mental health of all our district supervisors.	6/14/2022 9:30 PM
44	not at this time.	6/14/2022 9:12 PM
45	Zoom is a great tool for helping groups be connected when increased distance makes travel a little more challenging. Most of us have adjusted well to this technology.	6/14/2022 8:57 PM
46	It appears as though you are thinking less DSs and not more. You are adding stress on our DSs.	6/14/2022 6:14 PM
47	No	6/14/2022 2:43 PM
48	Review and understand how our leadership aligns with the book of discipline. The current situation with UMC leadership NOT holding to the book of discipline and the Bible for that matter is concerning. I feel that the alignment of these items to the UMC should be of more concern than realignment of districts	6/14/2022 2:26 PM
49	The Task Force needs to focus on what is causing the decrease in Churches in the United Methodist Church and what we as Servants of GOD to turn the lost of Churches to an increase in adding new members.	6/14/2022 2:26 PM
50	No	6/14/2022 1:05 PM
51	I suspect that the outcome of this redistricting will GUARANTEE the ONLY human contact between the greater UMC and the churches will be the pastor. That is actually the present condition because the DS's spend so much time in Jackson and on make-work that they literally cannot visit churches. I haven't seen a DS in any of my churches more than twice in ten years. Does it surprise you that UM churches in general are ready to disaffiliate with an hierarchy whose only significant contact is "pay us the money?"	6/14/2022 11:22 AM
52	The DS should be a pivotal part of each church it represents, subsequently making periodic visits to ensure the conference vision is manifested in the John Wesley's doctrine . Some churches are not held accountable in doctrine, distribution of literature or God's word from the pulpit. Most DS only visit during Charge Conference.	6/14/2022 9:40 AM
53	NO	6/14/2022 9:40 AM
54	I think that the D.S.'s I have known throughout 26 years of ministry, have been hard-working, supporting and live out this special calling very-well. They have had some tough circumstances to work under. Keep up the good discernment Cabinet! You are doing a great job for Jesus and the church!	6/14/2022 9:09 AM
55	It is of my opinion, that the district office also needs to focus attention on strengthening the church is led by local pastors. Many local pastors feel overwhelmed, taken for granted, and/or excluded.	6/14/2022 9:08 AM
56	My concern in reducing the number of DSs would be health and safety concerns, possible burnout, and added travel which can all lead to stress. We want to ensure our leaders are fresh and healthy and are strengthen as much as possible so they may continue to cary the work they have been charged to do.	6/14/2022 4:44 AM
57	Church members would like to meet and talk with DS at least annually	6/14/2022 2:52 AM
58	We would love for the DS to get to know the pastors better so they can better match pastors to congregation s.	6/13/2022 8:57 PM
59	I think the realignment of districts is great with fewer district superintendents.	6/13/2022 8:42 PM
60	I checked commercial property space to rent for the offices, but I realize safety should be the main consideration. Each district office should depend on being accessible as well as the safety. And of course the cost to the district. I hate to see districts go virtual and become less connected to the smaller churches. I feel it is more important than ever to be 'connected' after the time being apart during the pandemic.	6/13/2022 8:33 PM
61	No	6/13/2022 8:29 PM
62	Don't have sufficient information to have an opinion.	6/13/2022 8:11 PM
63	NO	6/13/2022 8:08 PM
64	No	6/13/2022 8:04 PM
65	DS needs to know something about all their pastors(ability). And what churches need. I know there is a shortage of preachers but any church that has ALWAYS paid all their apportionments should have input on the preacher they get. Not somebody that won't even move to their community.	6/13/2022 7:54 PM
66	For small churches, the DS isn't doing much in-person or charge conference work now. We meet in large groups. Let's consider using technology wisely	6/13/2022 7:14 PM
67	The DS should be available to the churches he/she serves.	6/13/2022 7:08 PM
68	No	6/13/2022 6:36 PM

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69	None I can think of at this moment.	6/13/2022 5:11 PM
70	Ds's haven't typically worshipped at many of my churches even with invites. They're too busy!?!	6/13/2022 4:57 PM
71	DS to have closer relationship with laity To be available for concerns of members not just pastors or SPPR committee chairman	6/13/2022 4:51 PM
72	No comment	6/13/2022 4:37 PM
73	DS should be more visible with congregation. not be solely dependent on staff relations committee for input.	6/13/2022 4:25 PM
74	I would just like to say that interaction with our DS was mostly nonexistent. Extremely disappointing.	6/13/2022 4:07 PM
75	The DS really needs to listen to the congregation concerns before appointing pastors. If this is not done the congregation will suffer.	6/13/2022 4:06 PM
76	No	6/13/2022 3:27 PM
77	no	6/13/2022 3:22 PM
78	District Superintendents should visit their churches and listen to their clergy preach on occasion. If improvement is needed, the DS should address this and find ways to assist the clergy.	6/13/2022 3:19 PM
79	Everyone must do their respective part. Communication, Communication, Communication.	6/13/2022 2:57 PM
80	we can't accept the way things are run at this time. Total realinement. Votes are supposed to count. God is here and he knows what is happening.	6/13/2022 2:45 PM
81	Stop the requirement D.S's to travel to Jackson so often. Their main focus should be the churches under their charge.	6/13/2022 2:06 PM
82	Communication regarding where pastors are serving in addition to their full-time charge. Other churches, groups Ministries.	6/13/2022 1:33 PM
83	While virtual meetings have been convenient and needed through COVID, I believe face to face meetings, conferences, etc. should become the norm and virtual utilized only if needed.	6/13/2022 1:06 PM
84	The BOD defines the role of the DS. Whatever our individual thoughts may be, the BOD takes precedence.	6/13/2022 12:56 PM
85	Currently our church over the years has rarely had a visit from the DS for services or charge conferences. I don't know how much interaction he has with the Pastor. But less visits and/or interactions with church members won't be noticed.	6/13/2022 12:53 PM
86	DS should be very visible in the district and local church area.	6/13/2022 12:25 PM
87	The DS's need to do a better job at spiritual	6/13/2022 11:50 AM
88	Organize trainings and seminars for clergy and laity	6/13/2022 11:33 AM
89	Not at this time	6/13/2022 11:32 AM
90	I have no additional comments at this time.	6/13/2022 11:20 AM
91	No	6/13/2022 11:17 AM
92	I would like to have them visit my worship service sometimes and offer feedback from their perspective.	6/13/2022 11:15 AM
93	NA	6/13/2022 10:59 AM
94	None	6/13/2022 10:57 AM
95	COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION, VISITATION DIRECTLY WITH THE LOCAL CHURCHES (ESPECIALLY RURAL/ SMALL)	6/13/2022 10:52 AM
96	The last time the DS met with the church serve was six years ago.	6/13/2022 10:47 AM
97	Not sure	6/13/2022 10:44 AM
98	DS' must lead churches by example in evangelism and discipleship.	6/13/2022 10:37 AM
99	No	6/13/2022 10:34 AM
100	Not at this time	6/13/2022 10:33 AM
101	I expect DS's to do more on-line activities. I foresee their being the "neutral/independent/informed" voice for expected contentious discussions/decisions.	6/13/2022 10:29 AM
102	Let me first state that before answering these questions I have had very little feedback from our conference regarding how it plans to react to The Way Forward and the Protocol for Separation. This discussion NEEDS to take place so that churches can objectively respond to conference leadership.	6/13/2022 10:27 AM
103	Probably	6/13/2022 10:25 AM
104	None	6/13/2022 10:18 AM
105	over the last 5 years other than coming for a covenant meeting I have not had a district superintendent in my local church. if they are not going to be a part of what is going on in the local church I do not see a need for very many district superintendents.	6/13/2022 10:18 AM

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106	Not at this time	6/13/2022 10:13 AM
107	No	6/11/2022 8:56 PM
108	Promote an open information procedure for local churches.	6/11/2022 1:14 PM
109	Staying with our roots in Methodism. Following Bible and not trends Biblical preaching	6/10/2022 7:49 AM
110	No	6/9/2022 6:56 PM
111	I am serving in the HAttiesburg District. I feel we need our own DS. We shouldn't have to drive two hours to the coast to meet with our DS.	6/9/2022 2:53 PM
#	Q12: BETWEEN 50-99	DATE
1	what is sustainable and realistic budget wise	6/23/2022 3:20 PM
2	District Superintendents should spend time cultivating pastors to be their absolute best, shepherding them as they make disciples for Christ to transform the world. If pastors are not receiving the care and support they need from the District Superintendent, they can not fully support the laity in their local congregation to be their best selves. The District Superintendent should help pastors understand their gifts and utilize them to cultivate great gifts in the laity of their church.	6/23/2022 1:55 PM
3	NA	6/22/2022 11:50 PM
4	I am in the Hattiesburg District and the only time we hear from them is for Charge Conference. They offer very little, they only want to tell you about the rules and then there is very little communication.	6/22/2022 4:36 PM
5	Get rid of SLI! It's a waste of conference resources and time. There are more productive ways to cast vision that are more efficient.	6/22/2022 4:20 PM
6	The DS is the "chief missional strategist" for the district; this involves working with pastors and leaders to navigate, encourage and envision the future of ministry in the MS Conference. This is work that we cannot do without.	6/22/2022 3:42 PM
7	I believe that as the districts get bigger, it will be even more important that the DSs know their clergy and churches, both the strengths and growing edges. The primary responsibility of the DS will be the deployment of clergy to the places where there is a "best fit" for ministry. When this "Best Fit" happens, the opportunity for churches and clergy to thrive increases greatly. When the DS does not "know" his/her clergy nor churches, there is a huge void in the system. As we go forward, training and emphasis on personnel management will be very important for effective DS work.	6/22/2022 1:55 PM
8	Not at this time!	6/22/2022 1:44 PM
9	From what I have witnessed, there is not valid assessment of local pastors by the DS. It is an "I'm okay, you're okay" type of assessment. There needs to be a evaluation of what the pastor is actually doing versus what he/she should be doing as it pertains to the Book of Discipline. If the DS and the local pastor are friends then there is little chance of an accurate critic of performance. In the absence of laity leadership in the church the pastor must step in. I honestly believe that if our church membership decided they wanted to hold services every other Sunday, our pastor would say "okay - whatever you want".	6/22/2022 12:37 PM
10	No	6/22/2022 12:09 PM
11	Thanks for the opportunity to share. The reality is I feel we are starting behind the eight ball already. D.S. already are not operating in ways we are anticipating them not operating in the future. Most of what we are talking, regardless in the depletion of church, is going to require an in-person managing approach. The D.S. isn't a position we can sacrifice for the saving of money.	6/21/2022 12:32 PM
12	No suggestion	6/18/2022 11:18 PM
13	No	6/18/2022 5:11 PM
14	Highway 82 does not divide east and west because it runs because it runs east and west so it would divide north and south	6/18/2022 11:45 AM
15	I believe apportionments go up when DS knows his churches and pastors. When you lose the hands on approach, you are going to lose money, members, and relationships.	6/18/2022 10:58 AM
16	Making themselves available to the entire congregation. We have been members for 7 years and have never seen him at our church during a non-meeting environment.	6/18/2022 10:10 AM
17	Future of Methodists- name, philosophy, Bible based	6/18/2022 8:11 AM
18	No	6/17/2022 5:31 PM
19	No excuses for pastors, they should step up their leadership roles	6/17/2022 10:59 AM
20	Abolish DS position and allow District BOM committee to deal with churches and preachers. They are comprised from the district and know the people and the preachers.	6/16/2022 2:40 PM
21	It is important for the DS to have a relationship with the clergy in the district even if it is formed through zoom because statistics on a page are not the only thing needed at appointment time	6/16/2022 10:02 AM
22	DS's are already spread thinly over geographic areas. There is minimal time spent developing relationships with the pastors and churches in his/her District. More ministry can be accomplished if trust and real relationships exist between the DS and the pastors and churches/laity in the Districts.	6/16/2022 8:57 AM
23	No	6/15/2022 4:57 PM

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24	N/A	6/15/2022 4:46 PM
25	No	6/15/2022 9:16 AM
26	No	6/15/2022 8:24 AM
27	N/A	6/14/2022 8:37 PM
28	I don't know	6/14/2022 7:54 PM
29	Thanks for your work.	6/14/2022 3:56 PM
30	The District Superintendent needs to be available as our paid consultant. Instead of asking us to pay for SLI, we should already be able to request for consultation with the DS, because we already pay them for this service. The DS should be available to come to church council meetings (perhaps just as an observer or listener), so that the pastor can consult with the DS about the possibilities and challenges in the congregation. Quite simply, I need someone to talk to about the best way to pastor my church, and it would help if the DS would be available for coaching and consultation. If a charge conference is not going to be truly conversational, then it's unnecessary for the DS to be present. However, I would love for my congregation to have a sincere discussion (with the DS present) about their needs, vision, and desires. That's nearly impossible to do at church council meetings, so I have to call special meetings about more spiritual topics. (Even then, spiritual conversations are very difficult for some church members.) It might help if the DS came in to ask some hard questions of each congregation: "Are you doing outreach? Do you really want to grow? What are you willing to change? What are you unwilling to change?" They might do more soul-searching with a DS present.	6/14/2022 3:04 PM
31	To be together and bond we have to spend time in the company of one another	6/14/2022 1:33 PM
32	That District Superintendents above all else need to be a pastor to the pastors. In the Holston Conference it seemed the reduction of Districts was patterned after a business model. We are not a business...we are a church. And is MORE difficult than ever to be a pastor and to stay in the pastorate. Pastors more than ever need a District Superintendent who is invested in their pastors and is there for them.	6/14/2022 11:24 AM
33	No	6/14/2022 9:55 AM
34	Thanks for working on this! It's been needed for a long time.	6/14/2022 8:39 AM
35	No	6/14/2022 1:58 AM
36	There is nothing at this time.	6/13/2022 11:02 PM
37	N/A	6/13/2022 9:24 PM
38	adjustment is important	6/13/2022 9:22 PM
39	It would be beneficial for the DS to reach out to all churches they oversee just to check in and ask how things are going and if there is anything the district office may do. Even if this is done once or twice a year, it gives us the sense that churches aren't out there on their own until something is wrong or needed. This could easily be accomplished with a short visit (schedule permitting), phone call, text, and email. A visit or phone call would be best just so everyone sees or hears the other.	6/13/2022 7:52 PM
40	No	6/13/2022 6:13 PM
41	Not at this time	6/13/2022 5:45 PM
42	no	6/13/2022 3:38 PM
43	Local churches have more of a connection to the district offices than the conference office. We need to consider cutting at the conference office level as opposed to drastically reducing the number of districts. District Secretaries and District Superintendents are invaluable resources...especially when they care about the churches and pastors in their districts!	6/13/2022 3:35 PM
44	no	6/13/2022 3:31 PM
45	As stated above, do not reorganize until t]after we know how many churches will remain in the UMC. A footprint for future organization might be developed at this, but why do this twice in 2-3 years time?	6/13/2022 3:17 PM
46	No	6/13/2022 2:42 PM
47	No	6/13/2022 2:26 PM
48	I don't have anything else important to share with the Task Force to consider at this time.	6/13/2022 1:45 PM
49	I think that DS's will be able to do their work more effectively by asking Elder's to provide support/supervision to other church in their area, grouped in ways similar to how "clusters" used to work. We shouldn't call them "clusters," though.	6/13/2022 1:30 PM
50	No	6/13/2022 1:05 PM
51	no	6/13/2022 12:49 PM
52	We have such little input from DS now the question remains why have them.	6/13/2022 12:41 PM
53	Please be aware of how your decisions affect people of color. Don't screw them over when you're making decisions for the whole conference. Put them first!	6/13/2022 12:35 PM
54	From. Laity point of view, I feel that Stephen Cook is the epitome of what a DS should be- involved when needed but not otherwise invasive, spiritual, offers good guidance and suggestions, knows his churches, good use of	6/13/2022 12:14 PM

District Realignment Survey of Laity and Clergy

technology. Churches are now able to use Zoom easily which should help DSs if they were to have no more than 100 churches.

55	Combine new Albany and Tupelo Combine west Jackson and east Jackson	6/13/2022 12:14 PM
56	DS office could be located in district parsonage and charge conference and appointments could be bi annually unless something arises and stats could be combined in charge conference forms	6/13/2022 11:35 AM
57	No	6/13/2022 11:27 AM
58	Just keep the local churches in mind.	6/13/2022 11:26 AM
59	thanks for the good work	6/13/2022 11:22 AM
60	It maybe helpful to have an assistant DS during these uncertain times. One who may be willing to play a dual role in ministry.	6/13/2022 11:19 AM
61	None	6/13/2022 11:13 AM
62	The DS's already do not often meet with individual churches for charge conference. I don't see how they could possibly do this any less. I think it is important for the DS to be with each church 1 time/year. Maybe it doesn't have to be charge conference season, but the churches need to have access to their leadership.	6/13/2022 11:12 AM
63	Might I suggest a radical concept? To have a DS in an office setting is great for the "cooperate aspect" of the affairs of the "church", but it cheats the local church from quality pastoral leadership. What about the DS pastoring a church and having a District Team assist him/her in their duties thus spreading the workload and giving a struggling church quality leadership? I don't see the "Church" returning to "how it was before..." and it would seem some creative methods might need to be considered to maximize the leadership qualities of the DS so that a local church as well as the larger church can be accomplished.	6/13/2022 11:07 AM
64	No	6/13/2022 10:57 AM
65	Availability to SPRC questions.	6/13/2022 10:43 AM
66	No	6/13/2022 10:42 AM
67	I truly should have had more experience with the DS office and it's relationship to our pastor and church to answer adequately.	6/13/2022 10:32 AM
68	While working with SPRC, identify and work with staff in conflict resolution.	6/13/2022 10:31 AM
69	Just that the District offices should be much more visible with their work.	6/13/2022 10:28 AM
70	I think our DSs are already spread thin. I don't see how fewer positions with more charges will be manageable.	6/13/2022 10:26 AM
71	Not that I can think of.	6/13/2022 10:24 AM
72	Nope	6/13/2022 10:19 AM
73	No.	6/13/2022 10:16 AM
74	We rarely see our DS currently. It's been a number of years since they've even made a charge conference. I am hopeful they communicate with the pastors because they certainly do not with laity. I really don't know what a DS does or why we even have them.	6/13/2022 10:13 AM
75	No	6/13/2022 10:08 AM
76	Make sure a written duties and responsibilities for new district superintendents is given to all congregations	6/13/2022 10:06 AM
77	No	6/11/2022 12:08 PM
78	where functions need to be streamlined, work to create alternative support mechanisms	6/11/2022 10:47 AM
79	None	6/11/2022 10:39 AM
80	No	6/11/2022 10:39 AM
81	Older pastors and parishioners will need to adapt to less face to face availability of the DS	6/10/2022 7:34 AM
82	Not sure	6/10/2022 6:35 AM
83	Many DS's already don't attend different churches on Sunday mornings. The relationship between the pastors and the DS in a district needs to be better. Maybe a quarterly get together with the pastors in an area within a district would be helpful. It could be a lunch or a time of prayer or something. Also many small local churches only see the DS once a year and sometimes less. I think finding ways to encourage collaboration among churches and the DS being present to meet with some of the people would be helpful. The Jackson area needs to be one district. The DS should be strategic to place ministers in churches to Another model would be to assign pastors to a district rather than local churches and the DS assign ministers based on need. Not sure on the number of pastors in the conference now. But if there are 400 and there are 6 districts then 60-70 pastors in each district. The DS assigns ministers based on gifts and needs in a strategic way rather than setting it for one year and hoping it works. If after a month a particular need arises then a minister with gifts or a passion for dealing with this issue could be dealt with by a pastor with those gifts.	6/10/2022 12:18 AM
84	Would refrain from moving forward with a big plan until we know what will happen with the separation and the remaining remnant of clergy and churches.	6/9/2022 11:55 PM
85	Yes! a DS should be a person committed to the United Methodist Church. Not to a political position masquerading as Christian principle.	6/9/2022 9:28 PM

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86	Being an example of transparency and developing an environment of trust by being open in communicating.	6/9/2022 8:17 PM
87	No	6/9/2022 2:24 PM
88	no	6/9/2022 11:37 AM
#	Q12: BETWEEN 100-249	DATE
1	no	6/22/2022 6:54 PM
2	No	6/22/2022 5:33 PM
3	Thank you for this important task force.	6/22/2022 3:36 PM
4	No	6/22/2022 1:14 PM
5	Must utilize the use of technology more to aid with distances. Much more productive to have online meetings, with less time traveling when an online meeting with a person or group is just as effective	6/22/2022 12:24 PM
6	No	6/19/2022 1:34 PM
7	DS SHOULD KNOW THEIR CHURCHES AND AT LEAST SET FOOT IN EACH CHURCH IN THEIR DISTRICT. Also IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HOLD CHARGE CONFERENCES IN PERSON. SOME DS HAVE NOT SET FOOT IN SOME CHURCHES AND HAVE OTHER PASTORS PRESIDING OVER SEVERAL CHARGE CONFERENCES. THIS GIVES AN IMPRESSION TO THOSE CHURCHES THAT THEY DO NOT MATTER.	6/18/2022 9:33 PM
8	No	6/17/2022 7:50 PM
9	Reduce overhead the congregation rarely sees & consider allowing churches to pick their own local giving in place of home office deciding who gets how much .	6/17/2022 1:59 PM
10	no	6/17/2022 12:40 PM
11	My concern is that the DS may be spread too thin. They need time for rest and self-care.	6/17/2022 7:24 AM
12	No	6/16/2022 3:15 PM
13	No	6/16/2022 3:09 PM
14	I think the biggest problem within our structure, outside of the external pressures of denominational conflict and political division is that our local churches do not see district and conference leadership as being reflective of who they are. District Superintendents are being appointed early in their careers rather than later and therefore do not have an established rapport and reputation with churches in the Annual Conference. The churches do not know many of the District Superintendents. DS experience is often limited to a suprisingly few number of churches. This means they often do not know their churches. This sets up the DS with obstacles at the start of their service to their district. Further, especially the last 10 years, conference ministry has become more Jackson-centric. Apportionments, direct billing, etc all come from Jackson. It has created the impression that the conference office has become the place to pay your conference bill not to support generative ministry within the local church. Even the language of referring to DS's has shifted with them often being referred to as belonging to the Conference and not the District to whom they are serving.	6/16/2022 9:07 AM
15	no	6/15/2022 1:29 PM
16	There were no questions on the roles/responsibilities and/or requirements for District Secretaries who, in my opinion, are as important as the DS' themselves. Key role of the Districts should be to work FOR the local churches if they are to be seen as useful/necessary by the local members vs just a bureaucratic overhead (key role of the Secretary). Key role for the DS is "chief missional strategist" yet this has never been well thought out. We need to free up the DS' to think/operate strategically vs administratively. Shrinking #of districts cannot be a goal in and of itself. Superintendency is a vital role and reducing districts must also include plans to assist the DS with the re-institution of the "presiding elder" title/position (went away when we went to DS'). 972/6 = 157 congregations per DS. Most management experts say 15-20 is best span of control for leaders, so that would be 10 or 11 "presiding elders" per District. I would presume large church pastors with associate pastor(s) would be prime candidates for this role.	6/15/2022 11:03 AM
17	Congregations must see the District Superintendents, especially at Charge Conference. MS cannot afford 11 Districts.	6/15/2022 10:19 AM
18	No	6/15/2022 10:03 AM
19	Not that I can think of at the moment.	6/15/2022 8:47 AM
20	The DS needs to try to at least learn something about the churches they are assigned	6/14/2022 10:49 PM
21	No	6/14/2022 4:56 PM
22	Develop contingency plans for continuing shrinkage of number of United Methodist churches. I suggested 7 districts because that was the 1990's ratio of churches per DS. Likelihood of a mass separation is upon us.	6/14/2022 4:05 PM
23	No	6/14/2022 3:11 PM
24	I think it's important for clergy to have opportunities to gather with district Superintendents and other clergy in their districts more consistently. Relationships are so valuable especially for a clergy moving into a new district.	6/14/2022 7:08 AM
25	We are loosing the influence and guidance of our DS as they move toward more meetings etc. on the conference level.	6/14/2022 6:19 AM
26	No	6/13/2022 10:33 PM

District Realignment Survey of Laity and Clergy

27	Not every district is as well connected or helpful as the others. Please don't view the 11 districts as if the loss of one is equivalent to the loss of the other. The district staff makes a tremendous difference in this connection.	6/13/2022 6:06 PM
28	Yes, the effect of churches leaving the UMC umbrella and developing a district approach to presenting to churches the problem and options plus issue of church property.	6/13/2022 4:45 PM
29	We should have charge conference every two years.	6/13/2022 2:54 PM
30	No	6/13/2022 2:32 PM
31	Bishop needs to take a more active role DIRECTLY with SPRC in the event of internal parish and/or pastor conflicts	6/13/2022 12:54 PM
32	No	6/13/2022 12:51 PM
33	With internet access including zoom and facetime, I believe it is in the interest of cost effectiveness to reduce the number of districts and increase the geographical area served by a DS.	6/13/2022 12:41 PM
34	I don't see how a DS can lead effectively if they are spread so thin that churches and pastors don't really have space to get to know and trust them.	6/13/2022 12:26 PM
35	Advanced communication technologies make 11 districts obsolete. We should realign into 3 main districts in the state and give designated clergy responsibility for assistance with regional matters.	6/13/2022 12:24 PM
36	no	6/13/2022 12:19 PM
37	I believe the DS responsibility should be more aligned with local churches than with the conference office.	6/13/2022 11:45 AM
38	DSs can share the load with an elder or two spread across their respective districts	6/13/2022 11:38 AM
39	Will the financial savings be worth the leadership and fellowship lose b/c of larger areas that will need to be covered by the DS, Clergy and Laity to gather as one?	6/13/2022 11:34 AM
40	I Don't see how the Task Force can effectively realign districts until the dust settles from churches opting out of the conference.	6/13/2022 11:22 AM
41	No	6/13/2022 11:17 AM
42	I don't see proportional representation for licensed local pastors represented on the task force. Either add proportional representation for LLPs or remove some of your task force members to make room for proportional representation—you'll need them to re-align districts in Mississippi.	6/13/2022 11:09 AM
43	No	6/13/2022 11:07 AM
44	No	6/13/2022 11:03 AM
45	No	6/13/2022 11:00 AM
46	This survey would be better if done after annual conference 2022	6/13/2022 11:00 AM
47	Local congregations should have more voice in pastoral matters.	6/13/2022 10:56 AM
48	Let elders in the district do the charge conferences. The DS hasn't attended worship at all at my church. My lay people don't even know who our DS is, and we still do ok. Move toward digital meetings with an in-person option for those without sufficient internet service. DS and district staff should work remotely. Files should be digital. Reduce overhead. Use local churches for office or meeting space when necessary.	6/13/2022 10:51 AM
49	Mo	6/13/2022 10:46 AM
50	DS's must know and pastor pastors. They should be leading Spiritual mentors. Many of the conflict issues would work out if DD's weren't overloaded with administrative paperwork and worthless meetings	6/13/2022 10:44 AM
51	I think the Mississippi Conference can manage effectively w fewer Districts.	6/13/2022 10:33 AM
52	I feel as though many of these shifts have already taken place (especially in responsibilities for DS) during the past 5 years.	6/13/2022 10:33 AM
53	I do not like group Charge Conferences. We rarely, if ever, see our DS. if the DS doesn't have time to visit each church once as year, he/ she needs to evaluate his/her schedule. With larger districts, the interaction/ effectiveness with local churches will only get worse.	6/13/2022 10:31 AM
54	no	6/13/2022 10:30 AM
55	No	6/13/2022 10:25 AM
56	I support a downsized district model: More districts, smaller districts, with a superintendent appointed to a small-membership local church and a small group of elders/deacons helping with the pastoral functions of the superintendency. Paperwork would be handled separately. My hunch is that conferences may be moving to a similar model	6/13/2022 10:23 AM
57	No	6/13/2022 10:19 AM
58	Mission, mission, mission...keep the focus on the mission!	6/13/2022 10:18 AM
59	Nothing additional	6/13/2022 10:14 AM
60	N/A	6/13/2022 10:08 AM
61	Clergy and laity need opportunities to meet regularly like we once did. We do not gather so we do not know each other. The DS needs to facilitate this.	6/11/2022 11:27 AM

District Realignment Survey of Laity and Clergy

62	we are praying for our church	6/11/2022 10:38 AM
63	Beware of bureaucratic tendencies of large organizations.	6/10/2022 9:42 AM
64	Why didn't we list helping churches make disciples? Which is the mission statement of the UMC. And isn't the fact that that wasn't even listed the real problem?	6/9/2022 10:33 PM
65	no	6/9/2022 1:05 PM
#	Q12: BETWEEN 250-499	DATE
1	No	6/23/2022 6:35 PM
2	No	6/23/2022 12:10 PM
3	Seems this is a lot of work and energy/expense until more is determined about how the new Methodist Church will look and act.	6/22/2022 2:15 PM
4	no	6/22/2022 12:54 PM
5	N/A	6/22/2022 10:24 AM
6	I don't find the upper levels of the Methodist church are responsive	6/19/2022 8:56 AM
7	The number of districts will depend on the number of congregations we have. Also, the types of district locations may differ from one district to another. The decision should be based on what is best for that particular district.	6/17/2022 3:07 PM
8	N/a	6/17/2022 1:31 PM
9	No	6/16/2022 12:38 PM
10	The relationship between the DS and local churches is extremely important.	6/16/2022 7:25 AM
11	no	6/15/2022 9:03 PM
12	Fostering tolerance for a diversity of opinions within the district	6/15/2022 6:29 PM
13	This process of realignment was tried to a limited degree around 2007 but was not successful	6/15/2022 1:47 PM
14	n/a	6/14/2022 3:51 PM
15	Churches see less and less of their superintendent. Fewer Superintendents are in order with management digitally and by zoom. More autonomy for local churches which means TRUST! Current DS model is outdated.	6/14/2022 12:12 AM
16	No	6/13/2022 5:17 PM
17	No	6/13/2022 4:15 PM
18	No	6/13/2022 3:47 PM
19	N/A	6/13/2022 3:16 PM
20	None at this time	6/13/2022 2:27 PM
21	Kill SLI. DSs should know a pastors history, leadership experiences, gifts, and move history as well as take courses in how to listen. Additionally, pastor and church database with analytics would go a long way.	6/13/2022 1:10 PM
22	Not at this time.	6/13/2022 12:51 PM
23	The DS office needs to be service oriented toward local congregations, not so power yielding. Be a help, not a hindrance!	6/13/2022 12:22 PM
24	I cannot think of else	6/13/2022 12:05 PM
25	God is with you	6/13/2022 12:05 PM
26	District Superintendents spend too much time creating false community with SLI instead of actually getting to know clergy and churches. SLI language and workshops really don't accomplish much. What about asking pastors what type of workshops would actually be helpful?	6/13/2022 11:59 AM
27	Think creatively	6/13/2022 11:57 AM
28	Committee must decide if engagement by DS with local congregations is an important enough need. As it currently stands, it does not appear our current DS has time for that. If District territory expands, it will become pretty much impossible. Right now, I'm not sure many members at my church could name our DS much less recognize the DS in person.	6/13/2022 10:42 AM
29	NA	6/13/2022 10:36 AM
30	Reality is that there will be fewer Churches and lower membership as growing number of churches leave UMC. Have to be more efficient	6/13/2022 10:34 AM
31	I think there is a need to understand the decline in churches and why. To be honest about it and not hide behind reasoning. This only breeds suspicion. I hear it all of the time and it will come to a head.	6/13/2022 10:24 AM
32	No	6/13/2022 10:22 AM
33	NA	6/13/2022 10:20 AM

District Realignment Survey of Laity and Clergy

34	The DS position is critical, both for laity and the clergy in a district. There is already distrust when it comes to the Conference level. The DS serves a much needed role in many ways on the local level.	6/13/2022 10:19 AM
35	Different DSs operate very differently from one another. Consistent expectations for and from the DS across the conference would be helpful. Actual accountability rather than "everyone's doing a great job" is necessary for pastors to grow.	6/13/2022 10:13 AM
36	None	6/11/2022 10:38 AM
37	No	6/11/2022 10:30 AM
38	Every district office works completely different. Through 2024, I highly recommend very few changes. Many churches and pastors are have a great relationship with their DS and District Office. This is the strongest connectional relationship they have. Disrupting this bond could easily result in more disaffiliations.	6/10/2022 8:48 AM
#	Q12: 500 OR MORE	DATE
1	No	6/22/2022 1:07 PM
2	I believe that we are growing away from leadership (DS's and conference officials) are continuing to grow away from our covenant with the people in the pews.	6/22/2022 12:47 PM
3	While things are changing, the importance of the visibility of the DS representing the denomination and annual conference should not be forgotten. In many small churches, the DS is the connection.	6/16/2022 7:03 AM
4	Given that the role of the DS will change significantly in the future (whether we realign or not - the role was redefined in the BOD 10+ years ago), the Committee and Conference Leadership need a strategy for educating local churches on the role of the DS.	6/13/2022 3:39 PM
5	The great commission	6/13/2022 12:05 PM
6	Surely the DSs are going to need some kind of help in this larger work of theirs! The added compensation for that individual should be considered and also looked at as training!	6/13/2022 11:15 AM
7	Meeting in person is OVER RATED due to the advent of Facetime and Zoom and texting! Sure, once in a while face-to-face meetings are helpful -- but this is not 1990 -- close connection between D.S. with SPRC / & clergy is totally doable with the tools we now have.	6/13/2022 10:53 AM
8	no	6/13/2022 10:25 AM
9	I'm very concerned that the failure to move forward with the Protocol is going to lead to the rapid departure of many UM churches from the denomination.	6/13/2022 10:19 AM
10	The hybrid model (in-person and virtual) of leadership is essential in light of today's context.	6/10/2022 9:36 AM