

Nebraska-Kansas Episcopal Area Transition Team & The Five-finger Vote

The Nebraska-Kansas Episcopal Area Transition Team will not be forwarding a motion during the 2011 annual conference sessions as originally planned. Instead, the team will ask for a show of support for the one-conference concept.

Once feedback from the March 13 webcast was evaluated, the Transition Team determined using the Rev. Gil Rendle "five-finger vote" to gauge support for one new annual conference was preferable over presenting a motion at the 2011 annual conference sessions. Many of the post-webcast questions helped the group determine more dialogue is needed before a motion could be forwarded.

Rendle has been working with the Transition Team as a consultant and introduced this style of voting to help the group narrow its position on a number of issues.

The following pages include resources that will help you prepare for the Annual Conference Session discussion. Friday, June 3, will be the day devoted to conversations about becoming one new annual conference, bringing together the mission and justice work, resources and leadership from Nebraska, Kansas East and Kansas West. The discussion will be followed by a "five-finger vote" introduced above and provided on following pages of the resource book as a sample voting document.

We invite you to prepare for this day of dialogue by praying and reviewing some of the material that has been developed in response to questions. Those include:

- **A question and answer document located at www.umcneb.org/nebkan.
It will also be included in your conference packet.**
- **Watch the Nebraska-Kansas Episcopal Area Transition Team webcast available on the website under UTube.**
- **Read the following Great Plans for the Great Plains vision document and be prepared to ask questions and discuss its content during the Annual Conference Session.**
- **Be ready to engage in the five-finger vote to gauge your support for the document contents.**





One New Annual Conference

The future's in your hands!

What is a "five-finger vote?"

What our church needs is to discern together the will and direction of God and extend the opportunity for holy dialogue. The five-finger vote is a way for us to understand where we are in the collective acceptance of an idea or process.

This method has been a useful tool of discernment and holy conferencing for the Transition Team. May you also find it useful and fun.

Why a five-finger vote?

The Transition Team wants to gauge your support for creating a single, new conference encompassing the states of Nebraska and Kansas. The Team aims to be both transparent and inclusive of your feelings and wisdom. Please participate in this vote, making any corresponding notes on the reverse side, that together, we might hear God more faithfully.

How to participate in the five-finger vote?

This is a gauge, a meter, not an ultimate decision-making device. Please check the corresponding box of the hand/explanation that most fits with your current level of support for forming a single, new conference. Simply put, do you believe God is leading Nebraska and Kansas in this journey and that God can best use us as one conference?

Please check the box below of the hand that most closely represents your position on becoming one new conference. Pages and tellers will pick up your vote. All votes will be stored until all three annual conference sessions are complete. Votes will be aggregated with an announcement on the results available in mid-to-late June. There is a comment section on the back of this sheet. Your comments are equally important to the process.



"I am in full support of becoming one conference."



"I am supportive of becoming one conference, however I have a few questions."



"I am supportive of becoming one conference, but I have many questions."



"I am opposed to becoming one conference, but am not willing to halt the process."



"I am opposed to becoming one conference as it is currently presented."

Your comments regarding a proposed new
Nebraska-Kansas Annual Conference are very important.

Write your comments next to the hand representing your position on becoming one annual conference.










