

STANDARDS OF CHARGE FORMATION

1. No church which feels financially able and willing to be a station should be a station unless:
 - a) It has a membership of 250 members or more, or a strong possibility of reaching that strength within five years; and the remaining churches on the circuit, if any, can be provided for without seriously weakening them.
 - b) It is able and willing to assume all financial obligations expected for a station church. It must continue, as a minimum, its share of all benevolences it assumed when on a circuit, and in addition, pay at least the minimum salary and percentage items related thereto.
2. The churches forming a new circuit should be, when possible, a sociological and geographical unit. Such factors as marketing centers, school districts, telephone exchanges and county lines should be given consideration.
3. In each District a study shall be made by the District Superintendent with such assistance as he/she deems necessary concerning charge arrangements, pastoral workloads, need for consolidation, wisdom of re-location and the use of church and civic agencies in planning for the most effective service to the community or natural area to be served. This is to be done in cooperation with the District Board of Church Location and Building in accordance with ¶2519.2 of the *2008 Book of Discipline*. The District Superintendent may consult with appropriate Boards and Agencies of the District, Annual Conference, or General Church.
4. As United Methodists, we should work cooperatively with other denominations. We will explore the possibility and advisability of combining fields and sharing ministries across denominational lines.

Approved by the 1980 Annual Conference. Listed on page 293 of the 1980 *Journal of the Virginia Annual Conference*.

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