

The Report of The Logistics Transition Team

South Carolina Conference of
The United Methodist Church



Purpose and Audience

This report is intended to inform and provide resources to the laity and clergy of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, with particular emphasis on churches and clergy who will be moving into a new district. The purpose of the report is to explain the work of the Logistics Team and to provide clarity about the processes, plans, and resources supporting the transition from twelve districts to ten districts by July 1, 2026.

Background and Charge

The Logistics Team was established following action taken by the South Carolina Annual Conference on October 18, 2025, when recommendations related to District Alignment were adopted. The specific charge of the Logistics Team was to create an implementation plan to manage the logistical details associated with reducing the number of districts from twelve to ten by July 1, 2026.

This work focused on identifying key operational areas affected by the realignment, developing clear processes to support the transition, and providing resources to help clergy, churches, and laity understand what to expect and how to engage faithfully and effectively with their new districts.

Membership of the Logistics Team

The Logistics Team was composed of the following members:

- Martha Alewine
- Brenda Fleming
- Bob James
- Sandy Shaffer
- Steve Brown
- Ken Nelson
- Thomas Smith

Each member brought experience and perspective related to conference operations, district life, and local church needs.

Areas of Focus

To best support the annual conference in managing the logistical details of district reduction, the Logistics Team organized its work around five key areas:

1. **Record Retention, Management, and Transfer**

Martha Alewine & Brenda Fleming

This area focused on identifying required district records, determining appropriate retention practices, and clarifying responsibility for maintaining and transferring records during and after the transition.

2. **District Nominations**

Thomas Smith & Ken Nelson

This work addressed the alignment of district committees and nominations processes within the new district structure, ensuring continuity of leadership and clarity in roles.

3. **Communications**

(Dan O'Mara, Logistics Team, Extended Cabinet)

This area emphasized the importance of timely, accurate, and consistent communication to clergy, laity, and congregations throughout the transition.

4. **Continuing District Reductions**

Bob James & Sandy Shaffer

This focus area examined ongoing implications of district reductions, including administrative functions and long-term sustainability.

5. **Workload**

Ken Nelson & Steve Brown

This work considered the impact of district realignment on workload for clergy, district leadership, and conference staff, with attention to identifying pressures and opportunities for improved efficiency.

Goals and Desired Outcomes

The Logistics Team identified the following goals and outcomes to guide its work:

- Reduce anxiety among clergy, laity, congregations, districts, and staff affected by the transition.
- Minimize disruption to local churches, clergy, laity, and district employees by providing clear and consistent communication about transition processes, plans, and timelines.
- Ensure a smooth transition and successful incorporation of clergy, laity, and churches into their assigned districts.
- Equip local churches to take the necessary steps for fruitful integration into their new districts.

These goals shaped both the planning process and the resources developed by the team.

Key Actions and Deliverables

To support the transition and meet its stated goals, the Logistics Team completed the following actions:

- **Tri-District Listening Sessions**
The team planned four Tri-District listening sessions to be held on March 1, 8, 15, and 22 of 2026. The purpose of these sessions is to share with clergy and laity an overview of the steps taken to help churches transition successfully from one district to another, and to provide space for questions, concerns, and feedback.
- **District Assignment Documentation**
The team prepared and distributed a document outlining the new ten districts and listing the churches assigned to each district. This document is intended to provide clarity and transparency regarding district boundaries and assignments.
- **District Records Guidance**
The team identified the district records that must be maintained and clarified who will be responsible for maintaining these records going forward. This guidance is intended to ensure continuity, accountability, and proper stewardship of conference records.
- **District Map**
A map outlining the boundaries of the ten new districts was created and shared to help churches and clergy visualize the new alignment.
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**
The team created a Frequently Asked Questions document addressing common concerns related to district realignment. This document was shared with participants prior to the listening sessions and posted on the conference website for broader access and ongoing reference.

Conclusion

The work of the Logistics Team is intended to support a faithful, orderly, and transparent transition to the new ten-district structure. By focusing on clear communication, thoughtful planning, and practical resources, the team seeks to help clergy, laity, and congregations navigate this change with confidence and clarity.

As the South Carolina Conference moves toward July 1, 2026, the Logistics Team encourages churches and clergy—especially those entering new districts—to utilize the available resources, participate in listening sessions, and remain in conversation with district and conference leadership as together we live into this new alignment.