

KS East Conference 5 Finger Vote Comments by Clergy

185 total Clergy ballots collected

5 finger vote: 86 total

- 5 Finger vote ballots with no comment (31 total)
- “Let’s just do it and move on to making disciples of Jesus Christ!”
- “Absolutely!”
- “I’m willing to serve on a team. Campus Ministry? Communications? Conference Structure?”
- “Go for it”
- “I’m excited about the new opportunities and possibilities. I’m willing to serve the process....as needed”
- “I would be interested in being on a Great Plains AC Campus Ministry Dream Team”
- “I think the joining of the 3 conference will provide the opportunity for creative approaches for doing ministry as we have to think outside the box about new ways to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”
- “I have trust and confidence you will do the right thing – thanks for all the hard work!”
- “I support one conference concept. I think we will all benefit”
- “I believe this is exciting!”
- “May God inspire us to be bold and courageous!”
- “Greater opportunities”
- “I believe that this should be expedited as soon as possible so the work of God’s church can work along unimpeded!”
- “Great opportunities to move into the future!”
- “I would like to serve on a dream team in regards to Christian Education or Missions”
- “Deep change for vitality and relevance”
- “I would be willing to help with a dream team/group which explores campus ministry options for the new conference”
- “I would be willing to serve in a dream team or transition capacity – I am a local pastor, I am originally from Nebraska and know of many of the wonderful resources offered”
- “Have we considered becoming part of the North Central Jurisdiction? Is that not an option? I would be willing to be part of a team to consider the change as I stated”
- “I would be interested in being a part of future dream teams. Examples could be relationship building opportunities, connecting clergy from each conference or others as they are decided”
- “Let’s just do it! What a great adventure has planned for us!”

- “I believe this is a God-given gift to help United Methodists in this area to move in creative, grace-filled ways. Please use me whenever and wherever needed in the process”
- “Do it now!”
- “Get it done!”
- “I appreciate your patience”
- “Work can be done that is currently happening w/out consolidation”
- “Let’s get on with it and figure out the details as we go”
- “I support this because we already use too much valuable time on duplication of efforts rather than missional ministry!”
- “I think the transition team has done an exceptional job presenting this & I appreciate & am in full support of their work and wisdom”
- “Interested in dream or planning teams for campus ministry, young adult, youth ministry”
- “Love to be on a dream team. Looking forward to a bright future”
- “The questions are answered when we live into this new conference. A totally new conference permits for more options, which will be a blessing”
- “Full support – I would welcome the opportunity to be part of a dream team for rural churches”
- “District and regional events and lines are a concern”
- “This is an essential, practical, and necessary move given the current situation – let’s continue to do it in a truly intentional & spirit-led manner – with every decision made to glorify God and deepen our Christian experience and expression”
- “I would like to be on a dream team especially around eliminating/working with fear of change, etc”
- “Go for it”
- “Would like to be on a dream team but need to know what’s available”
- “Less confusing. Closing of repetitive offices”
- “I am fully supportive because I’ve noticed recently that clergy are just as much afraid of change as the congregations that we are supposed to help transition into the future. Thus, I don’t want to hinder change or keep things “the way they always were”
- “The breathe of the Spirit is welcome in creating, reviving, refreshing & renewing all 3 conferences into a new, vitalized people of mission in the name of our Lord Jesus! Please know I would like to be part of a Health & Wellness and Social Justice dream team, for community relevancy in this new Great Plains conference. Moving forward our Wesleyan heritage of love of neighbor in healing and wholeness
- “I believe it is an important step into the future. I would be willing to help. Especially in the area of technology and communications”
- “Of course I have questions, but this is where I am now. Note: I would like to be a part of the rural dream team or at least someone else from the KAUMRF should be” “Interested

in serving on dream team relative to changing DS responsibilities and possible resultant change in FE responsibilities”

- “Great! Transition team talks too much!”
- “Are all 3 conferences financially sound?”
- “Let’s get on with it”
- “An exciting opportunity to pray for God to bring us into what God is Blessing! Go Great Plains, let’s lead the way in Midwestern Protestant Ministry!”
- “Go for it”
- “I believe God is leading us into the promise land”
- “I am interested in working on a dream team that may be exploring how best to connect rural churches through the new episcopal area”
- “I believe that God will pour out his favor on this transition”
- “I would gladly help with a dream team. I have a calling to rural/small membership churches/older members and home bound and care homes/food distribution to those having needs”
- “I am very interested in serving as the member of a dream team”

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4 finger vote: 52 total

- 4 finger vote ballots with no comments (15 total)
- “My questions have to do with the new configuration of a Board of Ordained Ministry for the combined conferences. I would be willing to serve on a dream team for BOOM” (no name left)
- “I would be interested in being part of a dream team.”
- “As a clergy person, I have detail questions. From a practical perspective, one conference seems like the best stewardship of all our gifts”
- “What can we learn from other large –area conferences, like the Rocky Mt. Conference? Where they gather, processes, etc...? How do we ensure authentic community between the 3 as we join as one?”
- “Simply forming a new conference doesn’t address how this larger conference will do things differently than we do now. How are we changing the way we do conferencing?”
- “I would like to offer myself as a clergy member to a dream team to address Lay Speaking as that is how I got my start”
- “Clergy Benefits integration (not separate “POOLS”)”
- “Concerns about how clergy will be appointed”
- “I am willing to be a part of the conversation when looking at the Board of Ordained Ministry & the process of candidates.”
- “A general question of workability”
- “All new situations create a sense of uneasiness. Active clergy and laity will have opportunities for interaction. What processes might be used to integrate retired clergy?”
- “Willing to participate on dream team Global Ministries “ (no name left)
- “I am concerned that many of the small rural churches might become, or feel, disenfranchised because of the lack of access to the technology that is necessary to cover such a wide geographical area. I would volunteer to be involved with a “dream team” process”
- “Where will Annual Conference be?”
- “More clarification on itineracy guidelines. I’m willing to help – interested in areas related to diversity, disability issues, partnership between rural and urban”
- “I would like to be on a dream team : Young Adults or whatever you need. My questions and fears are actually on a personal level and I don’t think you can answer them”
- “The technical information will be helpful, but I am very supportive of the concept”

- “Besides the technical questions to be answered by the Joint Distributing Committee & Asset Allocation Committee, I think there must be specific answers to questions about AC locations: venues suitable, hotel accommodations, travel convenience, etc... Also, how will New Church Development and Hispanic Ministry be administered and what priority will be placed on each?”
 - “Questions regarding itineracy (movement between KS & NE), travel to committee meetings (and assumption we will upgrade technology to accommodate satellite /online (?) meetings. (Quality (of technology), thus far, has been poor)”
 - “I think this is the right direction for us and the right time. I also realize that my questions are adaptive and that things are/will be worked out”
 - “Willing to help with resource coordination (media, educational materials, etc..) & distribution in a new conference”
 - “Lots of questions, but feel we need to move forward with this”
 - “I am concerned that many small churches with older members will have trouble adjusting to what will certainly be moving to more technology. I think it can work using more email/twitter/facebook etc...to overcome the distance problem. Other concerns include how to do a large annual conference (housing a problem) and how to transition from 3 to 1 (personnel, office equipment etc..)”
 - “My questions center around logistics for the most part – I have faith it will work out but not without some bumps along the way. There is nothing we can’t do without God’s help. You are in my prayers as you proceed”
 - “Not a problem exactly – we may be residents of 2 different states in the same tax year and may need some coaching. Also – avoid (?) appointments that are on both sides of the state line if possible? As a student pastor, I’m interested in being part of the conversations as this is my future.”
 - “I’m willing to serve on a dream team”
 - “The location for annual conference session will be a concern – to accommodate all the delegates (lodging etc). Bringing together the health, pension, benefits”
 - “I would like to serve on a dream team regarding VIM, especially international VIM. I have extensive experience with international VIM”
 - “What, if any, changes with regard to Health Care (active clergy) and pension”
 - “This is like “getting married first” and then learning to know each other. Why not learn to know each other and then get married (one conference). Let the new Bishop lead for a few years and then work on one conference”
 - “Lots of questions about implementation. We need some details or possibilities soon, rather than vague cheerleading”
 - “Logistical questions still have me very concerned, but we are moving forward”
 - “depending on areas of “dream teams” I might be willing to be involved”
 - “Questions about pension and health benefits. I am willing to serve on a dream team”
- Russell Anderson

- “I would be interested in a dream team on the role of those in extension ministry appointments”
- “Good job you guys! Although I have some technical questions, I’m on board”

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3 finger vote: 23 total

- Voted 3 finger vote and left no comment (4 total)
- “I wonder if we will have the courage and imagination to make deep change. We need an intentional grieving process. I fear the turf wars as we transition. I believe we need to be one conference!”
- “We will be one area – it makes “tidy” sense to be one conference. But I wonder if it will be, in fact, the opportunity to be faithful to God’s Kingdom in any way more boldly, more truly than we are now. And some things will be lost – some intimacy, some opportunities for leadership”
- “Hmmm. Many more things I’d like to know”
- “I believe that we need to establish targets, goals for what we can achieve by this action plan without that we are aimless, just doing change”
- “I think it is impossible not to have several questions at this point”
- “I would like to encourage the episcopacy committee of a new conference to request a new Bishop to be assigned. When we merge local churches we do not appoint the previous pastor of either church unless we want to invite problems”
- “Throughout the years restructuring has been offered as “deep change” (This was done with high hope) Perhaps this proposal to create something new will be different? How can we insure this will be the cure?”
- “Lots of talk about this being an opportunity for a new direction, BUT few details. I NEED specifics, lots of specifics”
- “The hardest thing for me to grasp is that we can do better ministry as one whole than the 3 are able to do. That may be true w/material resources – but it strikes me that if our human hearts are not embracing or being embraced by this new creation then it will be a difficult road to walk. Perhaps, persons of the conference who haven’t had 2 years to closely walk thru this transition – need to be intentionally involved thru on-going district or sub-district meetings where hopes, dreams, and concerns may be shared and discussed so all of us have a chance to see a bigger picture that what we are able to see now”
- “Too many unanswered “technical” questions”
- “Supportive, but need to ask questions (Would have questions) as we proceed . Exciting”
- “Thank you for your willingness to gather input”
- “Lots of questions yet. Keep the conversation going”
- “I would be interested in being on a dream team visioning group”

- “CCYM – adult rep. Itineracy issues – single pastor.”
- “Pensions? Health insurance? Role of District & sub-district?”
- “We probably need to do something, however, I am not 100% sold that what we’re proposing here”
- “Technical” questions are many – I trust they can be worked out. However, there may be some difficult technical issues that should stop this direction”
- “Structure and finance are EASY! A change in style of leadership at the top is unlikely with the same people”
-

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2 finger vote: 15 total

- 2 finger vote ballots turned in with no comment (6 total)
- “All things we have heard seem to point to smaller being the more effective way of reaching people. Why then would we increase the area in which we are planning? Unless A RADICAL CHANGE IN THE HIERARCHICAL arrangements is about to take place – which does not appear to be the case, why would we think that people from a farther distance could make more and Better Choices for our individual areas?”
- “I am not convinced this will do anything to help build the Kingdom or make disciples, but I’m certain it will proceed anyways – too many important people in the conference have themselves invested in the process to stop it now”
- “I fail to see how becoming 1 Conf makes us more effective in accomplishing the mission of the church. Why not work on changing/revitalizing the Kansas East? This feels like a move to help the Bishop and only the Bishop”
- “Just not entirely on board”
- “Why not put energy toward making disciples & remain 3 conferences? So many questions – you have worked a long time and talked pro’s and cons – but have not shared this – there have to be pro’s and con’s on this – we need lots more info and lots more involvement by both lay and clergy”
- “What about solutions between GP 1 & 3 – Great Plains East and West or the like?”
- “I’m not supportive of serving an appointment in Nebraska at this time because so far from family. I’m also not sure that bigger will make us better. If the same leaders stay on board things may remain very similar. I’d be interested in working w/ transition team.”
- “The mission field has changed” I am not sure that becoming one conference will bring deep change. The reason we are doing it is not strategically thought out. It is a top down decision, not a movement alone.”
- “It is not that I have questions. It is emotional. KSE is what we have known and to which we are emotionally attached. But I am not completely willing to say no.”

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185 total Clergy ballots collected

1 finger vote: 9 total

- Voted 1 finger vote with no comment left (2 total)
- “Not effective! Not intimacy”
- “I do not think that enough work has been done to make this decision strategically. This seems more of a pragmatic response with too many people trying to make it look like a great opportunity without a real, long range strategy. Would we have done this if it had not been forced upon us?”
- “This doesn’t seem to take clergy concerns about intimacy into account. The Bishop seems to be pushing this regardless of our concerns. Also, too many unknown details about finance, appointments, lay speaking, etc”
- “When you can tell me how this will benefit the local church then I will be interested”
- “I don’t see how becoming one conference will help do a better job of making disciples”
- “I would be willing to serve on a team considering Board of Discipleship questions and how discipleship could be increased in our areas. The absences of any discussion of details deeply concerns me. I certainly did not know every details about my wife before we married, but we had spent considerable time talking and praying about the future. I am also concerned about repeated statements that a transition would save money without any reasoning”
- “I fail to see the three becoming one as in our best interests”
-

Five Finger Vote Comments
Two vote, in-between vote or illegible comment sheets –

KE Clergy

- 2 to 3 – I am clearly in between many and a few questions. I would love to be involved in any dream team. I believe I could help with the pensions, and health benefits questions and considerations.
- 4 finger vote – penmanship is legible about every 3 words (and I can read about anything) it was unsigned and upon returning to the office I will scan it and send it to all of you.

Kansas West

- Between 2 and 3 – I am ambivalent – the rural county churches already feel a disconnect from the leadership of the conference – the DS already acts less like spiritual leadership and more like administrators – there is already little connexion beyond paying apportionments – will they matter even less with a more distant (culturally) leadership?
- 5 – If KS and NE can be shifted into the North Central Jurisdiction and the name is not “stream” related.
4 – If jurisdictional boundaries stay the same as now.
- 1 ballot marked with 2 and a 4 with no comments
- 1 ballot marked with 2 and a 4 with comments
2 – Why not try combining the 2 KS conferences and see how that goes and then move on to combining the 3. There are clergy concerned as well as laity as to the time and expense for the distance that will have to be traveled. We will have to stay 1 extra night to be on time.
4 – We are a small church like many others in KS and NE. It is already a hardship on our church to send us to annual conference. If we have to go a long ways, we may not get to go to annual conference.