

**District Connect Conference Survey (76 Responses)**  
Sent via Email (BRDmonthly Subscribers) & BRD Facebook Page

**Did you attend the previous District Connect Conference (Sept. 2019)?**

- No - 49.3%
- Yes - 50.7%

**What motivated you to participate or decline?**

- I was not available at that date/time - 41.3%
- It was required for clergy - 26%
- Opportunity for connection - 16.4%
- Speaker/Content - 8%
- Did not know about it - 5.2%
- The location was an issue - 2.7%

**How have you been informed about the DCCs?**

- BRD Monthly - 62.6%
- Pastor/Church announcement - 21%
- I did not know they were happening - 9.3%
- Social Media 2.7%

**How Likely are you to attend a district conference if it is hosted (5=more likely, 1=less likely):**

- At a UMC | 5 - 37, 4 - 18, 3 - 6, 2 - 7, 1 - 5
- At a Spiritual Retreat Center | 5 - 26, 4 - 26, 3 - 9, 2 - 2, 1 - 7
- At an Event Center | 5 - 20, 4 - 20, 3 - 13, 2 - 9, 1 - 7
- At a Restaurant/Pub| 5 - 16, 4 - 15, 3 - 14, 2 - 11, 1 - 13
- At an Outdoor Meeting Space | 5 - 14, 4 - 14, 3 - 17, 2 - 10, 1 - 14
- Online/Virtually | 5 - 13, 4 - 10, 3 - 16, 2 - 11, 1 - 30

**How would you identify yourself with regard to faith?**

- Follower of Jesus and his Teachings - 64/75
- Disciple of Jesus Christ - 63/75
- Believer in God - 61/75
- Partner in God's mission in the world - 46/75
- Minister - 39/75
- Missionary - 20/75
- Other - 6/75

**If A Disciple of Jesus Christ is defined as one who aligns their desires, goals, and habits with those of Jesus Christ, are you interested in growing as a Disciple of Jesus Christ?**

- Yes - 67/75
- Not at this time, maybe in the future - 5/75
- No - 2/75

**If you are already participating in growing as a Disciple of Jesus Christ, how important are the following factors in helping you do so? (5=more important, 1=less important)**

- Serving those in need ..... 5 - 59, 4 - 7, 3 - 1, 2 - 2, 1 - 1
- Connecting in relationship with others ..... 5 - 52, 4 - 12, 3 - 5, 2 - 1
- Attending a weekly worship service ..... 5 - 51, 4 - 13, 3 - 5, 2 - 1, 1 - 1
- Taking part in Individual Spiritual Practices ..... 5 - 51, 4 - 11, 3 - 5, 2 - 2
- Taking part in Corporate Spiritual Practices ..... 5 - 39, 4 - 17, 3 - 8, 2 - 4, 1 - 2
- Participating in Social Justice Opportunities ..... 5 - 30, 4 - 24, 3 - 7, 2 - 5, 1 - 4
- Financially investing in ministry ..... 5 - 29, 4 - 18, 3 - 15, 2 - 6, 1 - 2
- Being in Nature ..... 5 - 27, 4 - 22, 3 - 9, 2 - 3, 1 - 8

**Beneficial Resources:** Reading the Bible/Bible Study x 20; Worship Service/Church attendance/Weekly Sermons x 12; Daily Devotional/Devotional x 9; Books/Commentaries/Reading sources x 13; Community of faith/other disciples x 7; Online Resources/podcasts/videos x 5; Prayer x 4; Sunday School/Study Group/small group x 4; Retreats/Sabbaticals x 3; Serving Others/Haywood Street x 3; Pastor's Ministry & Sermons x 2; Suggestions/Choice of materials by the leader or Teacher x 2; Music x 2; studying to teach Sunday school x 2; The Missional Network and Cooperative Parish; Local congregation and district activities; Resources from Creating a Culture of Renewal; Working with the cross-generational make-up of my churches and community; participating in our annual outreach missions to a community in another state; spending quiet time with God; Celtic resources; Jan Richardson publications & art; UMW; Jesus; Personal practice/Spiritual Direction/worship/journaling

**Desired Resources:** Online material, small groups, Spiritual retreats, More opportunities for silent retreat, Retired group, I think we have many available resources, I wish the UMC would be more of an activist church; committees in our church stymie missional growth, e.g., climate change response. The committees hinder a democratic spirit, Wesleyan Covenant Speakers, Bible study, more online faith growth webinar, An intentional discipleship group., More opportunity for retreat, online training so could, study on own time, worship services for pastors, More opportunities, Small group interaction., I'm a fan of tactile prayer, Bishop needs to focus on small rural churches and community. UMC Leadership is a disaster, Videos and book studies led by spirit led people, Conservative Leaders, I believe I have all that I'm aware of, I think I have all that I need. This was my first one and I thoroughly enjoyed, Would like a book club that reads relevant books and discusses them openly, more opportunities for women's discussion groups/support groups, Small group opportunities for clergy, Teaching sessions with proven spiritual leaders, Good Bible Study, Plenty are available. Need more time to read and study them, have what I need, Fewer working hours, More on depth bible study, small discipleship groups, Wednesday evening worship, something for retired pastors, Contemplative practices, Real efforts at community unification and spiritual education, Online community, Weekly sacramental worship, Diverse worship and prayer experiences with engaged participants not just a sit and listen service, mentorships

**Anything else you would like to share:** Small group discussions, though at times difficult to engage some members, usually turn out better than anticipated.

Being a part of Cooperation Parish is helpful and meaningful for me. I don't feel like I am in it alone.  
Better communication

A more central location, not on Sunday so we don't have to rush from church

Not a big deal at all, but we stopped to get food and did not realize the church was providing a meal.

Make it as experiential as possible.

Your focus is wrong. You have ignored us and spent apportionments on yourselves.

This was my first one attending and thoroughly enjoyed.

No! Rural churches find it hard to comply with larger church ideas and are outnumbered at Conference in having any input as to what the District has to offer. Small churches like to make their own choices and decisions and not have to be told they have to do what other churches in the District are doing. As long as the churches comply with the Discipline and meet financial duties, they should make their own choices and be able to choose what makes their church a vital congregation

Don't do the same thing every time. Too predictable.

I thought this one was great. Wouldn't change any part of it.

The last one was too long

Please keep discipleship in focus and resist any focus on politics, either world or church power- brokers.