



SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

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Pastors,

We've been getting some questions in the district office about the scheduling of Charge Conferences, so it's time to let you know that we are going to try something new this year. We are going to have Charge Conferences in January! Who says they must be in the fall? No one. It's simply tradition. There is nothing in the Book of Discipline that says they must be in the fall of the year, so we're going to experiment and see how this works. There are several reasons I think it may work well:

- **Focus on ministry:** Fall programming and other church activities can be the main focus for you and the leaders of the church. Meetings to complete Charge Conference forms won't have to start immediately.
- **More time:** Your Charge Conference reports will be due to office much later than in previous years which will give you more flexibility, time, and space to get them done.
- **Fewer meetings for PPRC:** The PPRC carries a heavy load in the fall with meetings to determine the pastor's recommended compensation as well as completing the Consultation process. Our goal is for the PPRC's to combine those meetings into one or two to complete both tasks.
- **Simplified PSF/Addendum process:** The health insurance election (for full time clergy) will be done prior to submitting PSFs, so all compensation details will be figured out at the same time and will make the addendum (for full time clergy) easier to complete.
- **Learning for your leaders:** In January we hope to host an event in conjunction with Charge Conferences that will offer needed training for leaders as they take on new roles or for those continuing in a current position, so they can start the year informed and inspired.

Yes, there will probably be snags and things we haven't considered, but we think the advantages mean it's worth a try.

More information, including due dates are available on the 2021 Charge Conference Timeline attached or included in this mailing.

Blessings from the Southeast District Staff
Bruce, Bev & Lisa

