

RESTRUCTURING

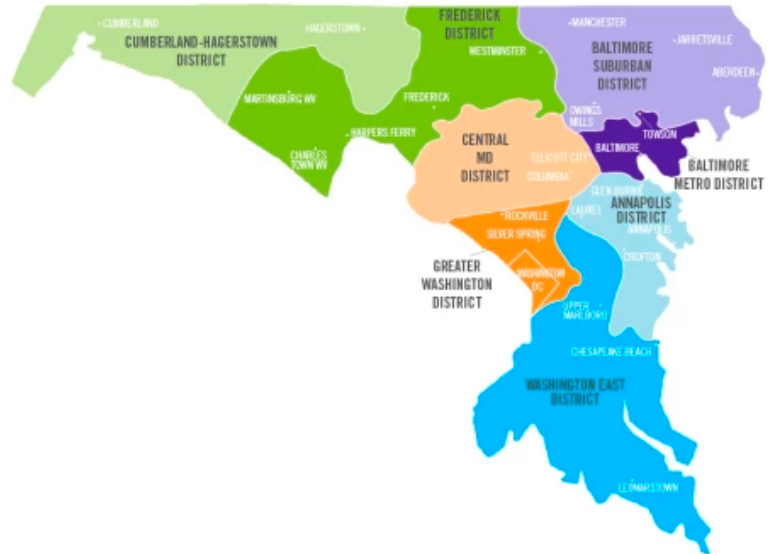
What you need to know.

Inspiring & Equipping Churches to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the Transformation of the World.

How's a district connected with my church?

Just like your school is located in a city, which is located in a county, which is located in a state, as a United Methodist, your church is located in a city in one of eight districts that is part of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Each district has anywhere from 60-ish to 80-ish churches.

DISTRICTS OF THE BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE



Local Church

The church is the most significant arena in which disciples are made, through youth group, worship, Bible study and community outreach.

It's where lay people hold their membership.

Churches elect at least one lay member to Annual Conference.

District

Districts seek to bring churches together in shared mission or ministry.

The district superintendent provides leadership and assists the bishop with appointment of pastors.

Annual Conference Session

The Annual Conference is a regional body that gathers all 1,200-ish of its members in a special meeting each year. It sets ministry priorities and an \$18 million annual budget, approves those to be ordained as clergy, and supports local churches. Clergy hold their membership in the Annual Conference. Annual conference members elect delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The General Conference makes decisions for the 12 million United Methodists worldwide.

Each district sends three youth (6th to 12th grade) and one young adult (19-30 years old) to the Annual Conference session so that young people have a vote and voice on Annual Conference business.

What does participating in a district look like for youth or young adults? How can it matter?

Discovering what matters in a community – and doing something about it.

- Before ROCK was a big event at Ocean City, it was a district event.
- Youth going to the same high school but attending different United Methodist churches work together to make the lives of students or the school a better place.
- Young Adults or youth create spaces they want to invite their friends to.

Getting to know other youth or young adults beyond your local church.

- Churches in the same district will do joint events (service projects, worship, etc.).
- Youth groups in a district can do joint events (combined youth group, bowling night, service project, mission trip, etc.).
- Districts can host pizza parties, bowling events, and make a difference in their community through service and/or advocacy.
- District youth can serve as leaders at the Annual Conference Session and bring back ideas to district youth.

Joining youth groups together for more fun, friends and freedom.

- There are churches in areas of districts that do youth ministry together. For example, the Greater Gaithersburg Youth Ministry has at least as many youth associated with it who don't belong to the church as there are youth who belong to one of the United Methodist churches in Gaithersburg.
- Some youth from different smaller churches come together for monthly events that have time for fun, fellowship, and faith formation.