

DESIRED VALUES AND OUTCOMES

Any effort to re-align our districts must demonstrate our commitment to the following values:

- ***Effective Disciple-making***: We value re-alignments that will maximize our ability to make disciples for Jesus Christ by taking risks and changing lives.
- ***Strong Local Churches***: The local church is on the “front lines” of the mission to make disciple for Jesus Christ and strong local churches are vital to fulfilling mission of God’s church.
- ***Reaching All Demographic Sectors***: Shifting population centers and the impact of these shifts on communities has presented new challenges for effectively evangelizing all the areas of North Alabama. We have a desire to reach the entire population of North Alabama because every person is a child of God in need of God’s grace.
- ***Local Church Uniqueness***: Every church faces unique opportunities and challenges given their setting for ministry. Rural, urban, suburban, metropolitan, county seat churches need to be understood with appropriate resources provided for maximizing their impact on their individual communities.
- ***Connectional Relationships***: There is value in developing closer ties with the other United Methodist Churches in our area. We learn best from those who have met the same challenges we are facing. Learning from other churches with whom we have ongoing relationships will strengthen our individual ministries while allowing us the opportunity to share training resources and improve our effectiveness.
- ***District Superintendents as Transformational Leaders***: Setting District Superintendents free from merely serving as administrators and empowering them to invest themselves and their time in spiritual leadership, visioning, congregational consultation, training and new ministry development will strengthen the local church.
- ***Maximizing Resources***: With increasing pressure on the resources of the church at every level, we value a more focused approach to directing our resources to those areas where we can most effectively grow the local church and the Kingdom of God.
- ***Districts That Empower***: The district must support the work of the local church and we value district alignments that provide real connection between local churches to enhance their ability to respond to the Great Commission and Great Commandment, recognizing that while churches are unique, each district will also be unique and there must be flexibility that allows them to respond to their unique contexts.
- ***Increased Diversity***: With changing demographics, we have the opportunity to increase the diversity of the United Methodist Church in North Alabama. We value openness, acceptance, and intentional efforts at inclusiveness in our structures that enables all persons to participate in the life of the Church as described in The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2004 (¶1138).

District re-alignment must create eight strong districts with the resources, leadership, and churches to effectively evangelize their area for Jesus Christ.