

## Proposal to the Texas Annual Conference to Reduce the Number of Districts from 9 to 5

### The Proposal

The Conference Leadership Team of the Texas Annual Conference proposes the following to be approved by the 2023 Annual Conference:

***“The Annual Conference shall reduce the number of districts in the Texas Annual Conference from nine (9) to five (5) in keeping with ¶415.4 of the 2016 Book of Discipline\*, and in consultation with the Cabinet, the Bishop shall create the new boundaries.”***

The work of creating the five new districts will be fully implemented by December 31, 2023.

Called District Conferences in each district will be held to implement the new structure.

District response to this proposal will focus not only on structure, but especially on the missional Kingdom work of each district. The District Superintendents with the District Leadership Teams shall do this work together.

### Rationale and Background

- The Conference Leadership Team engaged in a study with feedback from the following:
  - Clergy attending the ReConnect Gathering were asked to share input.
  - District Superintendents were asked to share input.
  - District Leadership Team Chairs were asked to share input.
  - Leaders of the TAC who hold ‘institutional memory’ and have served in leadership that would assist were asked to share input.
- Structural alignment will empower greater connectionalism with missional and financial advantages
- The restructuring of the number of districts mirrors the staffing of leadership of five district superintendents
- Districts will have greater agency in determining the best structure for their district by calling upon our current District Leadership Teams to help structure new districts and live into connectionalism.
- Knowing this proposal will cause incongruence with the original Discipling Document, a task force will be formed by the CLT to align the Discipling Document with this reduction of districts following the annual conference.

*\*¶415.4 of the Book of Discipline gives authority and responsibility to the bishop and the district superintendents to form (draw the boundaries) the districts once the number of districts have been determined by vote of the annual conference.*