

1. Welcome & Devotional

2. Introductions & Check-In

3. The Circuit Elder Job Description

a. Purpose: Equip and Connect

- ¶ 601 - The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.
- Equip: Coaching, facilitating group discussion, encouraging ministry
- Connect: our connectional nature is not just about the hierarchy of local churches, districts, conferences and bishops -- it is about churches and ministries connecting for ministry together, the circuit elder can be a local connector and encourager of partnerships, cooperative parishes and shared ministries

b. Circuit Elders are not Supervisors

c. Essential Functions:

- Embody the United Methodist Connection through intentional relationships and a ministry of presence
- Collaborate with the District Superintendent to order the life of the church
- Collaborate with the District Superintendent to encourage strategic connections among congregations

d. Expectations:

- Charge Conferences Regular meetings and communication with pastors
- Available for pastors and congregational leaders for questions about process, the connection
- Collaborate with the DS and Elders in the region to ensure that congregations with assigned laity have access to the sacraments
- Stay connected and inform the DS

e. Expectations of Stakeholders

f. What has been removed: Separating the dCOM Clergy Mentor role to a different group of leaders

4. Remapping for the 2023-2024 Appointment Year

- a. DS Supervision Regions - An experiment in a time of transition
 - [Google Map for 5 Districts](#)
 - [Google Map for 4 Supervisory Regions](#)
 - Note the grayed “disaffiliation” group in the 2553 discernment or disciplinary process is being handled separately by Superintendent Ferris
- b. Your new Circuits

5. This Fall:

- a. Charge Conference is a celebration of a congregation’s ministry, an annual business meeting, and the connecting link between the local church and the general Church. The primary responsibilities of the charge conference is to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council that are in keeping with the objectives of the United Methodist Church.
- b. Due date for a completed packet to the district office is Monday, October 2, 2023
- c. A mixed ecology of Charge Conferences
 - Individual CC with DS or Circuit Elder Presiding
 - Cluster or Circuit CCs with DS or Circuit Elder Presiding
 - District offices will be making decisions on which charge conference method to use for each local church/charge

6. The Circuit Elder Resource Pack

- a. In a circuit elder focus group, there was a strong recommendation for circuit elders to have a standardized set of expectations for how often to meet and what to do in the circuit’s time together.
 - Template Annual Schedule for Circuit Meetings (around 5-6x per year)
 - Tool for sharing ministry experiences and getting group peer coaching adapted from the Texas Methodist Foundation, “Sharing Opportunities and Challenges”
- b. Role of Circuit Elder in these gatherings
 - Circuit Elder is convener and facilitator, not the “fix-it” ministry expert of all things
 - Circuit Elder can help pastors and leaders connect to each other and to other resources such as the DS and the conference office
 - Regular reporting using our online reporting system

7. Paperwork and Forms

- a. Circuit Elder Contact Report is online at
<https://fs28.formsite.com/ARUMC/CircuitElderContact/index.html>
- b. Mileage Form to send to District Office ([ARUMC.org Website](https://www.arumc.org) under finance forms).
- c. Charge Conference Forms ([ARUMC.org Website](https://www.arumc.org)).
- d. Circuit Elder Resources ([ARUMC.org Website](https://www.arumc.org)).

8. Prayer for each other, our circuits, and our mission fields