

CABINET REPORT



The Bishop’s Cabinet of the Indiana Annual Conference consists of the seven (7) Conference Superintendents, the Assistant to the Bishop/Chief of Staff, the Director of Conference Ministries, and the Director of Finance and Administration/Chief Financial Officer; the conference year (July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024) has been rooted in our Cabinet Breakthrough Prayer, grounded in our Cabinet Covenant, and lead with our commitment to collaboration. We have been enriched this conference year with the integration of many diverse voices to lead in our times of prayer and devotion. We continue discerning how best to be faithful stewards in providing leadership for the clergy, congregations, and communities throughout the Indiana Annual Conference.

In this year, we reiterated our commitment to cultural fluency with a pilgrimage to Alabama, visiting the historic places of Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma. We were reminded each day of the experience that the lack of civil rights and continued injustice are not things of the past; they are ever-present, and we strive to be those who lead for justice (justice=making things right). Our appointment season was truncated because of General Conference, but we remained faithful to the task of making almost thirty-five (35) full-time appointments.

We also recognized that our ministry landscape is rapidly changing. We are faced over the next several years with a higher number of retirees, a lower number of those entering the process of ministry, and many congregations trying to maintain the financial stability to remain with a full-time appointment. Additionally, since 2020, we have expanded the role and reach of Conference Superintendents, with three (3) Superintendents serving two (2) districts. As we continue to live into the future that is unfolding, it has become increasingly clear that the Indiana Annual Conference must reimagine our district structure to better extend the witness of Christ into the world, understanding the local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.

To begin the process of reimagining, the Cabinet engaged in a prayerful process of discernment that was guided by principles that includes cultivate joy, sustainability (stewardship of people and resources), relational climate, minimize chaos, and balancing the Conference Superintendent load. Therefore, we are bringing the motion to reduce the number of districts in the Indiana Annual Conference from ten (10) to five (5), effective July 1, 2025. The process of redistricting will not happen in isolation or “top down.” The Cabinet will schedule five (5) Town Hall gatherings, in Fall 2024, around the state, with one convened via Zoom, to gather information for how we can best serve the congregations and communities with expanded geographical areas.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve, and we look forward to how we can live out the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, while we CULTIVATE JOY!

Reverend Dr Aleze Fulbright
Dean of the Cabinet

- 1 MOTION: To reduce the number of districts in the Indiana Annual Conference from ten (10) to five (5),
- 2 effective July 1, 2025.