

# Great Plains United Methodist Conference

## Plan of Organization

Final Draft – August 23, 2013

### Section 1

#### *Mission, Calling and Vision*

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The calling of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference is to equip and connect congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

The vision for the Great Plains – our preferred future – is captured in this phrase: Great churches. Great leaders. Great disciples. Transformed world.

#### *Missional Priorities*

Missional priorities are our preferred response to the present reality of our conference. They will be reviewed regularly and may be adjusted as our context for ministry changes.

1. Enhancing the ministry of local churches
  - a. Christ-centered excellence in:
    - i. Youth Ministry. We will seek to equip local churches to reach youth in their congregations and communities by providing support and training to both paid and volunteer youth leaders. We also will equip congregations that currently have no youth program to reach youth in their communities.
    - ii. Preaching and worship. We will offer opportunities for pastors to become more effective preachers, and we will connect pastors and other worship leaders with resources that will assist them in designing passionate, relevant, Christ-centered worship.
    - iii. Engaging the community. We will seek to equip local congregations to understand and to connect with the community, with a particular emphasis on going beyond the walls of the church to witness and to serve.
    - iv. Transforming service to the world. We will connect congregations to the needs of the world and offer them strategies and opportunities to address both immediate and systemic needs.
2. New Church Starts
  - a. Hispanic congregations. Our Hispanic/Latino sisters and brothers are the fastest growing population group in the Great Plains. We will continue and enhance efforts to be in ministry together through the establishment of new faith communities and congregations.
  - b. Other ethnic congregations. As part of our commitment to a diverse church, we will explore opportunities and respond to needs for the development of new congregations for underserved ethnic groups.