

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

Q1 Help define the MISSION. "The mission of the United Church of Christ in West Virginia, Northern Kentucky, and Ohio is

Answered: 86 Skipped: 5

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	To support, educate, love & hold accountable our community as we strive to serve as Christ would by loving our neighbors, children, and the planet we have been entrusted with.	3/21/2018 10:11 PM
2	to be the church in the world and to love neighbor.	3/16/2018 10:14 AM
3	to minister with, to, and on behalf of the UCC churches in our geographic area.	3/15/2018 6:24 PM
4	Diverse witness service in Christ's name.	3/15/2018 12:58 PM
5	through the Associations only, be Jesus The Christ in stewardship of the Word, dramatize compassion to people in need, and through religious educational opportunities train congregants to be deeper disciples.	3/14/2018 3:16 PM
6	Bring and be the active Word of God to all	3/7/2018 8:54 AM
7	Mostly unnecessary	3/7/2018 6:18 AM
8	to bridge congregations with each other in faithful education, resources, and ministry. No one stands alone.	3/6/2018 8:48 PM
9	Love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.	3/6/2018 8:32 PM
10	support the clergy who lead the local churches in our geographic area.	3/6/2018 6:24 PM
11	Feed the hungry cloth the naked help the sick, help the helpless help themselves	3/3/2018 7:47 PM
12	To build and strengthen the faith community	3/2/2018 1:11 PM
13	1) To preach the Word of God to those willing to accept Him as their Lord. 2) to assist those in need to care for themselves. And, to assess who is looking for assistance when all they are looking for is a handout and not a hand up.	3/2/2018 9:37 AM
14	Bring the love of Jesus Christ through our care of others in any way it is needed.	3/1/2018 2:41 PM
15	To promote, support and encourage the spiritual growth and development of UCC churches and individuals in Ohio, Northern Kentucky and West Virginia. To provide opportunities and resources to be partners in ministry, sharing Christ's love with and advocating for persons and communities in need.	2/28/2018 1:09 AM
16	equip and empower local congregations and ministries as they live and serve God by serving others.	2/27/2018 3:13 PM
17	to support local congregations in their ministry, to engage in ministries beyond the scope or most local congregations, to engage with other bodies of faith and to advocate for public policies congruent with the message of the United Church of Christ.	2/27/2018 9:54 AM
18	To support thriving ministries with a progressive outlook for the nurture of the people of our communities.	2/26/2018 5:32 PM
19	staying to be connected with one another as we share Christ's message of love in today's world	2/26/2018 1:03 PM
20	I would hope to spread the word of Jesus and the love of God.	2/25/2018 8:53 AM
21	Welcome all pilgrims on a deep spiritual journey.	2/24/2018 5:41 PM
22	to love God and serve our neighbors and to be a hospitable space for all who want to be on that journey with us.	2/24/2018 4:08 PM
23	to create safe places for people to find God, to care for others and create caring and connected communities	2/24/2018 2:37 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

24	should be defined regionally by the associations. As the UCC in this area has continued to shrink, and technology has continued to make communication more simple, the need for two judicatory layers between the local and national churches has disappeared. A conference that encompasses the entire state, northern KY and WV is too large both geographically and numerically. Two or three associations seems to be a better model . . . creating economic efficiencies but still able to connect to people.	2/24/2018 2:28 PM
25	bring the Word of God to life , in the sense of telling folks about how knowing God can free your life, and being the hands and feet of God here on earth, doing actual mission work.	2/24/2018 2:19 PM
26	Support local churches in mission and ministry and relate to other levels of the church	2/24/2018 2:06 PM
27	to share the teachings of Jesus the Christ and show folks how these teachings relate to today's world ie: social justice. Also to equip churches with pastors who are willing to lead congregations into action to affect societal change, for without action the teachings don't really mean much	2/23/2018 10:47 PM
28	To be Christ's church in the world, sharing God's love and caring for each individual	2/23/2018 6:43 PM
29	to support and strengthen local churches while being the arm through which they do collectively what they can't do singly.	2/23/2018 5:51 PM
30	To nurture spiritual growth among its members and to promote justice in the world	2/23/2018 3:09 PM
31	to share the word of the Lord with all.	2/23/2018 1:38 PM
32	To build a truly inclusive and affirming church that ensures everyone has a place at the table.	2/23/2018 12:54 PM
33	to make disciples of Christ.	2/23/2018 12:46 PM
34	To share resources (time, talent, and treasures) which increase the quality of life for those in the region who will, in turn, spread their gifts beyond the region.	2/23/2018 12:43 PM
35	equip people for the faithful life of Christ to do justice in the world.	2/23/2018 12:10 PM
36	be in shared mission with the congregations of the Ohio Conference.	2/23/2018 12:08 PM
37	to proclaim the effusive and extravagant love of God as expressed in the life and message of Jesus.	2/13/2018 6:25 PM
38	be the church with radical acceptance, spiritual understanding, and energetic engagement.	2/11/2018 11:11 AM
39	support the work of the people as they are the hands and feet of God to one another, and the larger community.	2/10/2018 7:54 AM
40	To build a knitted community of faith that, through Christ, creates a just world for all in the Ohio, West Virginia, and Northern Kentucky region.	2/8/2018 2:55 PM
41	To follow Jesus loving our neighbors and working for the kingdom of God.	2/8/2018 1:50 PM
42	to know Jesus, share the Jesus Story, live the Jesus life, and fulfill the Jesus dream for the world	2/8/2018 11:40 AM
43	Connects faith communities to enhance ministry and better serve Christ's mission	2/7/2018 5:36 PM
44	Helping dying churches die with dignity, and thriving churches to thrive and multiply...and helping EVERY church know its destiny (if a church is not thriving/growing, it is dying)	2/7/2018 12:35 PM
45	as it has always been: Matthew 28:19	2/7/2018 11:00 AM
46	Working toward being actors in the process of shaping communities of justice and peace	2/6/2018 11:24 AM
47	to empower local churches, pastors, associations, mission councils to carry out the work of the gospel imperative in all settings.	2/5/2018 6:05 PM
48	To support and explain the National church's call to 3 Great Loves, and nurture and celebrate their implementation and in congregations and clusters of congregations. A conduit of information and support from National to Assoc's and congregations, and vice versa. Create a sense of community and identity around the unique expression of the Christian faith that is the United Church of Christ in and around our geography.	2/5/2018 1:31 PM
49	-Gather local congregations in fellowship and mission -Support clergy -Maintain boundaries and healthy practices for clergy -Bring new clergy up to task -Help seminarians	2/5/2018 12:10 PM
50	To come together and unite as a conference to work together and share resources.	2/4/2018 8:08 AM
51	to be a leaking vessel for God's grace.	2/3/2018 9:19 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

52	MISSION!!	2/3/2018 8:17 PM
53	To spread the Good News that God loves all people unconditionally, that Jesus calls us to pursue social justice, and that the Spirit empowers us to follow his call.	2/3/2018 7:01 PM
54	(THIS IS A TEST RESPONSE - HALF IN FUN AND SOMEWHAT SERIOUS AS WELL!!) Dear God, to see you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly, day by day by day..... from Godspell, but originally from Richard of Chichester	2/3/2018 5:32 PM
55	To bring diverse communities of faith together as one body of Christ as a witness to our communities of the unity of purpose and vision of this group of churches caking themselves the United church of Christ	2/3/2018 1:37 PM
56	to nurture local churches in deeper understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by providing resources and working closely with clergy and laypeople to develop lives of faith and service to all people.	2/3/2018 1:26 PM
57	Should be consistent with national but with the addition of anything unique or special to the region, as well perhaps also with the addition of the judicatory elements if those should be included.	2/3/2018 12:47 PM
58	share by word and actions God's inbreaking realm revealed through Jesus Christ.	2/3/2018 12:40 PM
59	Connectivity amongst churches. Useful programs. Leadership support.	2/3/2018 10:23 AM
60	To support the congregations.	2/3/2018 12:40 AM
61	To assist and support local churches and pastors to do be the best they can be in their locale and setting.	2/3/2018 12:17 AM
62	to be a Beacon of Light in Christ, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.	2/3/2018 12:05 AM
63	To Know Christ and To Make Him Known	2/2/2018 10:33 PM
64	Inclusion of diverse people in active efforts for justice.	2/2/2018 7:38 PM
65	To support the ministries of the local churches and Associations.	2/2/2018 7:05 PM
66	to rise to the calling of our Lord in service and stewardship.	2/2/2018 6:11 PM
67	To Support, empower and inspire the ministry of the congregations, their pastors and outreach mission in the communities in which they are located	2/2/2018 5:47 PM
68	Be a viable,active ministry performing Gods' work throughout the area we serve	2/2/2018 5:34 PM
69	Connect and empower Christians within UCC congregations to engage in spirit driven ministries and mission.	2/2/2018 5:23 PM
70	bring people together for worship, ministry, and justice work opportunities.	2/2/2018 5:03 PM
71	I believe that the Son of God, 1 out of the whole human race, 2 from the beginning of the world to its end, 3 gathers, defends, and preserves for himself, 4 by his Spirit and Word, 5 in the unity of the true faith, 6 a church chosen to everlasting life. 7 And I believe that I am 8 and forever shall remain a living member of it. 9 1. Jn 10:11; Acts 20:28; Eph 4:11-13; Col 1:18. 2. Gen 26:4; Rev 5:9. 3. Is 59:21; 1 Cor 11:26. 4. Ps 129:1-5; Mt 16:18; Jn 10:28-30. 5. Rom 1:16; 10:14-17; Eph 5:26. 6. Acts 2:42-47; Eph 4:1-6. 7. Rom 8:29; Eph 1:3-14. 8. 1 Jn 3:14, 19-21. 9. Ps 23:6; Jn 10:27, 28; 1 Cor 1:4-9; 1 Pet 1:3-5.	2/2/2018 4:58 PM
72	to promote the love of Christ?	2/2/2018 4:57 PM
73	Support, challenge and inspire local churches.	2/2/2018 4:56 PM
74	to be the Church, gathered and scattered, to share Christ's Gospel message of love to ALL.	2/2/2018 4:54 PM
75	follow the words and example of Jesus in our responses to ourselves and others. To be the hands and feet of God in the service to humankind and creation.	2/2/2018 4:26 PM
76	to seek Jesus, to seek God, to seek the Holy Spirit, and to seek justice in the world so we may all be one.	2/2/2018 4:25 PM
77	to teach about Jesus and follow his example.	2/2/2018 4:17 PM
78	Be the church. To love God. Love people. Love our Earth. And promote justice and mercy for all.	2/2/2018 4:15 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

79	maintain and improve close personal and program cooperation for all levels and aspects of current and future activities and events by Association leaders and members.	2/2/2018 4:14 PM
80	Facilitate covenantal relationships between its congregations and other ministries	2/2/2018 4:12 PM
81	To follow in the steps of Jesus by having eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of people who live around us and to be about both charity and justice. To provide for basic need as well as advocate for just laws in our states and local communities.	2/2/2018 4:09 PM
82	Should be the same as the UCC mission statement - United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.	2/2/2018 4:08 PM
83	to support local churches in their ministry and mission to their communities by providing resources, support, and education.	2/2/2018 4:08 PM
84	Support the local churches and connect them together	2/2/2018 4:06 PM
85	to be a connector among churches and a catalyst of justice movements	2/2/2018 3:47 PM
86	To love, fight for justice, and make change in our neighborhoods and beyond.	2/2/2018 3:45 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

Q2 How might the wider church of the UCC in this geographic area be organized to fulfill that mission and become "one nimble and responsive judicatory?"

Answered: 82 Skipped: 9

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	By combining the work of the associations and the work of the conference in a manner that will more efficiently support and enhance the ministries of our local churches, Authorized Ministers (those serving churches, missions, and in secular settings) and the National UCC.	3/21/2018 10:11 PM
2	Upper third of Ohio, Middle third of Ohio and Southern third of Ohio, Northern KY and our corner of WV.	3/15/2018 6:24 PM
3	Have area conference reps located in each association office. Right now the conference is far away, all located in Columbus area. People and events are disconnected from the Associations. So have multiple locations for events.	3/15/2018 12:58 PM
4	First, allow the Ohio Conference to disappear. Then transfer funds to the associations so they can hire additional specialized staff and expand events/trainings to meet the needs of persons in the pews.	3/14/2018 3:16 PM
5	Be one active Association that will be present in all that affects the community. Communication is key. Contacts right with people not church offices	3/7/2018 8:54 AM
6	associations are currently doing what is necessary to be helpful to churches and ministers with their staffs.	3/7/2018 6:18 AM
7	I'm not sure we need the larger conference/state level structure. I think the Associations can do a better job responding, thinking creatively, and serving. The Association can also bridge other Associations.	3/6/2018 8:48 PM
8	Whatever the organization, it needs to know the local churches, respect and affirm the diversity of their diversity, work to connect and serve them and help them serve each other.	3/6/2018 8:32 PM
9	They should focus on support of local ministries. We have lost more than half of the UCC members in our catchment area since formation of the denomination. It is well past time to focus on building up the basic interface between the denomination and the lay members, that being the local churches.	3/6/2018 6:24 PM
10	?	3/3/2018 7:47 PM
11	To be more active in the local communities.	3/2/2018 1:11 PM
12	Maybe a 'tent revival' would work again. Focus on local problems and not get too involved into political forces beyond our immediate reaches.	3/2/2018 9:37 AM
13	Through area mission councils. These councils would be greater in number and smaller in geographic area than our current associations, with more flexibility and mobility to respond to churches, clergy and laity. Each would be served by an Associate Conference Minister.	2/28/2018 1:09 AM
14	We are soooo geographically spread out as a conference. Do we need to make ourselves more geographically accessible?	2/27/2018 3:13 PM
15	Dissolve present associations. Make all staff conference staff. Reform smaller, more local associations.	2/27/2018 9:54 AM
16	To both listen to the voices of where we are and to germinate ideas and visions about where we could be.	2/26/2018 5:32 PM
17	share resources (subject/ interest fairs) more local get-togethers conference updates	2/26/2018 1:03 PM
18	One Conference/Association for whole area. One general minister. 4 mission teams. Main office at Templd Hills.	2/25/2018 9:01 AM
19	Association leadership geared to recognize the needs of the people.	2/25/2018 8:53 AM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

20	Perhaps church clusters fir mutual support and sharing of resources.	2/24/2018 5:41 PM
21	more communication between associations	2/24/2018 4:08 PM
22	I do not know	2/24/2018 2:37 PM
23	I don't think it can. As stated above, the area is too large for one judicatory, but having a conference and associations is a model we can no longer afford, nor really need.	2/24/2018 2:28 PM
24	by not duplicating services offered by the national church nor by the associations	2/24/2018 2:19 PM
25	A centralized organizational hub (financial, wider church obligations, legal requirements) with spokes spreading out throughout (for relating to local churches)	2/24/2018 2:06 PM
26	Why does it have to be "one" judicatory? Keep the staffing closest to the local level where local churches can "own" and personally relate to the judicatory staff.	2/23/2018 5:51 PM
27	churches could share spiritual practices that they have found helpful and join together to work for justice	2/23/2018 3:09 PM
28	Accept all, even conservatives.	2/23/2018 1:38 PM
29	I can't speak to the best organizational structure here as I don't have sufficient knowledge of existing structures and where and how those structures could be streamlined to become more nimble and responsive.	2/23/2018 12:54 PM
30	smaller entities that help the local church foster collaboration while still maintaining credentialing, authorizing, ordaining, etc.	2/23/2018 12:46 PM
31	Rather than have one central body, create a council of shared resources (association general ministers) who can collaborate and bring their best gifts from their association so rather than "having it all" through one person, we have a greater collection of gifts through the sharing of many.	2/23/2018 12:43 PM
32	ease of access to leadership and mission.	2/23/2018 12:10 PM
33	Share resources. Invite new people into the conversation instead of the same old people always chosen. Invite congregations of all sizes to host gatherings.	2/23/2018 12:08 PM
34	one "conference" that includes multiple regions that are staffed, resourced and empowered to engage and support local churches and pastors (i.e., bottom up; no centralized, staffed office; money flows from local churches to regional offices/staff and then to UCC national; regional staff rotate to assume official "conference" responsibilities (e.g., primary relationship to UCC national offices; ecumenical relationships).	2/13/2018 6:25 PM
35	Streamline organizational layout, encourage inter-church engagement, pool resources (time, talent, treasure, and items).	2/11/2018 11:11 AM
36	Maintain active and ongoing communication between individual congregations, and people at the state level. Perhaps through visits, and shared projects.	2/10/2018 7:54 AM
37	Online representation from all churches in the area (or the option of such) with a much smaller Council formed by Associations so that the church be able to be both nimble AND responsive.	2/8/2018 2:55 PM
38	Define what you do better. Association tend to act more like conference in Ohio. What does the conference do? A response team could be set up to help churches partner and respond to natural & human-caused disasters. Churches don't tend to work well with each other. Providing volunteering opportunities, projects and donations towards a common goal may help unify them.	2/8/2018 1:50 PM
39	1. Regional leaders can guide/encourage local church leaders to prayerfully clarify vision, develop new forms of ministry, and carry out the work of the church. 2. Direct resources for creative, faith-filled risk-takers within local churches who are seeking to carry out the mission of the church in new forms. 3. Encourage local churches to build ecumenical partnership within their neighborhoods/mission areas. This may mean helping to resource ecumenical programs and events in partnership with these churches, local ecumenical clergy groups, etc.	2/8/2018 11:40 AM
40	Current/consistent communication strategies streamlined across multiple platforms.	2/7/2018 5:36 PM
41	Contract with a proven church growth consultancy, e.g.... http://www.progressiverenewal.org/ https://effectivechurch.net http://thivingchurch.com https://growinghealthychurches.com/denominations/ http://townleycoaching.com/ If judicatories do NOT EMBRACE a culture of church growth and systemic change, no matter the pushback or fallout, they are irrelevant in this day and time	2/7/2018 12:35 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

42	Keep the (relatively) functional level of the middle judicatory -- the association -- and get rid of the dysfunctional level, the conference. It's not needed and hasn't worked for years. If, for legal or structural reasons a conference is needed, let it exist as a legal entity on paper.	2/7/2018 11:00 AM
43	Be theologically based instead of institutional and exercise consistently from that theological base.	2/6/2018 11:24 AM
44	Too many layers of judicatory. Only need associations.	2/6/2018 6:50 AM
45	By creating/establishing mission teams to address the work of the church in a similar fashion to GS	2/5/2018 6:05 PM
46	I think that's a profound challenge, given the large geography involved. I'm not sure how the conference does more with less in bringing the wider church issues to prominence in our diverse congregations, but I believe that is the essential task.	2/5/2018 1:31 PM
47	Two ways. 1. each association becomes a conference. Able to be responsive and localize, but it doesn't do the "one" task as it seems to be assumed here. 2. Keep CBus as the centralized location and keep everything there. Associations then become districts of the ONE judicatory with representatives from each geographic range checking in digitally or in person with monthly meetings.	2/5/2018 12:10 PM
48	The meetings for the conference must be alternated equally between each location (WVA, Columbus, etc.) Members of the conference would benefit from being able to utilize conference calls, and /or video conferencing in consideration of travel time/ distance, and weather conditions. The conference may benefit from having representatives elected/nominated to meet on a more regular basis (monthly/ every other month) to organize agenda and structure for the conference gatherings.	2/4/2018 8:08 AM
49	By helping local congregations define their niche.	2/3/2018 9:19 PM
50	Personally (through pastor; president of local church board/council; visit by association minister; or president or a member of the governance board) to recruit a member of each local church to be a member of a judicatory mission team to meet for a full day (maybe in a retreat format) once/year to decide on a hands-on mission project and to discuss how to implement in each local church.	2/3/2018 8:17 PM
51	Don't know the answer, but I would like to see someone in this area who helps us organize to let our collective voice be heard, especially in the area of social justice. The loudest voices are those of the very conservative denominations.	2/3/2018 7:01 PM
52	learn to jump over candlesticks	2/3/2018 5:32 PM
53	4 Conferences to replace the 5 Associations and 1 Conference	2/3/2018 5:14 PM
54	Knowing that geography is important to bring us together to support our relationships built through common purposes of the local level, while supporting these groups with common purpose that might be geographically far from one another	2/3/2018 1:37 PM
55	By paring down Conference staff and expenses and empowering Associations with training, guidance, and resources to more closely work with local churches to help develop a deeper theological understanding of discipleship, development leadership education and the local church's mission, and programs of vital worship and service.	2/3/2018 1:26 PM
56	We need to work more intentionally at the congregational level, helping especially smaller churches to adapt in creative ways to environmental and demographic changes, and to facilitate partnerships among churches in proximity both within and without the denomination.	2/3/2018 12:47 PM
57	My own preference would be two conferences, each taking in one half of the state split on a north-south axis so I am uncertain how to respond to this.	2/3/2018 12:40 PM
58	Support associations. Provide camping. Sponsor leadership training.	2/3/2018 10:23 AM
59	One Conference/Assn. Ministerial and church standing in one Con./Assn. One central office. 3 or 4 regional ministers.	2/3/2018 12:17 AM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

60	Organize UCC churches / parishioners / Associations in groups... Beacons of Light. Figure out 2 or 3 issues to rally around. Here are some ideas: Solutions for eliminating hunger. (More than adding food pantries), Help sanctuary churches or become sanctuary churches for undocumented people who are being forced out of the USA. Welcoming all people to UCC churches, Work toward adding more churches, associations, and the Conference to become Open and Affirming. Racism is Real! What are we doing to end Racism? Save our CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) Replacement of Coal and Rust Industries... These are some issues. Focus on no more than two or three issues and work toward attainable goals. Please use social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, Vimeo, YouTube, WhatsApp, Flickr, Reddit, LinkedIn...) to promote your missions. It's not too expensive and we can reach many people. The UCC needs to come into the 21st century. Virtual meetings are easier and more efficient than in-person meetings. If you do have in-person meetings, please be aware that people don't live in one location and many people have busy lives. Mission is the key to growth in our churches and we will be more effective in groups that are focused.	2/3/2018 12:05 AM
61	Merge Associations, cut staff, have better internet community	2/2/2018 10:33 PM
62	Consider the work of the Southern Poverty Law Center and other groups that seek justice and engage congregations through communication and participation where possible.	2/2/2018 7:38 PM
63	Although the coordination of Outdoor Ministry should be done by a broad-based ministry setting, most support can be done better by a setting most able to know the needs, probably smaller geographically than a setting that includes the entire area.	2/2/2018 7:05 PM
64	Set timelines, follow through, stay current and use technology to it's greatest advantage.	2/2/2018 6:11 PM
65	communication and relationships between congregations and pastors is key	2/2/2018 5:47 PM
66	not sure but the less fragmented we are the better.	2/2/2018 5:34 PM
67	Realistically look at effectiveness of middle judicatories. Are they necessary?	2/2/2018 5:23 PM
68	With modern technology there is no need for more than one official judicatory setting, preferably in Columbus as it is most centrally located. Satellite presences could be maintained for those who still wish a presence in the historic Association offices.	2/2/2018 5:03 PM
69	It needs to represents all its constituent members and not just the progressive aspects. FWC (Faithful and Welcoming Churches) and the ECOT (Evangelical, Conservative, Orthodox, and Traditionalist) Christians they represent need to be seen, valued and promoted as much as any other group.	2/2/2018 4:58 PM
70	Regional associate conference ministers	2/2/2018 4:56 PM
71	When possible, existing "cluster" groups should continue or be formed, so that churches continue to feel connected. On a larger scale, we need to find ways to be united, even if that is done via Internet.	2/2/2018 4:54 PM
72	get rid of the conference and instead have only the association level	2/2/2018 4:25 PM
73	Ask for more volunteers who have not been involved outside their local church.	2/2/2018 4:17 PM
74	Organize by smaller geographical regions that make sense; allowing for rural or low income churches the flexibility to not travel so far to events.	2/2/2018 4:15 PM
75	Direct discussion/communication among each member church to all others for achieving rapid results/success with each goal/objective.	2/2/2018 4:14 PM
76	One centralized location (suggest Temple Hills) with deployed staff based upon geographical needs	2/2/2018 4:12 PM
77	Put a priority to working ecumenically with other groups who are engaged in the same work.	2/2/2018 4:09 PM
78	for starters, be more transparent. We need to do what we say we are going to do and don't get side-tracked. Keep the mission at the forefront.	2/2/2018 4:08 PM
79	Facilitate regional connections through events and workshops, establish a staffing model that reaches out and is an accessible presence among local churches via technology or in-person support, perhaps has its "hub" in Columbus but does not insist that people travel there to have wider church needs met; instead, establish a series of support centers around the Conference.	2/2/2018 4:08 PM
80	One conference with reps in different areas facilitating dialogue, no associations	2/2/2018 4:06 PM
81	personal contacts and relationships; leadership development for youth and young adults	2/2/2018 3:47 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

82

I think the local churches need to learn how to get along and respect eachother.

2/2/2018 3:45 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

Q3 The Vision Team has three working groups: Best Practices (studying how some ministries can be shared effectively); Structure and Form (exploring ideas for what this entity would look like); and, Finance and Stewardship (considering how to manage Association and Conference finances). What would you like to say to these working groups?

Answered: 79 Skipped: 12

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Please work faithfully and as quickly as possible as change is long overdue.	3/21/2018 10:11 PM
2	Good luck.	3/15/2018 12:58 PM
3	Eliminate them all. Put power into the associations.	3/14/2018 3:16 PM
4	I would say analyze the conference association closely. Right now the conference is not affective with the churches	3/7/2018 8:54 AM
5	A conference minister might be the one to find experts in certain fields and then invite Association committee members from associations to attend and learn and go back to their associations and do the work.	3/7/2018 6:18 AM
6	Stop treating churches as if they aren't businesses. Form a strategy, create a budget, find people willing to be accountable, and make it happen. I'm done sending \$\$ to "do God's work" when God's work doesn't have a plan or accountability. "Doing good" and "having business smarts" are not exclusive qualities.	3/6/2018 8:48 PM
7	no ideas	3/6/2018 8:32 PM
8	Best Practices should examine in detail churches of all traditions that have grown, have maintained, and have shrunk or died. Tell us in the local churches what are the Best Practices that have led to growth, and what are the Bad Practices that have led to shrinkage and closure.	3/6/2018 6:24 PM
9	I feel progress is being made.	3/2/2018 1:11 PM
10	Keep your visions realistic and don't make projections which are doomed to fail from the start.	3/2/2018 9:37 AM
11	Spend lots of time listening to the thoughts, feelings and good ideas of our churches and members, especially the small churches that are often forgotten. Make an effort to respect and blend the hopes, dreams and traditions of each association.	2/28/2018 1:09 AM
12	Let's not reinvent wheels. If another conference/association is doing something well: let's consider doing that. Also, let's plan to not go into debt again.	2/27/2018 3:13 PM
13	If we don't figure out the finances the rest isn't going to matter much.	2/27/2018 9:54 AM
14	You have your work cut out for you. God be with you.	2/26/2018 5:32 PM
15	stay connected to the local churches and invite their input	2/26/2018 1:03 PM
16	Start looking at the needs of small and moderate sized churches, contact them and make your presence known to someone other than large churches.	2/25/2018 8:53 AM
17	Date to dream. Think outside the box. Maybe fund via grant type applications.	2/24/2018 5:41 PM
18	let best practices and the Spirit be the driver -- structure and form should follow, with finance and stewardship rising to fund our best visions	2/24/2018 4:08 PM
19	Provide timely updates on established goals & milestones	2/24/2018 2:37 PM
20	Do this work in larger associations (2 - 3 rather than the current 5 - or 4 depending on how one views EOA/WRA). If the leadership of these associations feel they would benefit, perhaps gather annually or biennially to share ideas, best practices, etc.	2/24/2018 2:28 PM
21	not duplicating services already out there	2/24/2018 2:19 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

22	Congregations need guidance in being relevant in today's world. The larger church also needs modern ways of doing things -electronic communication, donations, webinars. We need to work together in person for mission work with our neighbors, sharing our musical ideas and successes, outdoor ministries.	2/23/2018 6:43 PM
23	The closer the judicatory is to the local church, the more support it will receive. If that means we have an "Ohio Conference" in name only, so be it. Combining the Ohio and Indiana Conferences will only dilute support.	2/23/2018 5:51 PM
24	we need to find creative ways to get more people involved in the wider so that they share ownership in the wider church programming	2/23/2018 3:09 PM
25	I'm so glad you are taking on this important and difficult work. May the Holy Spirit bless and guide your endeavors so that we may have "better problems" than the ones we already have....	2/23/2018 12:54 PM
26	Ministries can be effectively shared across "conferences" as well as "associations" so how can "we" practice "best practices" with the wider church? Unfortunately, finances dictate how things operate. I don't know how to avoid this except to think about what is best solution for all and then how to finance it. "Association" offices regionally in local churches would be cheaper- but the perception of that for other churches wouldn't be too well received (too much emphasis on that single church). Separate offices are expensive to maintain; it's a difficult problem.	2/23/2018 12:46 PM
27	Please ensure that the developed model reflects balanced financial stewardship and that everyone is contributing their best gift. One or two associations cannot carry the vast majority of the load. I'm not saying it should be equal, but it should be fair. Proportional contributions would better distribute the weight. Also, I believe that a council of association general ministers might better suit the region as our region is so varied in need. The sharing of many ideas through frequent collaboration could help areas better meet the needs of the people.	2/23/2018 12:43 PM
28	boo-yah! Blessings on your work	2/23/2018 12:10 PM
29	Be more inclusive of our average churches in the Ohio Conference and the average Pastor in the Ohio Conference.	2/23/2018 12:08 PM
30	1) start with missions we are trying to undertake and then let form follow. 2) examine how other middle judicatories across the UCC function. There are many different models. Perhaps we don't need to re-invent the wheel.	2/13/2018 6:25 PM
31	Best Practices: be sure to reach out to church employees the ideas/practices most apply. Build relationships between similar employees to make the process "organic", based on interpersonal relationships. Finance/Stewardship: Be realistic with respect to income/expenses.	2/11/2018 11:11 AM
32	I know little about how things are currently organized. In general there needs to be structure with flexibility. Transparency, cooperation, and a sense of humor go a long way.	2/10/2018 7:54 AM
33	Best Practices: Look at not only the big churches, but also the small churches that may be doing amazing things (just without the large budgets and numbers of people); Structure & Form: Perhaps it's something that's completely different than other UCC conferences and Associations. Perhaps it's a formed team that utilizes technology and wraps everything around covenant and collaboration	2/8/2018 2:55 PM
34	Sounds good!	2/8/2018 1:50 PM
35	Best Practices: look outside the UCC/mainline bubble. Don't be afraid of gleanings from the best practices of Christian traditions that are stronger in spirituality, disciple-making, church-planting, etc. Structure and Form: churches do not need to be sending people to various level church meetings and fill church committees all the time. Most people in the churches don't care about participating in the democratic processes of the wider church. The entity needs to recognize that the local church is the front lines of ministry and focus energy on equipping and cultivating the vitality in and among local churches. Finance and Stewardship: for better or worse, people are less inspired to give to an organization just because they are a part of it. They need to see how our churches coming together are accomplishing something greater than we could do alone.	2/8/2018 11:40 AM
36	Thank you for taking this on. Please make sure that input on communication strategies includes digital natives.	2/7/2018 5:36 PM
37	WHERE is the working group for church revitalization...??	2/7/2018 12:35 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

38	The draft proposal circulated at the annual meeting of the Eastern Ohio and Western Reserve Associations last November has all the fingerprints of (a) a money- and power-grab on the part of the conference (and, possibly, the national setting), (b) a backroom deal with (c) hidden agendas and (d) a fait-accompli: the associations will be sacrificed for the sake of the conference. I have been told, repeatedly, that this is not the case, but no one has convincingly shown me why it's not. This is a bad idea.	2/7/2018 11:00 AM
39	Attend to a common theological thread that ties everything together instead of working at organizational parts.	2/6/2018 11:24 AM
40	They aren't necessary. Having both associations and conferences is no longer necessary.	2/6/2018 6:50 AM
41	I am not sure	2/5/2018 6:05 PM
42	Well, it seems to me, we've allowed a historic abyss to exist between the issues and concerns of the National church and the values and efforts of the local congregations. I think we need to work together to affirm the UCC "identity" and celebrate our connectedness in ways that are both effective and relevant to local membership. How one does that is challenging, given the long practice of lone ranger clergy types acting as if our autonomy eliminates the kind of covenantal commitments that connect us, and make of us our disparate parts one Church.	2/5/2018 1:31 PM
43	If we don't know how structure and form is to work, why include it? Go with what you have a strong mission for, Best Practices and Finance. What tanked the current model is a lack of missional purpose. If we can't say what we're supposed to be doing, then don't do it. It's not needed. Be ruthlessly practical.	2/5/2018 12:10 PM
44	Keep up the good work!	2/4/2018 8:08 AM
45	Keep up the good work. Simplify, clarify, stay transparent.	2/3/2018 9:19 PM
46	Devise a rationale and scriptural/theological basis for small congregation churches to combine redundant programs, worship services, staff, and high maintenance, under-utilized buildings.	2/3/2018 8:17 PM
47	Please make sure that there are regional groups who help churches connect. I have always felt disconnected with the Conference because it is far from my church and I have no regular interaction with it.	2/3/2018 7:01 PM
48	BE SERIOUS AND HARD WORKING, COLLABORATE, AND BE CREATIVE.	2/3/2018 5:32 PM
49	In emergency management, we say all crises start and end locally. This observation can be applied to the organic nature of many cooperative ventures. Supporting things that are happening organically with all of these topics can make the new conference more functional than trying to implement things the way we wish they would work. What local groups already identify with one another beyond boundaries defined by county lines oute city limits? What groups are already finding ways to support reach other via social media or other digital solutions?	2/3/2018 1:37 PM
50	Carefully consider the question "What is the job of the Conference?" Can the work of Christ be done without a Conference structure, working rather through Associations which will, hopefully, engage more directly in the lives of local congregations.	2/3/2018 1:26 PM
51	We are one church family, and need to work collaboratively as a group, and not have congregations or regions compete, which would work against our common mission.	2/3/2018 12:47 PM
52	The best way to share ministries is to help churches connect with others who are doing the same particular ministry so they can enrich each other.	2/3/2018 12:40 PM
53	Work on getting local churches to consolidate.	2/3/2018 10:23 AM
54	I don't know. It is increasingly difficult with decreasing membership and support.	2/3/2018 12:40 AM
55	One Conf./Assn.	2/3/2018 12:17 AM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

56	More virtual meetings will help. Effective leaders who can control the length of a meeting. Meetings that are over an hour become ineffective and will kill participation. Association and Conference workers must realize that they're working with dedicated volunteers. Training our staff on how to work with and value volunteers really help the UCC. Encourage the staff to work in the field, meeting with churches and the parishioners. Encourage everyone to ask, "How may I help you become more successful? What does your church need?..." If the Association and Conference workers stay in their offices, the UCC in this area will continue to shrink. Volunteers who are also trained in working with churches will help the staff reach more people. Associations and the Conference should wholeheartedly embrace the stewardship campaigns in the churches. Stewardship in the Conference and Associations should start in October or November prior to new year. Please get out in the field!	2/3/2018 12:05 AM
57	sounds good	2/2/2018 10:33 PM
58	The Associations are the first responders for Congregations. They are primary. The conference should offer special activities and information on issues that have a significant impact of lives of people within the Conference.	2/2/2018 7:38 PM
59	Good stewardship includes sharing what can be shared, like office space and staff, blended with deploying staff in a way that allows for the greatest coverage and the least amount of driving.	2/2/2018 7:05 PM
60	Make information available. Keep the website current and follow through on committees.	2/2/2018 6:11 PM
61	Be bold and look beyond the current structure and approaches!	2/2/2018 5:47 PM
62	each should be exploring options from more than one area that seem to work best	2/2/2018 5:34 PM
63	Middle judicatories are most likely duplicating efforts of each other and Ohio Conference. Can they be eliminated or restructured/combined? Do we need Association Ministers? Can Associations be run by moderator and others serving in offices?	2/2/2018 5:23 PM
64	Best Practices: Listen to your young people as well as others to hear how ministries can be shared Structure and Form: It is time for a new day; past time. There is no need to maintain a structure that was adjudicated based on the attempt to appease many 60 years ago Finance & Stewardship: The entire UCC needs to start taking fundraising seriously. This is a structured, intelligent, well organized industry. Time to grow up and get into it.	2/2/2018 5:03 PM
65	Be truly inclusive and reflective of local churches and their members. Otherwise, local churches will continually be drifting from your structures and finding their needs met in other areas which will mean their resources will increasingly follow that path as can be seen over time (I.E. less funding for the association, conference, and national entities).	2/2/2018 4:58 PM
66	Don't know enough to comment	2/2/2018 4:56 PM
67	Best Practices- a reminder that not all of the people in the pews are connected online yet. There are areas where high-speed Internet is not possible. However, there are gifted people in the pews- let's encourage them to share their gifts. Finance and Stewardship- I would simply encourage you to make the best decisions, even if they are difficult. Structure and Form- consider doing more with adjoining conferences. I pastor two churches- one in IN/KY and one in OH. We model ways to make it work!	2/2/2018 4:54 PM
68	Reaching our children, giving them space to find their calling and mission, grounding them in a faith, and allowing them to share their gifts is vital to the future.	2/2/2018 4:26 PM
69	Good luck! No need to reinvent the wheel. Disband the conference and go to associations only.	2/2/2018 4:25 PM
70	Eliminate all groups that serve little spiritual purpose. Downsize wherever possible. Don't cling to structures that exist simply because they always have. Possibly merge several Associations.	2/2/2018 4:17 PM
71	Thank you for doing all you do! This is not easy work but continue to work for the growing of Gods kingdom.	2/2/2018 4:15 PM
72	Be smart, open, congenial, optimistic, prayerful and dedicated about achieving successes.	2/2/2018 4:14 PM
73	The invitation to include as many voices as possible is appreciated but please do not spend so much time discerning any of these areas that decisive action is delayed beyond a reasonable time. The time for action is now. (Actually the time for change and better structure and practices was decades ago, we are now playing on borrowed time)	2/2/2018 4:12 PM
74	Good luck. You're going to need it.	2/2/2018 4:09 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

75	Sounds complicated. Why do we spend so much time talking about studying, planning and considering... shouldn't we just be 'doing'.	2/2/2018 4:08 PM
76	I think that any staffing, committees, workshops, and funding models that you wish to establish should be as localized as possible. The larger each area you expect each of these to cover, the more issues will fall through the cracks and the thinner you'll spread the resources--especially the people--that you expect to work in this new reality. I most fear the decreased ability to connect with and support individual churches and authorized ministers as this plan develops. Our Associations are currently entrusted to do that; if they are eliminated, how will this new model pick up the slack?	2/2/2018 4:08 PM
77	Nothing	2/2/2018 4:06 PM
78	There seems no reason to have both a conference and association structures.	2/2/2018 3:47 PM
79	Do what you beleive is best for the conference and it's people, not your self and your own story/life.	2/2/2018 3:45 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

Q4 Some feel our name "Ohio Conference" fails to recognize that we have congregations in West Virginia and Northern Kentucky. What should we call this new entity?

Answered: 82 Skipped: 9

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I agree that a new name is a good idea, but I have no idea what it should be.	3/21/2018 10:11 PM
2	NOW (Northern Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia)	3/16/2018 10:14 AM
3	Lake Erie Central Ohio Ohio River Valley Conferences	3/15/2018 6:24 PM
4	"The Ohio Area Conference" or "The Ohio Regional Conference."	3/15/2018 12:58 PM
5	Not a relevant question for me to address since I advocate for the elimination of the Ohio Conference.	3/14/2018 3:16 PM
6	Northern Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia Association	3/7/2018 8:54 AM
7	I would not change the name.	3/7/2018 6:18 AM
8	Hopewell. The name honors some of the original residents of our area and it's what we do in faith - we hope for wellness throughout all of God's creation.	3/6/2018 8:48 PM
9	Ohio, WV, Northern Kentucky conference. Not creative, but people will know where we are.	3/6/2018 8:32 PM
10	Don't waste your time thinking of a new, so-called inclusive name.	3/6/2018 6:24 PM
11	OH,KY, WV Conference	3/3/2018 7:47 PM
12	Maybe the Northeast conference.	3/2/2018 1:11 PM
13	What's in a name. Must we be politically correct?	3/2/2018 9:37 AM
14	Appalachian Neighbors Conference	3/1/2018 2:41 PM
15	The Ohio/Northern Kentucky/West Virginia Conference	2/28/2018 1:09 AM
16	Midwest Conference	2/27/2018 3:13 PM
17	The Heartland Conference? The Crossroads Conference?	2/27/2018 9:54 AM
18	Eastern Midwest Conference	2/26/2018 5:32 PM
19	don't know	2/26/2018 1:03 PM
20	Shawnee Conference	2/25/2018 9:01 AM
21	Loving collective	2/25/2018 8:53 AM
22	United Church of Christ Alive	2/24/2018 5:41 PM
23	Mid-Mid-West or The Heart of It All -- best I had better ideas on this -- Antoinette Brown Conference?	2/24/2018 4:08 PM
24	WeOhNo Conference. Just kidding. North Central Conference	2/24/2018 2:37 PM
25	n/a	2/24/2018 2:28 PM
26	?	2/24/2018 2:19 PM
27	Ohio Conference is fine with me, but if people really object, Ohio Valley or Greater Ohio River Conference.	2/24/2018 2:06 PM
28	OWVNK? Ohio & Northern Appalachia?	2/23/2018 10:47 PM
29	Greater Ohio	2/23/2018 6:43 PM
30	I don't really care. If you need a suggestion, it could be the "Mid-East Conference."	2/23/2018 5:51 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

31	I have no idea	2/23/2018 3:09 PM
32	Appalachian Conference	2/23/2018 1:38 PM
33	The "NOW Conference" (N from Northern, O from Ohio, W from West)	2/23/2018 12:54 PM
34	Will the working groups also consider that these or other churches might need to join another conference? Are geography lines being examined as well? Perhaps the new name of the several new "conferences" or distinct "associations" will just be "Faith Conference" or "Hope Conference" instead of geographical. Confusing yes, but better than too long a Conference title.	2/23/2018 12:46 PM
35	WONKY: it's often been said that we do things differently in this conference, so maybe our name should also reflect that. Our conference is a little wonky. ("W"est Virginia, "O"hio, "N"orthern "K"entuck"y")	2/23/2018 12:43 PM
36	Greater Ohio River Valley Conference	2/23/2018 12:10 PM
37	Ohio Conference makes the most sense. There is no name to adequately bring in everyone.	2/23/2018 12:08 PM
38	Ohio River Conference	2/13/2018 6:25 PM
39	I can empathize with those congregants from WV and N KY on that! I do not have any great ideas, but here are a few tries: Ohio Valley Conference or Ohio-Appalachian Conference.	2/11/2018 11:11 AM
40	Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia Conference Tri-state Conference	2/10/2018 7:54 AM
41	Great Lakes Conference Ohio Valley Conference	2/8/2018 2:55 PM
42	UCC in the Heartland	2/8/2018 1:50 PM
43	Tri-State River Valley Conference Tri-State Heartland Conference	2/7/2018 5:36 PM
44	The WEST Ohio UCC and the EAST Ohio UCC--two conferences...at least. I DO NOT SEE how one judicatory based in Columbus--or regional centers--can be "nimble"	2/7/2018 12:35 PM
45	Stop using a geographical name.	2/7/2018 11:00 AM
46	Heartland Conference	2/6/2018 11:24 AM
47	Not needed	2/6/2018 6:50 AM
48	Not sure. Might want to look at what the PC(USA) did since they have reduced/combined Synods.	2/5/2018 6:05 PM
49	????	2/5/2018 1:31 PM
50	I am not one who feels this way. Ohio Valley Conference might work. Midwest conference...	2/5/2018 12:10 PM
51	Triune Conference	2/4/2018 8:08 AM
52	Agree with concern, but no ideas for name.	2/3/2018 8:17 PM
53	What about the Ohio and Erie Conference (referring to the bodies of water that influence us: the Ohio River and Lake Erie). We are, after all, people of the water!	2/3/2018 7:01 PM
54	THE Four-Toed Conference	2/3/2018 5:32 PM
55	The Mid-states Conference	2/3/2018 5:14 PM
56	No opinion	2/3/2018 1:37 PM
57	Do we need the Conference, or is it another layer that siphons funds from the important work at the local church level. Should we consider the Association the covenant partner of local churches?	2/3/2018 1:26 PM
58	Tough one. Ohio, WV, NKentucky Conference? East North Central Conference?	2/3/2018 12:47 PM
59	Heartland UCC is one possibility. Another one somewhat tongue in cheek is the NearEast Conference. When I arrived in Ohio many years ago I thought I was in the mid-west and was told Ohio was an eastern state so I decided it was the Near East.	2/3/2018 12:40 PM
60	Ohio Valley Conference	2/3/2018 10:23 AM
61	Scioto Con./Assn.	2/3/2018 12:17 AM
62	Erie Ohio River Conference.	2/3/2018 12:05 AM
63	unsure	2/2/2018 10:33 PM
64	Conference of the Ohio River.	2/2/2018 7:05 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

65	The Heartland	2/2/2018 5:47 PM
66	Appalachia, Tri state,	2/2/2018 5:34 PM
67	Mid East conference	2/2/2018 5:23 PM
68	SONKA tried ... and it sounded so cute to little kiddos who like to play with toy trucks (SONKA ~ TONKA) :-D ... an acronym may work better, although what I can come up with in a 2-minute attempt escapes me.	2/2/2018 5:03 PM
69	The Ohio Valley Conference. WONK--West virginia, Ohio, Northern Kentucky--Conference.	2/2/2018 4:58 PM
70	Greater Ohio Conference	2/2/2018 4:57 PM
71	Ohio Valley Conference	2/2/2018 4:56 PM
72	The Heartland Conference	2/2/2018 4:54 PM
73	Ohio and Ohio River Valley Conference OORVC	2/2/2018 4:25 PM
74	Three States Conference	2/2/2018 4:17 PM
75	I never thought of that! Heartland Conference might work.	2/2/2018 4:15 PM
76	How about Oh-We-Vir-No-Ke-Con? ('Has a Native American sound.)	2/2/2018 4:14 PM
77	Ohio Valley Conference? TriState Conference?	2/2/2018 4:12 PM
78	The Ohio River Valley Conference	2/2/2018 4:08 PM
79	I think the name should be geographical in nature, keeping with the spirit of how other multi-state Conferences identify themselves. Perhaps something as simple as the Midwest Conference, the Ohio River Conference, or the West Appalachian Conference.	2/2/2018 4:08 PM
80	Ohio is fine, majority of congregations are in Ohio and that's where the headquarters is	2/2/2018 4:06 PM
81	Mid-America Conference; Western Appalachian Conference;	2/2/2018 3:47 PM
82	Ohio Conference	2/2/2018 3:45 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

Q5 Other comments:

Answered: 57 Skipped: 34

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Thank you for your dedication to this important work.	3/21/2018 10:11 PM
2	All I heard at a listening session is an assumption of one big instrumentation. I advocate 3 smaller ones Boutique as opposed to Big Box	3/15/2018 6:24 PM
3	Blessings to you.	3/15/2018 12:58 PM
4	Across the denomination, conferences are becoming more and more irrelevant with the passage of time. When will the Ohio leadership come to that realization? Judicatories that are closest to the congregation can easily justify their purposes and mission. They can enable congregations to grow more spiritually and numerically.	3/14/2018 3:16 PM
5	Please stop " BDS". I think that it was despicable that the previous Conference Minister came out for such a damning approach to our friends and allies in Israel. We should not "Boycott, Divest, or Sanction Israel".	3/14/2018 11:12 AM
6	Take the small steps to affective change (don't talk it too death), and before you know it a big change has happened for the good of all. God bless.	3/7/2018 8:54 AM
7	Small office much like right now. Collect funds to be sent on to national, runs the one piece of real estate owned by everyone, Templef Hills. But the people at the association level all have administrations which do not need to be duplicated at the State level. The association ministers meet regularly and decide what their associations need as far as leadership education etc. and then ask the conference minister to arrange programs which would be cost prohibitive if done by just one association. The conference is run out of the conference minister's residence. Seminars, etc. requested by the associations would be held at the camp using it's updated facilities. A bookkeeper- secretary works from their own home. No office space Needs to be rented. Ask any former evangelical and reformed minister, for synods were run from the residence of the president of the Synod. Use the telephone, conference calls, the camp, etc. for conference work	3/7/2018 6:18 AM
8	Don't be afraid to think outside the box. The conference mold is broken. Take the pieces that are worth saving and create a new sculpture.	3/6/2018 8:48 PM
9	none	3/6/2018 8:32 PM
10	I am not at all confident, based on this survey and the reported fact that only 80 people have responded so far, that this task is going to have enough input and momentum to make much progress.	3/6/2018 6:24 PM
11	Can the word "judicatory" and use words everyone is familiar with, such as "justice," as one example.	3/1/2018 2:41 PM
12	Thank you for moving us ever so close to one Ohio Conference. It is something I've wanted to see happen for a long time.	2/28/2018 1:09 AM
13	I am optimistic for the success of this enterprise.	2/26/2018 5:32 PM
14	I affirm the need for this process. However, I see much disconnect between the structure of the UCC in Ohio and the "people in the pews". We have to strive to keep in touch with each other or we will lose all sense of covenant with each other. We have lost much of our sense of community with each other. Our gatherings are all about business not community.	2/26/2018 3:55 PM
15	no	2/26/2018 1:03 PM
16	Email is fine but, for me, personal contact is much more important. We as a church have forgotten that the church is made up of people not computers or electronic devices. But that is just my personal feelings.	2/25/2018 8:53 AM
17	I continue in prayer for your work	2/24/2018 4:08 PM
18	Good survey	2/24/2018 2:37 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

19	It is hard to justify providing financial support to an entity that seems to search to determine its purpose. It seems important to note that if one's purpose is not apparent, perhaps it is no longer needed. Our congregation is considering withdrawing support to the conference as a result.	2/24/2018 2:28 PM
20	Thank you for your work	2/24/2018 2:06 PM
21	Could we join with other UCC members to address social issues? Some of us are in congregations which have only a few interested in social action. It would be great to have a way to find others to work together.	2/23/2018 6:43 PM
22	I'm not convinced we need to preserve the "Ohio Conference" except as a necessary division within General Synod or in relation to other nation entities. I'm much more interested in strengthening the Association. That's a point where local churches can identify and support the wider church. That may mean adjusting Association borders or even moving some churches to other Conferences (like Steubenville moving to Penn West); but that's ok	2/23/2018 5:51 PM
23	Good luck. I support and applaud your hard work.	2/23/2018 12:54 PM
24	These are difficult issues to discern. How to keep a local presence and assistance is most important to me serving the local church- can be a larger collection; but too large and it loses the personal. There is little connection locally now to the larger Conference.	2/23/2018 12:46 PM
25	n/a	2/23/2018 12:10 PM
26	There are many "regular" congregations who are doing great things and many Pastor's who are doing good ministry but we are never included. Sometimes it seems we are too white or too straight to be included.	2/23/2018 12:08 PM
27	As an active member of an Ohio Congregation I have little awareness of issue at the conference level. Somehow sharing and communication needs to be improved.	2/10/2018 7:54 AM
28	I realize that financial realities are likely driving this latest attempt at reorganizaton and revisioning; it seems that our Associations and the OC have been restructuring more or less constantly for 30 years or more, with no long-term success (probabky due to our hybrid nature). This feels like more of the same...maybe it isn't. But the churches and pastors have incessantly "spoken" about our sturcture all this time, by the way we have slowly strangled the OC to death. One must ask WHY we have done this...and how ONE larger, centralized entity seems to be the answer.	2/7/2018 12:35 PM
29	See above. See also the alternate proposal I distributed at the associations meeting in November. Contact me if you want a copy.	2/7/2018 11:00 AM
30	Work at the theological thread.	2/6/2018 11:24 AM
31	I think this is a necessary but very difficult work... I applaud that it is happening, even as I wonder if we're reacting in a way that is too little too late. We need to be a forward thinking denomination celebrating our unique approach to faith and the missional values and social justice concerns that arise from that thinking, so that we act in ways that are meaningful, effective, and that bring us together rather than divide... which is to say, it's going to be a lot harder than we can likely imagine.	2/5/2018 1:31 PM
32	Let's change something!	2/5/2018 12:10 PM
33	I pray for efficient, effective, and sustaining ministry.	2/4/2018 8:08 AM
34	I've said enough!	2/3/2018 8:17 PM
35	Thank you for reaching out for our opinions in so many different ways!	2/3/2018 7:01 PM
36	Get 'er done!	2/3/2018 5:32 PM
37	I wish the team well it's a huge undertaking with a lot of sacred cows in the way,	2/3/2018 5:14 PM
38	none	2/3/2018 12:47 PM
39	While I am short on ideas I applaud the work that is being done. We should have done it years ago before finances made it necessary.	2/3/2018 12:40 PM
40	If you did away with association offices, I would feel far removed from Columbus.	2/3/2018 12:40 AM
41	Will you communicate these results through the website(s) and social media?	2/3/2018 12:05 AM
42	We need to get back to basics. Focus on the local churches and their growth. Cut back on the political emphasis in Cleveland. spiritual formation, missions, evangelism, leadership training, prayer, spiritual vitality.	2/2/2018 10:33 PM

THE VISION TEAM NEEDS YOUR IDEAS

43	My prayers are with you.	2/2/2018 7:05 PM
44	Push to make sure that all congregations are making these meetings well known	2/2/2018 5:34 PM
45	Since leaving judicatory work I've worked as a professional fundraiser researcher. Thus my comments to F&S. The rest are thoughts and opinions I've held for a good number of years. Please, it is a waste of time, resources, money, and other assets to maintain all of the duplication in staff, offices, etc. Let's take advantage of what we have and use it WISELY. Thanks for asking.	2/2/2018 5:03 PM
46	I'm having difficulty with my religious beliefs in general and am rapidly losing faith in the Christian religion and the UCC in particular. I am becoming a SPNR person (spiritual but not religious).	2/2/2018 4:57 PM
47	Got nothin	2/2/2018 4:56 PM
48	Blessings upon you in this time of transition and change. It will not always be easy, but I pray that God removes barriers when we are going according to His/Her will, and places blockades if we stray from the correct path.	2/2/2018 4:54 PM
49	I am not sure that there is any further purpose for the conference. They have sold of the most valuable camp and do not do search and call. They should be dismantled and eliminated. The resources of the Ohio conference should be divided back to the associations pro rata pursuant to their current resource contributions or the resources contributions from a year certain like 2018. Besides what is left of our camping program, the Ohio Conference offers no services that are really used by the associations or their churches. Anything they do offer tends to be duplicative of what is being offered by the associations and such use of funds is a waste of resources.	2/2/2018 4:25 PM
50	NA	2/2/2018 4:15 PM
51	It's a great feeling to be part of a strong 'voice' able to promote and achieve much needed Christian leadership for current issues, especially all justice conflicts.	2/2/2018 4:14 PM
52	Outdoor Ministries is a lynchpin for many as it relates to wider church involvement and support. The hiring of the current Transitional Coordinator was a smart decision.	2/2/2018 4:12 PM
53	Spend less time thinking about what should be done or exploring how things should be done. Create a team and start doing. Get out there - within the congregations and be active. Face to face involvement, everyone working together for one common good.	2/2/2018 4:08 PM
54	As I've stated in previous answers, my biggest concern regarding a new proposed model will be how well it will provide a structure for regional support that is accessible and attentive to the needs of local churches and authorized ministers. I think that something too centralized will be insufficient given our geography, and while other Conferences can perhaps pull off such a model, it would be irresponsible for us to attempt to be like them.	2/2/2018 4:08 PM
55	None	2/2/2018 4:06 PM
56	none	2/2/2018 3:47 PM
57	N/a	2/2/2018 3:45 PM