

Redistricting for Mission and Stewardship

North Georgia Annual Conference
Pre-Conference Briefings
2020

Overview

- The current district structure was created during a different era in North Georgia
- The new structure will improve our effectiveness and prepare us for the future

Current district lines were drawn during a different era in North Georgia

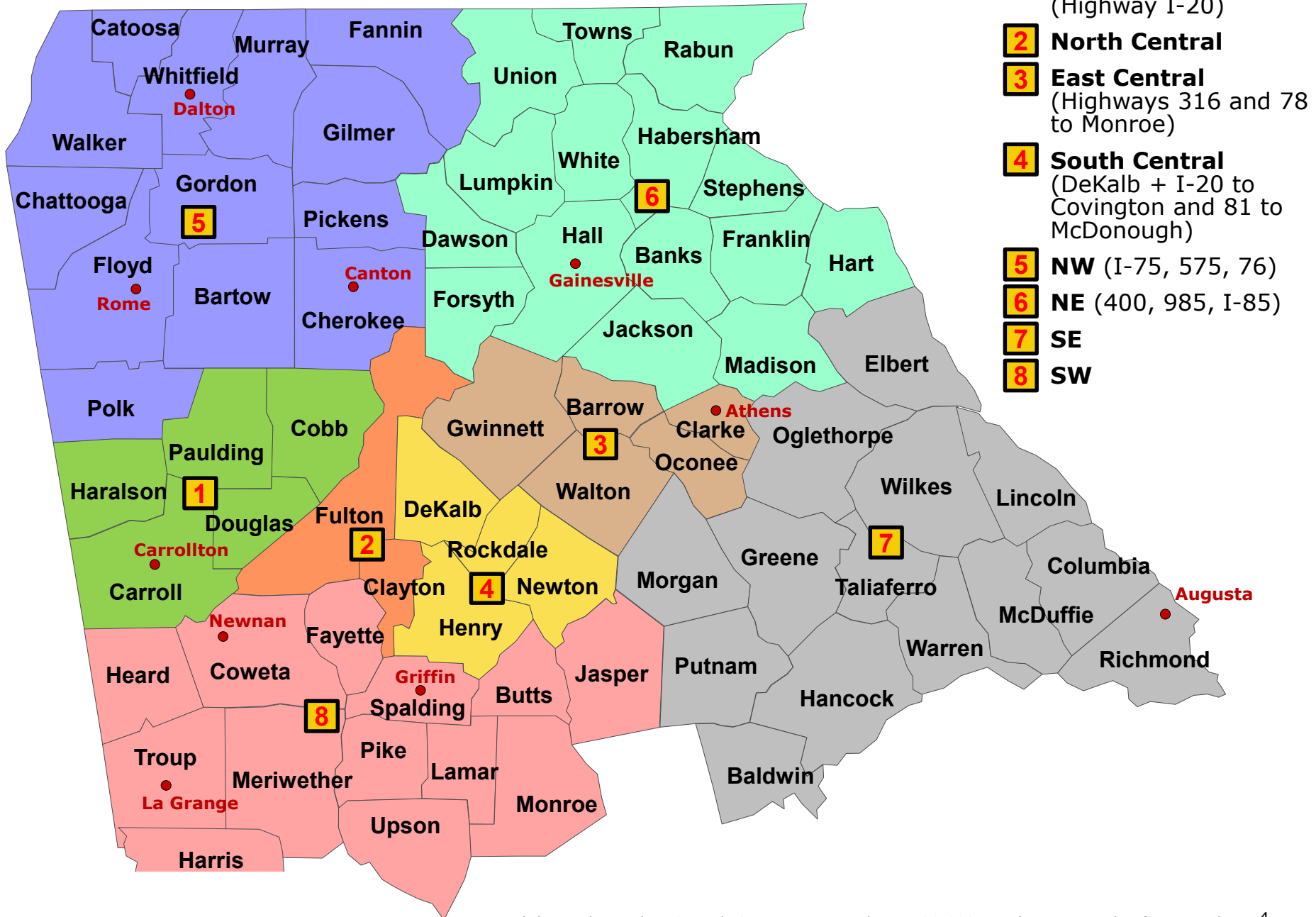
Since the districts were designed many things have changed including:

- Cell phones, email, videoconferencing
- Ubiquitous public meeting spaces (e.g., Starbucks)
- New highways
- Greater population diversity
- Changes in worship attendance patterns

Design Principles

1. Assure no county is “split” between districts
2. Align with major highways
3. Balance
 - Number of churches and clergy
 - Attendance
 - Population, and Population Growth
4. Assure each district has some “top 50” largest churches
5. Align districts with United Methodist colleges, universities and seminaries

Recommended 8-District Structure

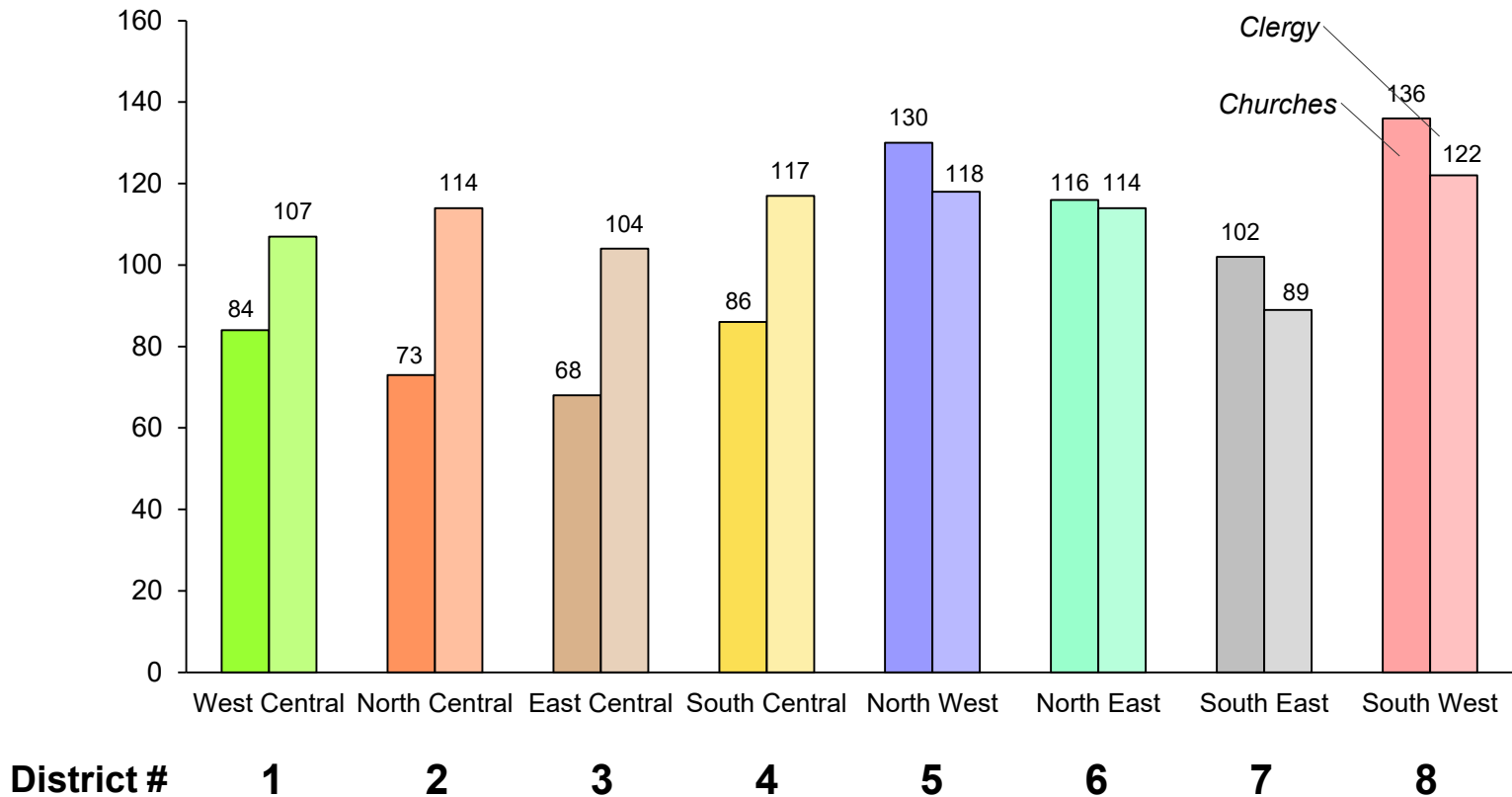


- 1** West Central (Highway I-20)
- 2** North Central
- 3** East Central (Highways 316 and 78 to Monroe)
- 4** South Central (DeKalb + I-20 to Covington and 81 to McDonough)
- 5** NW (I-75, 575, 76)
- 6** NE (400, 985, I-85)
- 7** SE
- 8** SW

● Red dots indicate the 10 north Georgia cities with over 20,000 population, outside of Metro Atlanta.⁴

Number of clergy and churches is balanced among the new districts

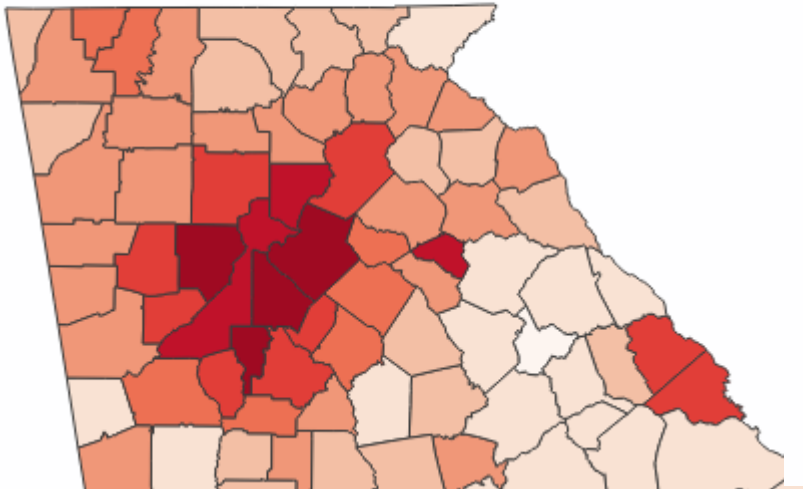
Churches / Clergy



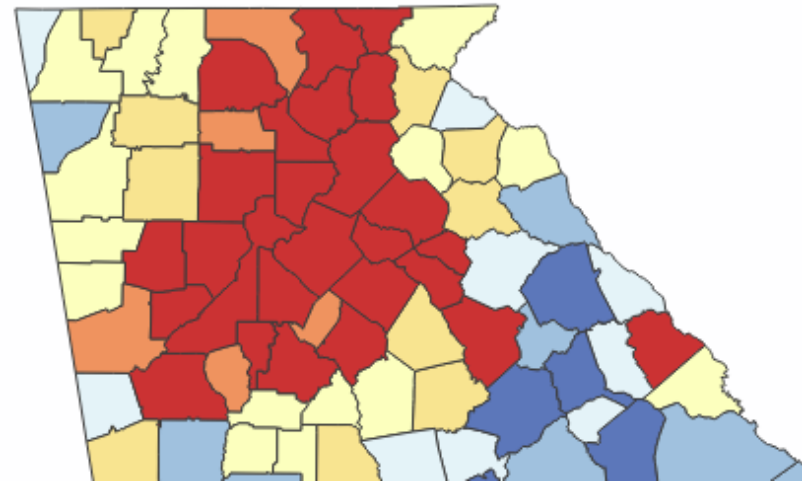
Note: This graph was updated in March 2020

Each new district includes some high-growth counties

Georgia Population Density by County



Georgia Population Growth Rate by County



Sources: https://www.georgia-demographics.com/custom_data, <http://worldpopulationreview.com/states/georgia-population/>

District superintendents will collaborate to work on common priorities

Potential Priorities:

- Creating/supporting vibrant anchor churches in county seats
- Recruiting and developing gifted local pastors
- Bringing about creative vital mergers, adoptions, multi-sites and networks of churches
- Engaging pastors as district leaders
- Partnering with other groups and organizations
- Implementing shared services*

*Such as central administration of church space rental

Each new district has ...

- Some “Top 50” largest churches
- Roughly equal apportionments and district work funds

Most new districts have ...

- A United Methodist college, university, and/or seminary

Centralizing of certain tasks across the districts will help to reduce district workload

- Recently centralized or in process
 - District Work Fund accounting
 - Payment of district expenses
 - Administration of closed church properties
 - Investment management by Georgia UM Foundation
- Another potential improvement
 - Centralization of DCOM record keeping and candidate communication (e.g., initial walk-through of the process)

**Please Email Questions & Suggestion to
Your District Administrative Assistant**
(find that email address at ngumc.org)