

KS East Conference 5 Finger Vote Comments
Laity 5 finger Comments
249 Ballots submitted –106 responses

- No comments – 38 ballots
- For the church to move forward this is a wonderful idea
- I trust that God has led the transition team into making the right decision
- In light of technology now and in the future I strongly feel there should be few physical structures.
- I am interested in being on a dream team involving Lay leaders, UMW or Lay Speaking –
- If this would help our church and commission's I'm all for the merge.
- I support it, but I don't understand. I thought the General Conference voted that we had to do this so why are we voting on it?
- I would be willing to help serve with a team dealing with the Lay Speaking part or with Laity –
- Let's take the big step first. I am sure we can work out all of the details later.
- I believe this is a very exciting opportunity for all of our conferences. I trust in the leadership of this reorganization and will be supportive of its work. The information in the registration packet was very helpful.
- I am willing and eager to be involved on a transitional team if needed.
- Times are changing so we need to become one conference to have more people working for the kingdom of God to bring the younger ones with the ideas that God has laid on their hearts. Amen
- I am excited about the prospect of one conference. This is a wonderful opportunity to organize and grow into the 21st century. I am willing to serve on the dream team.
- I believe we have a group of people on this committee that have and will continue to look out for the best interest of all concerned and the issues will be prayerfully considered.
- Dream Team
- It's about time.
- Let's Go !!
- Get with it and move forward. Time is wasting
- Can we avail ourselves of technology for a common annual conference but at three location
- Long time coming!! Interested in being on any Dream Team regarding Human Resource/Benefits/etc. 35 yrs HR experience/certified compensation professional.
- Full speed ahead!!
- I feel we need to cooperate with the inevitable.
- The transition team has done a good job. Willing to help with lay leadership dream team.
- I think it is the only way the conference can survive and I think it will work!

- Technology allows distance learning opportunities...why not incorporate such technology re: new conference.
- Praise God
- I think that financially it will be very beneficial and also give our ministers a wider range for appointments.
- I am trusting the transition team through all their prayer consideration, knowledge and care for all of us concerned – thank you!
- Our congregation believes this is where God is leading and “the details” will be worked out in God’s time. On a personal note: amazingly the team chose the scripture that I claim as a personal promise.
- I am willing to serve with transition dream team where needed.
- I am in full support, and I think it will be a good change for everyone.
- I am fully supportive of this.
- I like the idea of Nebraska being “a breath of fresh air!” I would volunteer to serve on a board, any board.
- This will likely be the way of the future. Move slowly for those with questions.
- I am fully supportive of combining the KE Conference, the KW Conference and Nebraska Conference.
- I am ready for whatever the Holy Spirit calls us to do.
- How will UMW be divided?
- I feel the Episcopal area was decided without lay input so thanks for including us in this vote and my 5 finger vote means “Let’s get on with it”. I will be supportive!
- Tracy Dawson, Kansas City District Lay Leader willing to visit other churches to address local concerns about the merge and willing to serve on a transition team about safe and sacred space training.
- I currently serve on the Asset Allocation Team. Brent Messick
- I would like to serve as a lay person on the transition team.
- I would be glad to help
- I appreciate all the time and effort the transition team has put in and will put in this year.
- (Coming from small rural church) My hope is that each small church will have fewer reports to make and less restrictions
- Let’s go forward. Remember what we are called to do as Christians and United Methodist. Let’s make this work to the glory of God.
- Full support exciting times. I see only positives for the future of our church.
- I think this is a necessary change in order to optimize our effectiveness while sharing one bishop. I believe it would be impractical and costly to continue with separate conferences under one bishop for his effectiveness and leadership.
- We need to continue the dialogue process with the local churches – some tupe of media messaging.
- Just get it done.
- Just do it!

- More opportunity, revisioning. Its that change we are talking about. God is good Let's do it.
- This is the way to grow in closer relationships with other conferences. Will have new ideas presented. We are strength in numbers.
- So much fear is generated by the idea of change . as the wife of a small farmer experience teaches that once we are in the midst of that change much more is accomplished. People begin to work together and more readily listen to other varying sides. Let's get on with it! Willing to serve wherever I might be needed.
- Thanks for all your hard work!
- I have lead change in many large organizations. Rarely does incremental change provide deep change. I am in favor of breaking a little china to create a stronger organization for the future.
- Want to thank the transition team for work done and to be done and Gil's two presentations to lead us toward mission in hopefully, positive, challenging ways.
- Will make more and diverse resources available – long over due.
- I am interested and my love is working with the disabled
- Also have a vision of cost effective transportation & (recycling & environmental friendly “disposable-compostable” products) & 2 strengthened health and wellness network. Interested in being on Dream Team.
- Since elimination of a bishop is required and KS and NE is the area this will occur. Let us go forward and with the will of God work toward accomplishing goals for the entire conference. I am very interested in serving on any team related to transition, etc
- The transition team has done an excellent job!
- I feel this is the only way. I don't like the large area but one conference is the right way.
- As the mainline church struggles to survive, now is the time for us to move forward with this consolidation I am interested in serving on transition team.
- I have lots of questions but have confidence that the transition team will do and implement what is best for all three conferences.
- It will help the smaller churches.
- I am excited for the opportunity to creat NEW norms! I have lots of ??? but trust – knowing God, the Holy Spirit and you are working together. Please, Please, please, I have onerequest---that enough knowledge, man hours and dollars be set up so that every church can be connected technololgically. I'd attend lots of meetings regionally and district and conferences wide from my church and /or living room. Thanks.
- I feel that this matter would not have been brought forth if it were not the Will of God.
- I feel this would allow resources to be more efficiently used so there can be more time and energy spent advancing the kingdom of God. As far as annual conference – technology could be used and satellite areas created.
- I'm not clear what plans there are for continuing the work of planning “deep Change” If this passes.

KS East Conference 5 Finger Vote Comments
Laity 4 finger Vote
249 Ballots submitted –92 responses

- No comment – 29 ballots
- Cost – District Supt? Where will be held.
- Concerned it might affect attendance but, I had that same concern about coming to Leawood and I was wrong.
- I mostly have questions concerning how this will happen, so I could say I fully support the concept at this point. As other information is shared, then I may have more questions. God Bless You!
- My concern is the distance to travel. Small churches will not be able to afford to send laity and pastor.
- I believe there are many details that will need to be worked out. I have no questions at this time.
- Jan's marriage analogy switched me from a 3 to a 4. I'm still concerned about how this will affect the jurisdictional landscape, consolidating 3 non--Texas conferences into one. I'd love to be on the Youth Ministry Dream Team. I was active in CCYM and JYT and I think it's important to have the perspective of someone very involved with JYT. I'm not a youth anymore, but youth ministry is still very dear to my heart. I feel I would have a lot to offer.
- It's going to take a lot of work. I think questions will be asked and answered as we go along.
- Questions on distribution, coordination of different groups, education and making sure no one is left behind.
- Still anxious about future of existing lay speaker programs!
- Will churches help with additional travel expenses if the locations of annual conferences are rotated?
- What will that do to the youth?
- What does the transition mean for Youth, YA and Campus Ministries? Are we looking at a wider spectrum of leadership for the listed groups?
- I like the idea but I am wondering how much further you would have to travel.
- I am for this because it will be a benefit
- Want to hear more pros and cons. More discussion/prayer
- Would be interested in serving in some capacity. Not sure where would look at possibilities.
- I am fearful that the youth of the conferences would not be able to come in fellowship together.
- I just love Jesus☺ and He loves you!
- The more questions ask and discussion heard is most helpful in making the final decision.
- I do want this to be a unanimous vote – clergy/laity

- Question of where annual conference will be held.
- My major reason for being supportive is the need for and possibilities of “deep change”. Will still be interested in logistics.
- My questions all revolve around ensuring no conference feels like the step-child in the overall conference formation or in any of its pieces. For example, it’s clear that neither the KS or NE bishop should be appointed to this new conference, nor should it be official at any existing office. Virtual office, perhaps.
- My concerns involve the cost of travel for group gatherings – how can we, as one large conference, utilize technology, i.e. video conferencing, etc.
- I believe that this move to join together three (3) conferences will be a good move with minimal questions.
- May have questions as time goes on.
- I know this is a necessity. I just don’t understand how this will change East Kansas.
- My questions are those things that there are no answers yet. The attitudes all have many positives.
- Just want all people to prayerfully be involved. Small churches – esp need involved to feel “connected”.
- Very much support 3 conferences becoming one. My questions will probably be resolved by the Dream Teams.
- Want to continue to hear discussion on all issues. Want to be well informed at all stages
- I trust that this is in the best interests of all 3 conferences, but I know there are questions to come up later.
- How will the Board of Ordained Ministry operate with such a large number of people in process?
- Many ways of organizing would work. Why not have Kansas City get an organization as Omaha. St. Louis would get centers?
- From the presentations and current relationships, this would appear a vote of rubber stamping an already determined outcome.
- I am supportive, thinking of all the positive opportunities and experiences this will open. My questions range from cost of annual conference, location, bishop, just like growing a church will we lose the ‘family’ feel. All things said, I agree.
- I am thinking about when East and West Kansas had annual conf. together – attendance was really down – I’m afraid this would happen as well with a much larger group. What about regional conferences and then delegates from those meeting for the total conference?
- I have many questions about staffing issues and logistics, but at this time it is clear these questions do not have answers.
- I am willing/able to travel to annual conference, but am concerned about people who have difficulty traveling as distances are involved.
- I have no particular questions, only minor “reservations”. This is due primarily to feeling that I do not yet have a clear understanding of all the potential implications.
- Could I ask if it’s possible to keep in mind, saving money – not spending more.

- Still unsure how this will affect the ability of small churches to be able to attend conference sessions, when they may have a much greater distance to travel; the cost may be prohibitive.
- More of concerns – will this make it more difficult for the small churches to be able to send people to the conference because of possible moving the place we hold it.
- How will info be discussed – Blog Tweeting?
- I have questions but I think this is the BEST option available. Plus my questions are logistics
- It's hard to imagine and I will admit to some degree of fear – but I can also see great opportunities
- I have questions regarding Lay Speaking –
- How are we going to put the details together? Where are we going to meet as a conference? How are we going to communicate?
- Will we have only 1 bishop for the entire conference? If we converge it will definitely increase the cost for small churches to send laity and clergy farther away, primarily lodging
- I am a new lay member to the conference so this transition is exciting as well as concerning
- Concerned about logistics re UMW but excited about possibilities – our conf team along with KS West and Neb are scheduled to meet already. I want to work with this transition or wherever needed
- Overall I am supportive of the proposal. There are some questions and details to be addressed before a final decision is made.
- I am excited though apprehensive of change. Just waiting for more info and moving forward.
- I feel we would be more effective as one and would save lots of money, just not sure how it will all work out, but am open for the challenge.
- I am concerned about the cost of travel for delegates and hotels
- I hope all goes well
- As the church as a whole sees our resources shrinking it makes sense to me that we affirm our commonality and merge to support each other as we strive to make disciples of all the world.
- I think there will be great opportunities for this approach but there are many logistic issues that require careful planning.
- Issues of transportation. Bishop fatigue
- Question on details of the unity is going to be important. Information must be delivered asap
- I believe that the forming of this new conf will call people to step more into their rolls – a call for more accountability. I want to make sure that the teams are heard – i.e. youth, young adults, UMW, UMM, etc.

KS East Conference 5 Finger Vote Comments
Laity 3 finger Vote
249 Ballots submitted –33 responses

- Will the DS be stretched? Will it be more impersonal? How will this benefit the youth?
- Formation of the Great Plains Conference is driven by “One Bishop”. However, the transition team need to do a better job of defining the pros and cons of how such a move contributes to a renewal of our church. Too much inspiration and not enough perspiration.
- The UMW women are concerned about the ability to do the work that they are doing due to the cost and ability to travel unknown future?
- Specifics need clarification to get my support or non-support
- There is a disconnect between local churches and the conference as noted in The Call to Action report. My concerns are that this disconnect will be aggravated even more so as the conference becomes larger.
- We don’t have enough understanding of implications. Not a real compelling reason to be one conference. We can work cooperatively and separate.
- I still feel as if we need much more details before we can commit to one conference. The vision is too broad thinking, let’s narrow it. I can’t commit either way.– I’d like to help out with a dream team on college and campus ministry if formed.
- How will #’s of delegates to Gen/Jurisdictional Conference be impacted?
- Central Location? Rotate Location every year? Cost?
- I am wanting more information to answer questions.
- Cost of travel is my only concern. I am spoiled by being only 30 miles away.
- Will the conference with the most money make the most decisions?
- I wonder how bishop will govern/monitor such a large area. I assume technology will assist in communication.
- I will want to hear more details as soon as they become available in order to make the best decision.
- Change can be great and I know we fear the unknown. I think some things will remain as three separate entities to be effective where other things may be better consolidated.
- I’m supportive of this but I have questions how things will work.
- Much needs to be resolved/clarified. This has the feel of “A pig in a poke.” Depending on how the think is done; smaller, economically-challenged congregations could be seriously disadvantaged.
- As a UMW I am fearful of the loss of connections with local units, district and conference leaders. The participation in and attendance to the importance of conference wide events, travel, etc.
- I’m still not sure exactly why it would be so beneficial. Would like more examples.
- I am open to change but cautious.

- I am concerned as to the opportunities to attend Annual Conference due to the cost of travel and housing. Very Small churches with viable ministry may be greatly under represented.
- I am still concerned about what “logistical” issues have been considered.
- Concerned with how our voice will carry to General Conference. Will we maintain the same number of combined voting members from the involved conferences?
- How will the small rural areas be supported? Will we still have districts? Larger?

KS East Conference 5 Finger Vote Comments

Laity 2 finger Vote

249 ballots submitted - 15 responses

- No comment - 8
- I see many complications in combining the conferences
- I believe in Deep Change. Gil is right. However, this change needs to occur at local level. The reduction of conference expense is the largest benefit of one conference. It will make more funds available for real discipleship.
- It would be too far for lay people, and especially young people whom we need who are working and have families. They have a hard time taking off work now.
- I am worried about what will happen to the current CCYM's. We have trouble getting kids to events throughout half the state-2 states would make it much more difficult.
- I see travel time as a real problem. I see losing a lot of good strong leaders. I've seen the results of states going together and whole program loses strength. I do realize we need to make changes as our membership diminishes.
- I am concerned about larger conference being detrimental to trust and alienating clergy in small churches. Evidence for other places does not seem to support increased vitality following conference mergers.
- I do not see the advantages which are hoped for as being really tied to the creation of a single conference. I see little boldness in the act as it is rather standard in the UMC at this point and thus I am not optimistic that it can accomplish the "deep change" which has been promised. I would love to serve on a dream team considering issues of "deep" or "radical"

Laity 1 finger Vote

249 Ballots submitted – 3 responses

- No comment - 1
- It is going to hurt the small churches
- There are too many obstacles. Small churches may get lost in process. (Those under 30 in attendance.)