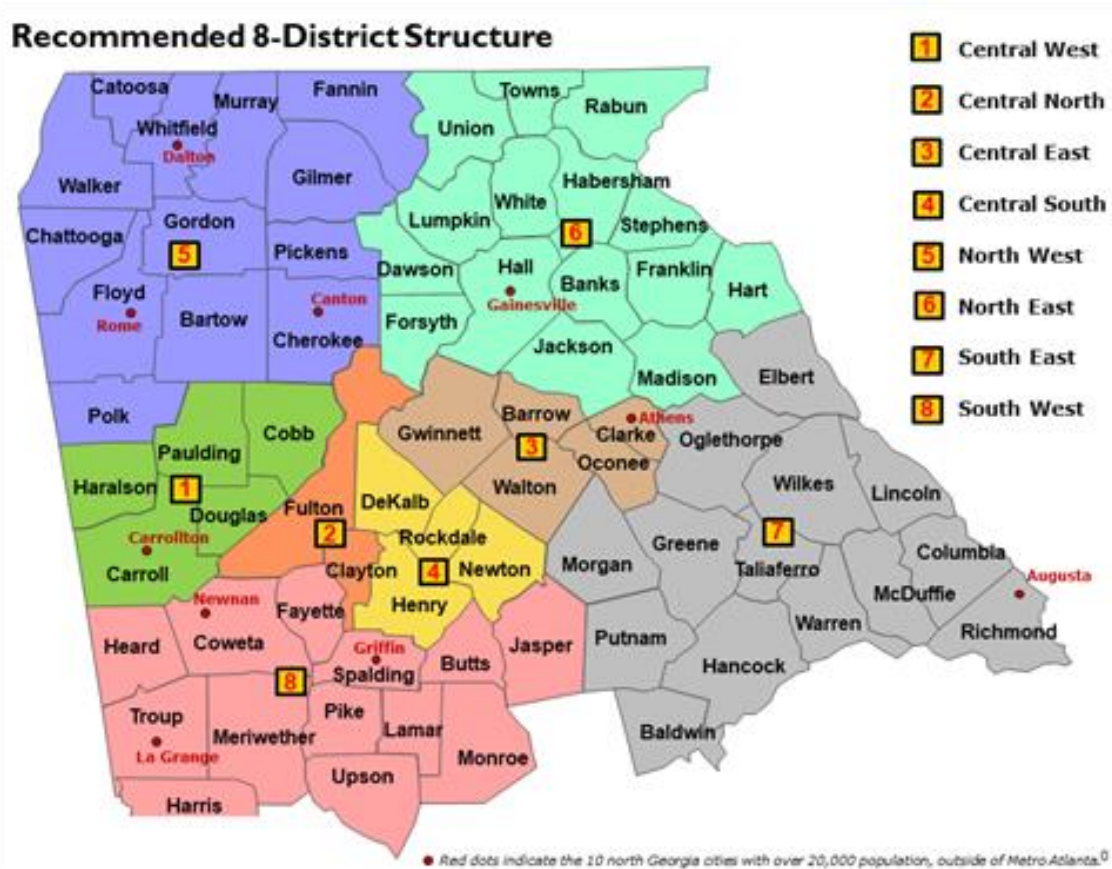


Redistricting for Mission & Stewardship Executive Summary and FAQs

With an aim toward optimizing mission, ministry, and stewardship across the North Georgia Annual Conference, our team of Conference leadership has developed a proposal to restructure districts, reducing the number from 12 to 8. Working with strategic growth consultant Amanda Setili, new district lines have been drawn in a mission-focused manner more reflective of today's North Georgia Conference and the communities we serve.

This new structure has been thoroughly reviewed and unanimously approved by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration and by the Cabinet. Orientation to this structure has also been provided to all District Lay Leaders, District Committees on Superintendency, and District Administrative Assistants.

The structure, which is shown in the map below, will be formally presented to the 2020 North Georgia Annual Conference, and a video presentation from our consultant, is available in on the NGUMC website, at <https://www.ngumc.org/district-restructure>



District Restructuring FAQs

Why reduce the number of districts?

The current district structure was created during a far different era in North Georgia. Realigning our districts in a more strategic, mission-focused manner reflective of today's North Georgia Conference is the responsible and most opportune path to pursue.

How were the new lines determined?

The new lines were drawn with a few major guideposts:

- District lines will honor county lines and major interstates.
- Each new district will have opportunities for growth and include some high-growth counties.
- Each district will have a similar number of churches.
- The population (and projected population growth) is balanced between the 8 districts.
- Current apportionments and District Work Funds will be roughly balanced across the new districts.
- Six of the eight districts will have a United Methodist college, university, or seminary in its boundaries.

What has changed since the current district lines were drawn?

There has been great change since our current districts were established. Cell phones, email, and video conferencing have become commonplace communication tools. There has been a rise in ubiquitous public meeting spaces (like Starbucks). There are new highways with resulting new traffic patterns, new neighborhoods, and new communities. There is greater population diversity. There have also been shifts in worship attendance patterns.

Does Annual Conference need to vote on restructuring?

The members of Annual Conference will vote on changes in Standing Rules to adjust the number of districts from 12 to 8. They will also vote on a motion to support the restructuring.

What is the timeline?

It will take 1 year for the new district structure to fully go into effect. The proposed date of full implementation is July 1, 2021.

What are the financial implications?

We estimate that the change will reduce Conference expenses by over one million dollars annually.

What does this mean to my local church?

Your local church will still be part of a district and still have a district superintendent. Being part of a more efficient and balanced district, that better reflects the regions and geography of North Georgia today, will be an asset to local churches and pave the way for an even more connective, collaborative, and relevant approach to our mission of making disciples for Christ for the transformation of the world.

What does this mean for clergy?

With a more balanced number of clergy in each district and more similar contexts for churches in the same district, clergy should expect better synergy and an increase in opportunities for collaboration.

What does this mean for the role of District Superintendent?

The new structure represents more balance for the superintendents, as well. The districts

themselves will be more cohesive, and the proposed structure will allow for greater collaboration on shared initiatives both within and between districts.

Have other United Methodist Annual Conferences restructured districts?

Yes. Many have been through this process. Since 2010, at least 24 U.S. Annual Conferences have reduced the number of districts.

What is my new district?

The new districts are divided along county lines. Find your county below to find your district:

- District 1 | Central West:
Carroll, Cobb, Douglas, Haralson, and Paulding Counties
- District 2 | Central North:
Fulton and Clayton Counties
- District 3 | Central East:
Barrow, Clark, Oconee, Gwinnett, and Walton Counties
- District 4 | Central South:
DeKalb, Henry, Newton, and Rockdale Counties
- District 5 | North West:
Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Polk, Murray, Pickens, Walker, and Whitfield Counties
- District 6 | North East:
Banks, Dawson, Habersham, Hall, Habersham, Hart, Forsyth, Franklin, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison, Stephens, Towns, Union, and White Counties
- District 7 | South East:
Baldwin, Columbia, Elbert, Greene, Hancock, Lincoln, McDuffie, Morgan, Oglethorpe, Putnam, Richmond, Taliaferro, Warren, and Wilkes Counties
- District 8 | South West:
Butts, Coweta, Fayette, Harris, Heard, Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Monroe, Pike, Spalding, Troup, and Upson Counties