

# UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE



2019

## PRE CONFERENCE REPORT

# PRELIMINARY AGENDA

## FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED METHODIST RÍO TEXAS CONFERENCE BISHOP ROBERT SCHNASE, PRESIDING

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2019

1	Registration	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
2	Ministry Display Area Open	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
3	Gathering Music - Selena Auditorium	7:00 pm – 7:30 pm
4	Service of Word and Table – Selena Auditorium	7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
5		

### THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2019

6	Registration	7:00 am – 6:00 pm
7	Ministry Display Area Open	7:30 am – 6:00 pm
8	Gathering Music and Devotional Reflection	7:45 am – 8:00 am
9	First Plenary Session	8:00 am– 10:00 am
10	Welcome and Opening of the Rio Texas Annual Conference	
11	Call to Order	
12	Introductions	
13	Establishing the Bar	
14	Organization and Adoption of the Agenda	
15	Bishop's Message	
16	Nominations Preliminary Report	
17	Special GC 2019 Report	
18	Wellness Moment	
19	Standing Rules Committee Report	
20	Clergy Session – Henry Garret A & B	10:30 am – 12:00 pm
21	Laity Session – Selena Auditorium	10:30 am – 12:00 pm
22	Adjournment for Lunch	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
23	Gathering Music	1:45 pm – 2:00 pm
24	Second Plenary Session	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
25	First Teaching Session – Rev. Tom Berlin	
26	Voting for Clergy and Lay Delegates	
27	Board of Ordained Ministry Report	
28	Wellness Moment	
29	Lydia Patterson Campaign	
30	Voting for Clergy and Lay Delegates	
31	Harvey Relief Efforts	
32	Second Teaching Session – Rev. Tom Berlin	
33	Adjournment for Dinner	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
34	Gathering Music	7:15 pm – 7:30 pm
35	Service of Remembrance	7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
36		

### FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2019

37	Registration	7:00 am – 5:00 pm
38	Ministry Display Area Open	7:30 am – 5:00 pm
39	Gathering Music and Opening Prayer	7:45 am – 8:00 am
40	Third Plenary Session	8:00 am – 10:15 am
41	Third Teaching Session – Rev. Tom Berlin	
42	Concent Agenda and Errata	
43	Nominations Report	
44	Voting for Clergy and Lay Delegates	
45	Creating/Vitalizing Congregations and Developing Leaders	
46	Wellness Moment	
47	Voting for Clergy and Lay Delegates	
48	Break	10:15 am – 10:30 am
49	Celebration of Retirement & Videos	10:30 am – 12:00 pm

1	Adjournment of Lunch	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
2	Gathering Music	1:45 pm – 2:00 pm
3	Fourth Plenary Session	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
4	Mission, Service and Justice Ministries	
5	Voting for Clergy and Lay Delegates	
6	Project Transformation	
7	United Methodist Women	
8	Voting for Clergy and Lay Delegates	
9	Workshops	3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
10	Adjournment for Dinner	4:35 pm – 7:00 pm
11	Fifth Plenary Session	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
12	Voting for Clergy and Lay Delegates	

### SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2019

14	Gathering Music and Opening Prayer	7:45 am – 8:00 am
15	Sixth Plenary Session	8:00 am – 10:30am
16	Teaching Session – Bishop Schnase	
17	Wellness Moment	
18	Finance Table Report	
19	Board of Trustees Report	
20	Pensions and Health Benefits Report	
21	Administration Officer Report	
22	Celebration of Hospitality and Staff Persons	
23	Fixing of the Appointments and Covenant Prayer	
24	Service of Ordination – Selena Auditorium	11:15 am-1:00 pm

## OTHER SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

9:00 AM	Board of Ordained Ministry	Rm. 106, ABC
11:30 AM	Extension Ministries Luncheon	Selena Rotunda, ABC
4:00 PM	Equitable Compensation	Rm. 103, ABC
5:30 PM	Asbury and Alumni & Friends	Henry Garrett Pre-Function, ABC
5:30 PM	Perkins Dinner	Selena Rotunda, ABC

### THURSDAY, JUNE 6

6:00 AM-9:00 AM	Wellness Lab Screening for Health Benefit Plan Participants	Room 226 and 227, ABC
6:00 AM-9:00 AM	Breakfast provided after screening for participants / families	Room 226 and 227, ABC
7:00 AM-6:00 PM	Wellness Conversation Sessions	Room 103, ABC
7:00 AM-6:00 PM	Worship Service	Harborview Rm. 225, ABC
7:00 AM-8:00AM	Rio Texas Wesleyan Covenant Association	Henry Garrett Pre-Function, ABC
10:00 AM	Laity Session	Selena Auditorium, ABC
10:00 AM	Clergy Session	Henry Garrett A & B, ABC
12:00 PM	Peace and Justice Luncheon (MFSA)	Watergarden A, ABC
12:00 PM	Deacon's Luncheon	Selena Rotunda, ABC
5:00 PM	Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Dinner	Selena Rotunda, ABC
5:00 PM	YMC & YAMC	Rooms 101-102, ABC

### FRIDAY, JUNE 7

6:00 AM-9:00 AM	Wellness Lab Screening for Health Benefit Plan Participants	Room 226 and 227, ABC
6:00 AM-9:00 AM	Breakfast provided after screening for participants / families	Room 226 and 227, ABC
7:00 AM-8:00 AM	Mission Breakfast	Rooms 101-102, ABC
10:30 AM-2:00 PM	Wellness Conversation Sessions	Room 103, ABC
12:15 PM	United Methodist Women's Luncheon	Watergarden A, ABC
12:30 PM	Retired Clergy Luncheon	Henry Garrett Pre-Function, ABC
9:30 PM-10:00 PM	Reception	American Bank Center Lobby

COMMITTEE ON STANDING RULES  
REPORT I  
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

This year two changes are being proposed to the Standing Rules.

The last sentence of Rule #15 and the last sentence of Rule #16 are being updated to allow more flexibility in the titles for key staff positions, and to reflect the way these positions are currently being filled.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you.

Barbara Mobley, Chairperson	Edgar Avitia
Mike Cave, Vice-Chairperson	Elva Garza
Bertha Castañeda, Secretary	Eddie Pinchback

REPORT II  
RÍO TEXAS CONFERENCE STANDING RULES  
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

The **Mission** of the Río Texas Conference: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The **Vision** of the Río Texas Conference: Uniting Peoples, Vitalizing Congregations, Developing Leaders, Transforming Communities.

**STRUCTURE AND AGENCIES**

**Uniting Table**

1. There shall be a Uniting Table whose function is to coordinate mission and ministry in the Río Texas Conference through the four Vision Teams focused on the four pillars of the conference Vision: Uniting Peoples, Vitalizing Congregations, Developing Leaders, and Transforming Communities. The Uniting Table and the four Vision Teams are responsible for focusing on the Mission Field. The membership of the Uniting Table shall be: the Bishop (ex officio without vote); the dean of the cabinet; the lay leader; the chairpersons of the Uniting Peoples, Vitalizing Congregations, Developing Leaders and Transforming Communities Vision Teams; the chairperson of the Administration Team; one representative each from the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Committee on the Episcopacy, and the Council on Children's Ministries; the presidents of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, the Youth Ministries Council, and the Young Adult Ministry Council; and the chairperson. There shall also be seven (7) members at large and a Mission Field Advocate, nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. All references in the Book of Discipline to a conference council on ministries will be fulfilled by the Uniting Table. The Uniting Table is accountable to, and funded by, the Annual Conference.

a. There shall be a Mission Field Advocate whose responsibility is to help the Uniting Table and the Vision Teams remain focused on the mission field by advocating for the people who are not in our churches, including those who are in poverty, those who are young, those who are marginalized, and those who are disempowered by our culture and society.

b. The Uniting Table and the four Vision Teams will be expected to recruit and engage lay and clergy persons across the conference to serve on task forces to assist in their responsibilities.

c. Each Vision Team will have funding through the Annual Conference budget. Meetings of the Team will be funded through the amount budgeted to that Team. Appointed task forces also will be funded through the amount provided in the Annual Conference budget assigned to that Team.

d. The Committee on Nominations shall nominate, and the Annual Conference shall elect, the chairpersons of the Uniting Table, each of the four Vision Teams, and the Administration Team. None of these chairpersons shall have any other specific ministry responsibilities on the Uniting Table or any of the Vision Teams, nor shall they be chairperson of any other conference agency.

e. The Constitutions for United Methodist Women (§ 647) and United Methodist Men (§ 648) are included in the 2016 Book of Discipline. United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men are independent organizations which nominate and elect their own leaders. Each of these organizations is represented by the president and/or another designated person on various agencies of the Annual Conference, including the Uniting Table. United Methodist Women relates to the national organization of United Methodist Women. United Methodist Men relates to the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

### **Uniting Peoples Vision Team**

2. There shall be a Uniting Peoples Vision Team whose function is to facilitate unity, witness, communication and justice, and to work toward intercultural competency in all areas of conference life. The membership of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team shall be: two persons whose specific responsibility is Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, two persons whose specific responsibility is Religion and Race, two persons whose specific responsibility is the Status and Role of Women, two persons whose specific responsibility is Communications, two persons whose specific responsibility is Disability Concerns, and a chairperson; all nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. The entire Vision Team has the full responsibility for each of the areas of focus represented by its members. The Uniting Peoples Vision Team relates to the Council of Bishops, the General Commission on Religion and Race, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and to the Uniting Table. The Uniting Peoples Vision Team is accountable to, and funded by, the Annual Conference.

a. There shall be a Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (the commission) whose function is defined in § 642 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, plus all the other members of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission relates to the Council of Bishops, and to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.

b. There shall be a Commission on Religion and Race (the commission) whose function is defined in § 643 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Religion and Race, plus all the other members of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission relates to the General Commission on Religion and Race, and to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.

c. There shall be a Commission on the Status and Role of Women (the commission) whose function is defined in § 644 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is the Status and Role of Women, plus all the other members of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team, plus a member named by the conference United Methodist Women. The chairperson of this commission shall be a woman, and a majority of its members shall be women. The commission relates to the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.

d. There shall be a Commission on Communications (the commission) whose function is defined in § 646 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Communications, plus all the other members of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission relates to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.

e. There shall be a Committee on Disability Concerns (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 653 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Disability Concerns, plus all the other members of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. Membership shall include persons with physical disabilities and persons with mental disabilities. The committee relates to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.

#### Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team

3. There shall be a Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team whose function is to discern, develop and deploy resources pertinent to the fulfillment of the mission and purpose of the local church, and to support the restoring of vitality to the local church. The membership of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team shall be: two persons whose specific responsibility is Discipleship, two persons whose specific responsibility is Congregational Development & Revitalization, two persons whose specific responsibility is Ethnic Local Church Concerns, two persons whose specific responsibility is Parish and Community Development, two persons whose specific responsibility is the Small Membership Church, two persons whose specific responsibility is New Church Development, two persons whose specific responsibility is Children's Ministries, two persons whose specific responsibility is Older Adult Ministries, two persons whose specific responsibility is Hispanic/Latino Ministries, and a chairperson; all nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. Additional members shall be the presidents or designees of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, the Youth Ministries Council, and the Young Adult Ministry Council. The entire Vision Team has the full responsibility for each of the areas of focus represented by its members. The Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team relates to the General Board of Discipleship, the General Board of Global Ministries, and to the Uniting Table. The Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team is accountable to, and funded by, the Annual Conference.

a. There shall be a Board of Discipleship (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 630 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Discipleship, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The board relates to the General Board of Discipleship, and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The board is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

b. There shall be a Committee on Congregational Development and Revitalization (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 633.5e of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Congregational Development and Revitalization, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee relates to the General Board of Global Ministries and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

c. There shall be a Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 632 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Ethnic Local Church Concerns, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee relates to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

d. There shall be a Committee on Parish and Community Development (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 633.5 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Parish and Community Development, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee relates to the General Board of Global Ministries and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Vitalizing

Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

e. There shall be a Commission on the Small Membership Church (the commission) whose function is defined in ¶ 645 and ¶ 633.5i of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is the Small Membership Church, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The commission relates to the General Board of Global Ministries and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

f. There shall be a Committee on New Church Development (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 633.5e-h and ¶ 630.3 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is New Church Development, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee relates to the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Discipleship, and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

g. There shall be a Council on Children's Ministries (the council) whose function is to plan, vision and advocate for children within the conference. The membership of the council shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Children's Ministries, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The council relates to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The council is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

h. There shall be a Council on Older Adult Ministries (the council) whose function is defined in ¶ 651 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the council shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Older Adult Ministries, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The council relates to the General Board of Discipleship, and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The council is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

i. There shall be a Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 655 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Hispanic/Latino Ministries, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. At least one-third of the members shall be Hispanic/Latino persons. The committee is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

j. There shall be a Youth Ministries Council (the council), whose function is defined in ¶ 649 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, and which will fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Council on Youth Ministries. The council will support, encourage and equip youth leaders in the church. The council will consist of 3-5 youth from each district, and will represent the diversity of the conference. No more than one-third of the members of the council will be adults. The council is represented by the president and/or another designated person on various agencies of the Annual Conference, including the Uniting Table. The council relates to the General Board of Discipleship's Division on Ministries with Young People. The council is accountable to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

k. There shall be a Young Adult Ministry Council (the council) whose function is defined in ¶ 650 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, and which will fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Council on Young Adult Ministries. The council will provide voice and support for all young adults in the conference. The council will be a group of diverse young adults called to ministry and service as modeled by Jesus Christ. The council is represented by the president and/or another designated person on various agencies of the Annual Conference, including the Uniting Table. The council relates to the General Board of Discipleship's Division on Ministries with Young People. The

council is accountable to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

#### Developing Leaders Vision Team

4. There shall be a Developing Leaders Vision Team whose function is to call and equip both lay and clergy leaders for the mission field, and to especially encourage younger leaders. The membership of the Developing Leaders Vision Team shall be: two persons whose specific responsibility is Higher Education and Campus Ministry, and a chairperson; all nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. Additional members shall be the presidents or designees of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, the Youth Ministries Council, and the Young Adult Ministry Council; two representatives from the Board of Ordained Ministry; the conference lay leader and the seven (7) district lay leaders. The entire Vision Team has the full responsibility for each of the areas of focus represented by its members, unless otherwise specified by the Book of Discipline. The Developing Leaders Vision Team relates to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and its Division of Higher Education, the General Board of Discipleship, and to the Uniting Table. The Developing Leaders Vision Team is accountable to, and funded by, the Annual Conference.

a. There shall be a Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 634 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Higher Education and Campus Ministry, plus all the other members of the Developing Leaders Vision Team. The board relates to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and its Division of Higher Education, and to the Developing Leaders Vision Team. The board is accountable to the Developing Leaders Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Developing Leaders Vision Team portion of the budget.

b. There shall be a Board of Ordained Ministry (the board) whose function, membership and organization are defined in ¶ 635 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The members of the board shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference. The board shall relate to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The board is accountable to and reports to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Developing Leaders Vision Team portion of the budget.

c. There shall be a Lay Leadership Team whose function is defined in ¶ 631 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, and which will fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Board of Laity. The membership of the Lay Leadership Team shall be the conference lay leader as chairperson and the district lay leaders, plus all the other members of the Developing Leaders Vision Team. The Lay Leadership Team is represented by one or more of its members on various agencies of the Annual Conference. The Lay Leadership Team relates to the General Board of Discipleship, and to the Developing Leaders Vision Team. The Lay Leadership Team is accountable to and reports to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Developing Leaders Vision Team portion of the budget.

#### Transforming Communities Vision Team

5. There shall be a Transforming Communities Vision Team whose function is to equip, educate and support congregations around the areas of mission and The Advance, specific ethnic concerns, and justice issues. The membership of the Transforming Communities Vision Team shall be: two persons whose specific responsibility is Church and Society, two persons whose specific responsibility is Global Ministries, two persons whose specific responsibility is Native American Ministries, two persons whose specific responsibility is The Advance Program, two persons whose specific responsibility is the Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, the Secretary of Global Ministries, and a chairperson; all nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. The Peace with Justice Coordinator shall also be a member. The entire Vision Team has the full responsibility for each of the areas of focus represented by its members. The Transforming Communities Vision Team relates to the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Global Ministries, and to the Uniting Table. The Transforming Communities Vision Team is accountable to, and funded by, the Annual Conference.



1 a. There shall be a Board of Church and Society (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 629 of the 2016 Book  
2 of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose  
3 specific responsibility is Church and Society, plus all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision  
4 Team, plus a member named by the conference United Methodist Women. The board relates to the General  
5 Board of Church and Society, and to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The board is accountable to  
6 the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the  
7 Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget. The board shall name the Peace with Justice  
8 Coordinator.

10 b. There shall be a Board of Global Ministries (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 633 of the 2016 Book of  
11 Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose  
12 specific responsibility is Global Ministries, plus all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision  
13 Team, including the Secretary of Global Ministries, plus a member named by the conference United Methodist  
14 Women. The board relates to the General Board of Global Ministries, and to the Transforming Communities  
15 Vision Team. The board is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual  
16 Conference, and is funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.

18 c. There shall be a Committee on Native American Ministries (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 654  
19 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual  
20 Conference whose specific responsibility is Native American Ministries, plus all the other members of the  
21 Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee relates to the Transforming Communities Vision Team.  
22 The committee is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and  
23 is funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.

26 d. There shall be a Committee on The Advance (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 656 of the 2016  
27 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference  
28 whose specific responsibility is The Advance, plus all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision  
29 Team. The committee relates to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee is accountable to  
30 the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the  
31 Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.

32 e. There shall be a Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (the committee) whose function is  
33 defined in ¶ 657 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons  
34 elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, plus all  
35 the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee relates to the Transforming  
36 Communities Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to  
37 the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.

#### 39 Administration Team

40 6. There shall be an Administration Team whose function is to provide ongoing administrative support to the  
41 conference through the agencies represented among its members. The membership of the Administration Team  
42 shall be one representative each from the Finance Table, the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Standing Rules,  
43 the Agenda and Worship Committee, the Committee on the Episcopacy, the Episcopal Residence Committee, the  
44 Board of Pensions, the Commission on Archives and History, and the Committee on Nominations, plus a chairperson.  
45 Each of these functions will be carried out by a separate and independent agency whose members are nominated  
46 by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference, unless otherwise specified by the Book of  
47 Discipline. Each of these agencies is directly accountable to the Annual Conference, reports to the Annual  
48 Conference, and is funded through the budget of the Annual Conference, unless otherwise specified by the Book of  
49 Discipline.

51 a. There shall be a Finance Table whose function is defined in ¶¶ 611-628 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, and which  
52 will fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Council on Finance and Administration. The Finance Table  
53 will also fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Commission on Equitable Compensation, whose function  
54 is defined in ¶ 625 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be sixteen (16) members of the Finance Table. The  
55 Finance Table relates to the General Council on Finance and Administration. There shall also be a Personnel

1 Committee to carry out those functions of the Finance Table in ¶ 613.13 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall  
2 be four (4) members of the Personnel Committee plus a representative of the Finance Table and a district  
3 superintendent.

4  
5 b. There shall be a Board of Trustees whose function is defined in ¶ 2512 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall  
6 be twelve (12) members of the Board of Trustees, who will be elected in four classes of three members each. The  
7 first Board of Trustees will have three persons elected by the Southwest Texas Conference whose terms end in June  
8 2015, three persons elected by the Río Grande Conference whose terms end in June 2016, three persons elected by  
9 the Río Grande Conference whose terms end in June 2017, and three persons elected by the Southwest Texas  
10 Conference whose terms end in June 2018. The members of the Board of Trustees are also members of the Board  
11 of Directors of the United Methodist Río Texas Conference Board of Trustees corporation, and their election shall be  
12 consistent with the Certificate of Formation and the Bylaws of that corporation.

13  
14  
15 c. There shall be a Committee on Standing Rules whose function is to oversee the rules of the Annual Conference,  
16 as permitted in ¶ 604.1 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be six (6) members of the Committee on Standing  
17 Rules.

18  
19 d. There shall be an Agenda and Worship Committee whose function is defined in ¶ 605.2 of the 2016 Book of  
20 Discipline. The members of the Agenda and Worship Committee shall be the Bishop and the Assistant to the  
21 Episcopal Office; the seven district superintendents; the presidents of United Methodist Women, United Methodist  
22 Men, the Young Adult Ministry Council, and the Youth Ministries Council; the conference lay leader; the conference  
23 treasurer; the conference secretary; the chairperson of the Uniting Table; and a Worship Team Coordinator recruited  
24 by the committee.

25  
26 e. There shall be a Committee on the Episcopacy whose function is defined in ¶ 637 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.  
27 There shall be twelve (12) members of the Committee on the Episcopacy.

28  
29 f. There shall be an Episcopal Residence Committee whose function is defined in ¶ 638 of the 2016 Book of  
30 Discipline. There shall be six (6) members of the Episcopal Residence Committee.

31  
32 g. There shall be a Board of Pensions whose function is defined in ¶ 639 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall  
33 be sixteen (16) members of the Board of Pensions who will serve eight-year staggered terms, with four members  
34 being elected every other year. The first Board of Pensions will have four persons whose terms end in June 2016,  
35 four persons whose terms end in June 2018, four persons whose terms end in June 2020, and four persons whose  
36 terms end in June 2022 in order to establish the staggered terms. The 2014 conferences will each elect two persons  
37 for each class to make up the first Board of Pensions. The members of the Board of Pensions are also members of  
38 the Board of Directors of the United Methodist Río Texas Conference Board of Pensions corporation, and their  
39 election shall be consistent with the Certificate of Formation and the Bylaws of that corporation. The Board of  
40 Pensions relates to the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

41  
42  
43 h. There shall be a Commission on Archives and History whose function is defined in ¶ 641 of the 2016 Book of  
44 Discipline. There shall be eight (8) members of the Commission on Archives and History. The Commission on  
45 Archives and History relates to the General Commission on Archives and History and to the Uniting Table through  
46 the chairperson of the Administration Team.

47  
48 i. There shall be a Committee on Nominations (the committee) whose function is to identify nominees for each  
49 elected leadership position for which the Book of Discipline does not specify another method of nomination. The  
50 members of the committee shall be the Bishop and the Assistant to the Episcopal Office; the seven district  
51 superintendents; one person from each parent conference representing United Methodist Women, United  
52 Methodist Men, the Young Adult Ministry Council, and the Youth Ministries Council; the conference lay leader; and  
53 six (6) at large members nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference to

1 ensure equal representation on the committee from each of the parent conferences. At least through 2024 the  
2 Committee on Nominations will consist of an equal number of members from each of the parent conferences.

3  
4 7. There shall be an Administrative Review Committee (the committee) whose function and membership are defined  
5 in ¶ 636 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be three (3) members of the committee and two (2) alternates,  
6 nominated by the Bishop and elected by the clergy session of the Annual Conference. The committee is accountable  
7 to the clergy session of the Annual Conference.

8  
9 Applying to All Agencies

10 8. The Committee on Nominations shall work toward the goals of inclusiveness as set forth in ¶ 610.5 in the 2016  
11 Book of Discipline which states: "...special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth (¶ 256.3),  
12 young adults, older adults, persons from churches with small memberships, people with disabilities, and racial and  
13 ethnic persons, in keeping with policies for general Church agencies. It is further recommended that the membership  
14 of such agencies, except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, include one-third clergy, one-third laywomen, and one-  
15 third laymen, who are professing members of local churches." The Committee on Nominations shall also strive for  
16 equal representation from the districts; and, to the extent possible, the diversity of those nominated should reflect  
17 the diversity of the Mission Field. It will be important at least through 2020 that both the parent conferences be  
18 equally represented on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Pensions, and that both be well represented on the  
19 Uniting Table and the Vision Teams.

20  
21 9. The term of membership in any conference agency is quadrennial, except where the Book of Discipline stipulates  
22 otherwise. The maximum that a person can serve in an agency is two full terms, except where the Book of Discipline  
23 stipulates otherwise, or when he/she is filling a vacancy during the quadrennium. Filling a vacancy of an unexpired  
24 term of more than two years is considered to be a full term and shall count the same as four years.

25  
26  
27 10. Any elected position on a conference agency which is vacant at the end of the Annual Conference session or  
28 which becomes vacant during the conference year may be filled by the Committee on Nominations, unless otherwise  
29 specified by the Book of Discipline.

30  
31 11. Ex-officio members of an agency, including members of General and Jurisdictional Agencies who reside within  
32 the bounds of the conference, are in addition to the agency members named above.

33  
34 12. Chairpersons of conference agencies should be sensitive to the work schedules of laity when setting meetings.

35  
36  
37 13. When a person is absent without notice from two consecutive conference agency meetings of which he/she is  
38 a member, such person shall be considered to have resigned such membership, and the Committee on Nominations  
39 shall be notified that another person can be nominated for the remainder of the term.

40  
41 14. No district superintendent or conference staff person shall be eligible to serve as an elective member of any  
42 conference agency. If a member at the time of appointment or hire, he/she shall be considered to have resigned  
43 such membership.

44  
45 Conference Staff and Resources

46 15. There shall be a Mission Vitality Center to equip churches to reach the mission field to make disciples of Jesus  
47 Christ for the transformation of the world. The Mission Vitality Center relates to and supports the work of the four  
48 Vision Teams: to empower and equip all those working with existing congregations, and to assist and support those  
49 starting new faith communities; to offer leadership development to lay and clergy leaders; to mobilize all of us to  
50 transform communities through missional opportunities and engagement; and to support communications and lead  
51 the conference in using new and emerging technologies as tools for ministry. The Mission Vitality Center will seek  
52 to build capacity at the district level to better serve local churches in their mission. The Mission Vitality Center will

also support the Board of Ordained Ministry and its clergy wellness initiatives, the conference centers offering retreats and learning experiences, youth and young adult ministries, and registration services for such events. The Mission Vitality Center shall be accountable to, and funded by, the Annual Conference. There shall be a director or equivalent position to oversee the functions an Executive Director of the Mission Vitality Center, filled by appointment or otherwise at the Bishop's discretion and other staff persons as determined by the Personnel Committee.

16. There shall be an Administrative Services Center whose function is to manage the financial resources of the conference, and to develop alternative sources of funding for the conference. The Administrative Services Center will encourage collaboration and partnership among all program, administrative and financial entities of the conference. The Administrative Services Center relates to and supports the work of the Finance Table and the Commission on Equitable Compensation, the Board of Trustees, the Board of Pensions, the conference treasurer, and the office of New Resource Development, as well as the other non-program agencies as needed. The Administrative Services Center shall be accountable to the Finance Table and to the Annual Conference, and shall be funded by the Annual Conference. There shall be a director or equivalent position to oversee the functions an Executive Director of the Administrative Services Center, filled by appointment or otherwise at the Bishop's discretion and other staff persons as determined by the Personnel Committee.

17. There shall be an Assistant to the Episcopal Office who will provide assistance with the administrative tasks of the Episcopal Office. This position may be filled, by appointment or otherwise, at the Bishop's discretion.

#### MEMBERSHIP OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

18. The lay membership of the Annual Conference shall be:

##### Lay Members Defined by the Book of Discipline

- a. A professing member elected by each charge, as provided for in ¶ 602.4 of the 2016 Book of Discipline;
- b. An additional lamember assigned to each charge for each additional clergy member who is appointed to the charge as provided for in ¶ 602.4 of the 2016 Book of Discipline;
- c. Diaconal ministers, active deaconesses, home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the Annual Conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of lay servant ministries, conference secretary of global ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the Annual Conference college student organization, one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the Annual Conference, as provided in ¶ 602.4 and ¶ 32 of the 2016 Book of Discipline;

(The method for selecting the youth, college and young adult representatives to Annual Conference will be as follows: the conference youth organization will select one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) from each district; the conference young adult organization will select one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district. In the absence of a college student organization, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry will select the college student to serve as a Lay Member of the Annual Conference. Each of the agencies is responsible for providing the names and contact information for these persons to the conference secretary no later than January 15 each year.)

##### Lay Members Defined by Annual Conference

- d. An additional lay member assigned to each church that does not have a lay member as provided for in 18a and 18b above; and
- e. Other members as defined by the Annual Conference to include: an additional representative of the executive committees of the conference organizations of United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, youth, and young adults; the president and one additional representative of the executive committees of the district organizations of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, youth, and young adults; the chancellor, the conference emmaus lay director (if any), the conference scouting coordinator (if any), conference associate lay leaders (if any), conference elected executive personnel (if any), the chairperson of any conference agency or standing committee

that reports directly to the Annual Conference; lay members of the Uniting Table and Finance Table; and one lay member for each unchartered new church start elected by the district in which the new church start is located.

f. Additional lay members required to equalize lay and clergy membership shall be assigned to each district based upon district membership. The conference secretary shall notify each district superintendent of the number of additional lay members to be elected no later than sixty (60) days following Annual Conference. Each district will determine the method of election.

g. Through 2024 the additional lay members elected shall include members of both parent conferences.

h. At least 10% of these additional lay members shall be age 30 or under at the time of election.

19. In accordance with ¶ 659 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, the District Conferences will be composed of all members of Annual Conference as set forth in the Standing Rules who are related to churches within the bounds of their respective districts and currently elected to office. In addition, it shall include the chairperson of each district agency.

## **CONFERENCE PROCEDURES**

20. Proposals and reports from conference agencies shall be compiled in a Pre-Conference Report that shall be made available as an electronic document or in printed form to all conference members at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Conference session. Each report shall be marked "For Conference Action" or "For Information Only."

21. The Annual Conference shall make available English and Spanish editions of all official correspondence, including but not limited to the contents of the Pre-Conference Report and the Conference Journal. The Annual Conference shall also provide oral translation between Spanish and English, and support for hearing and vision impaired persons, during the sessions of the Annual Conference.

22. Resolutions shall reach the floor of the conference only after consideration and action of the appropriate conference agency.

23. The conference procedures will be governed by the following in order of precedence: the Book of Discipline, the Standing Rules, any special rules adopted by the Annual Conference, and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

24. The conference secretary shall establish the bar of the conference. The conference secretary shall nominate, and the Annual Conference elect, the persons needed to assist in the proceedings of the conference. These include the timekeeper, tellers, associate secretaries, and the minutes committee.

25. Speakers should identify themselves, giving their name and church, and whether they are a clergy or lay member of the conference.

26. Each speech from the floor for or against a motion will be limited to three minutes. The timekeeper will inform the Bishop when the time has expired.

27. Consent Agenda 1 consists of reports from conference agencies which are not for action, but are "For Information Only." The conference acts only to receive these reports and print them in the journal. Consent Agenda 2 consists of action reports about which there is believed to be little or no dissent. The items included in Consent Agenda 2 are determined by a task force composed of members of the Agenda and Worship Committee. Any member of the Annual Conference may move the deletion of any of the items from Consent Agendas. With a second,

and a one-minute explanation by the maker of the motion, it will be voted on by the conference without debate. If 20% of the members vote that the item be removed, it will be removed and brought to the floor as a non-consent item at a time to be determined by the Agenda and Worship Committee.

28. The Committee on Standing Rules shall report to the Annual Conference during the first business session of each Annual Conference. Revisions or amendments must be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Annual Conference, and become effective immediately upon their adoption, unless otherwise stated in the enabling legislation. The Standing Rules may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Annual Conference.

29. The preliminary report of the Committee on Nominations will be presented early in the agenda of the Annual Conference proceedings, including the process for nominations from the floor. The final report of the Committee on Nominations will be presented and acted upon at a later session of that Annual Conference.

30. Any report or resolution requiring action of the conference must be in the hands of the conference secretary early enough to allow for printing and distribution to the conference twenty-four (24) hours before the report is considered by the conference. Motions made from the floor must be presented in writing to the presiding officer and the conference secretary at the time the motion is made.

31. The conference lay leader will chair the Committee on Resolutions and Courtesies, and will be responsible for appointing additional persons to assist in preparation of the report.

32. The only materials that are allowed to be placed on the tables of the conference floor are those official materials distributed by the conference secretary and his/her staff.

33. The minutes shall be available online no later than sixty days after the closing of the Annual Conference session.

#### **OTHER**

34. The Local Church Report to the Annual Conference (Annual Statistical Report) required by the general church will be completed and filed with the conference no later than January 30, as stated in ¶ 606.7 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. This can be done using the method determined by the conference statistician to be the easiest and most effective manner.

35. There will be a Policy Manual containing policies adopted by the Annual Conference. Changes in these policies must be approved by the Annual Conference. The conference secretary will make these available as an electronic document and in printed form

36. Any minister of the Annual Conference who conducts the funeral or memorial service of a fellow minister or a minister's spouse shall provide the conference secretary with a memorial for that person within one month, in accordance with the Guidelines on Memoirs to be furnished by the conference secretary.

FINANCE TABLE (CF&A)  
REPORT I  
AUTHORITY OF THE FINANCE TABLE (CF&A) TO RESPOND TO UNFORESEEN FINANCIAL SITUATIONS  
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

The Finance Table (CF&A) has the authority to adjust the budget implementation on the basis of changing economic conditions and unforeseen circumstances as authorized in ¶613.5 – 613.11 and ¶616 – 618 2016 *Book of Discipline*.

REPORT II  
SUPPORT FOR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS  
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

The Finance Table (CF&A) is recommending that the salary and benefits for the Río Texas Conference District Superintendents for 2020 be set as follows:

**Compensation**

Cash salary for 2020 is set at \$99,760 per annum.

Clergy Retirement Security Plan, Comprehensive Protection Plan, Health Benefits, and utilities shall vary according to their actual cost.

**Expenses to be Provided by the Districts**

Office space, office telephone (including long distance), postage, secretarial service, printing, office utilities and insurance on furniture and equipment if applicable, library and periodical expenses, entertainment related to the district, and other normal expenses related to the superintendency not paid by the Annual Conference.

The district shall also provide a parsonage, parsonage utilities (not including personal long distance), parsonage maintenance and insurance on parsonage or an appropriate housing allowance.

REPORT III  
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION POLICIES  
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

**Minimum Pastoral Support Policies**

The minimum salary levels for 2020 shall be:

For a Full or Probationary member \$41,500 per annum.

For an Associate member \$38,500 per annum.

For an Approved Local Pastor or member of another denomination \$35,400 per annum.

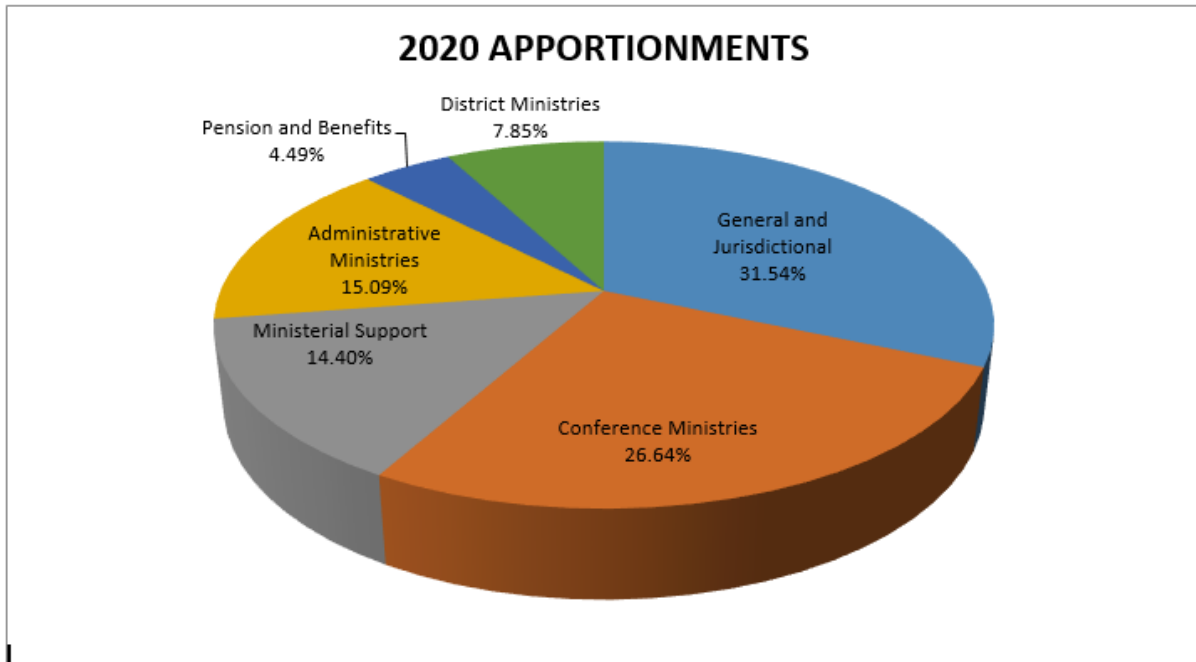
Plus \$75 for each year of service completed after 2<sup>nd</sup> year with a maximum of \$1,425

Plus \$200 for 2<sup>nd</sup> church in charge and \$100 for each additional church in the charge

**REPORT IV**  
**2020 APPORTIONED FUNDS**  
*FOR CONFERENCE ACTION*

Fund Name	2018 Approved	2019 Approved	2020 Proposed	2020 vs 2019 % Change	2020 vs 2019 \$ Change
<b>A General and Jurisdictional Total</b>	2,810,499	2,862,642	2,812,286	-1.76%	(50,356)
<b>B Conference Ministries Total</b>	2,311,317	2,248,818	2,375,323	5.63%	126,505
<b>C Ministerial Support Total</b>	1,456,380	1,372,369	1,284,085	-6.43%	(88,284)
<b>D Administrative Ministries Total</b>	1,337,588	1,340,624	1,345,769	0.38%	5,145
<b>E Pension and Benefits</b>	1,166,537	1,011,000	400,000	-60.44%	(611,000)
<b>F District Missions</b>	700,000	700,000	700,000	0.00%	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9,782,321</b>	<b>9,535,453</b>	<b>8,917,463</b>	<b>-6.48%</b>	<b>(617,990)</b>

**2020 APPORTIONED FUNDS**





	2018 Approved	2019 Approved	2020 Proposed	% Change 2020 vs 2019	\$ Change 2020 vs 2019
<b>A General and Jurisdictional</b>					
1 GC: World Service	1,400,182	1,427,005	1,404,100	-1.82%	(25,905)
2 GC: Ministerial Educational Fund	472,916	481,976	473,227	-1.82%	(8,749)
3 GC: General Episcopal Fund	414,651	422,594	414,923	-1.82%	(7,671)
4 GC: Black College Fund	188,642	192,256	188,766	-1.82%	(3,490)
5 GC: General Administration Fund	166,260	169,445	166,369	-1.82%	(3,076)
6 GC: Africa University	42,217	43,026	42,245	-1.82%	(781)
7 GC: Interdenominational Cooperation	36,985	37,694	37,010	-1.81%	(684)
8 SCJ: Lydia Patterson Institute	54,849	54,849	54,849	0.00%	-
9 SCJ: Mission and Administration Fund	29,564	29,564	29,564	0.00%	-
10 SCJ: SMU Campus Ministry/Reserves	4,233	4,233	4,233	0.00%	-
<b>General and Jurisdictional Total</b>	<b>2,810,499</b>	<b>2,862,642</b>	<b>2,812,286</b>	<b>-1.76%</b>	<b>(50,356)</b>
<b>B Conference Ministries</b>					
1 Staffing	1,084,054	990,887	980,573	-1.04%	(10,314)
2 Congregational Excellence	240,000	338,000	444,250	31.43%	106,250
3 Clergy and Lay Leadership	519,886	432,931	424,500	-1.95%	(8,431)
4 Connectional Ministries	234,000	234,000	273,000	16.67%	39,000
5 Transforming Communities	40,000	35,000	35,000	0.00%	-
6 Mission Vitality Operations	141,377	118,000	118,000	0.00%	-
7 Administration Team	2,000	-	-	-	-
8 Lydia Patterson Institute Capital Campaign	50,000*	50,000	50,000	0.00%	-
9 Contingency General	-	50,000	50,000	0.00%	-
<b>Conference Ministries Total</b>	<b>2,311,317</b>	<b>2,248,818</b>	<b>2,375,323</b>	<b>5.63%</b>	<b>126,505</b>
<b>C Ministerial Support</b>					
1 District Superintendent/Cabinet Support	1,046,880	962,869	877,085	-8.91%	(85,784)
2 Episcopal Support/Executive Fund	47,500	47,500	45,000	-5.26%	(2,500)
3 Equitable Compensation	130,000	130,000	130,000	0.00%	-
4 Moving Expenses	200,000	200,000	200,000	0.00%	-
5 Golden Cross	5,000	5,000	5,000	0.00%	-
6 Investigations/Emergency Response	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.00%	-
7 Cabinet Emergency Response	20,000	20,000	20,000	0.00%	-
<b>Ministerial Support Total</b>	<b>1,456,380</b>	<b>1,372,369</b>	<b>1,284,085</b>	<b>-6.43%</b>	<b>(88,284)</b>
<b>D Administrative Ministries</b>					
1 United Methodist Center Maintenance	200,000	200,000	270,000	35.00%	70,000
2 Conference Reserves	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
3 Commission on Archives & History	18,000	18,000	18,000	0.00%	-
4 Auditing	112,000	112,000	112,000	0.00%	-
5 Journal	5,000	5,000	2,000	-60%	(3,000)
6 Mount Wesley Conference Center	100,000	85,000	-	-	(85,000)
7 Administrative Ministries Staffing	820,825	838,861	762,006	-9.16%	(76,855)
8 Administrative Ministries Team Support	81,763	81,763	81,763	0.00%	-
<b>Administrative Ministries Total</b>	<b>1,337,588</b>	<b>1,340,624</b>	<b>1,345,769</b>	<b>0.38%</b>	<b>5,145</b>
<b>E Pensions and Benefits</b>	<b>1,166,537</b>	<b>1,011,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>-60.44%</b>	<b>(611,000)</b>
<b>F District Ministries</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9,782,321</b>	<b>9,535,453</b>	<b>8,917,463</b>	<b>-6.48%</b>	<b>(617,990)</b>

REPORT V  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The purpose of the Finance Table (CF&A) is “to develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the Annual Conference” (§612.1 2016 *Book of Discipline*).

In keeping with the Disciplinary purpose, the Finance Table (CF&A) sees itself as an integral part of the mission and ministry of the Conference. We are working to improve communications with the other agencies of the Conference to ensure that our work is supportive of the ministries and goals of the Uniting Table and the Mission Vitality Center.

Receipts on all funds for 2018 by the Río Texas Conference were \$9,913,633.33 or 92.97% of the apportioned amount. The Finance Table (CF&A) is proposing the budget for 2020. The overall apportioned budget for all funds totals \$8,917,463.

The Finance Table (CF&A) sees itself as joining with the local church in the work of the financial ministry of the Annual Conference. We commend the 2020 budget to the Conference. It represents the uniqueness and depth of ministries and missions provided by our church and economic realities of our Conference. The Finance Table (CF&A), along with the Conference Treasurer, has been monitoring membership and economic trends within the Conference, the Global Church, and society at large. We believe that the future health and vitality of our ministry will require that the amounts apportioned to the local churches will need to be significantly reduced over the next few years. As the goals and direction of the Conference become clearer, we will be working with the Bishop, the Uniting Table, and the Mission Vitality Center to ensure that the budget and apportionments accurately reflect those goals and support those ministries. At the same time, we will continue to work with our Conference Treasurer, the Personnel Committee and other Conference leaders to improve communications, systems and efficiency.

Operating Policies of the Finance Table (CF&A):

1. Following is the list of approved funds of the Río Texas Conference. These funds will be allocated to each mission or chartered church/charge according to the formulas that follow.

General and Jurisdictional

Conference Ministries (formerly Conference Benevolences)

Ministerial Support

Administrative Ministries (formerly Conference Administration)

Pension and Benefits

District Missions

The decimal formula shall be based on the two year average of local church operating expenses divided by two years of conference-wide local church operating expenses times each apportioned fund. Operating expenses include only these line items from the Local Church Report to the Annual Conference:

Line 41 – Pastor(s) Compensation

Line 42 – Utilities and Housing Paid to Pastor(s)

Line 43 – Accountable Reimbursement Paid to Pastor(s)

Line 44 – Non-Accountable Cash Allowances Paid to Pastor(s)

Line 45 – Staff & Diaconal Ministers Salary

Line 46 – Program Expenses

Line 47 – Current Operating Expenses other than Program

$$\frac{\text{2 years of Local Church Operating Expenses}}{\text{2 Years of Conference-Wide Local Church Operating Expenses}} \times \text{Each Conference Apportioned Fund}$$

If there are separate district apportionments determined by each district, they will be allocated according to the following formula.

$$\frac{\text{2 years of Local Church Operating Expenses}}{\text{2 Years of District-Wide Local Church Operating Expenses}} \times \text{Each District Apportioned Fund}$$

2. At the beginning of the calendar year, the Finance Table (CF&A) shall determine which portions of the Conference Ministries and Administrative Ministries are “fixed costs” (salaries, benefits, etc.) and shall thus be authorized to be paid at 100% of the approved budget. On the basis of prior-year receipts to these funds, the Finance Table shall then determine a percentage of the approved budget to be authorized for expenditures in the remaining items of each budget, so that expenditures shall not exceed income.
  - a. Each church is expected to support all funds at 100% of the apportioned amount. (§247.14 2016 *Book of Discipline*)
  - b. The churches are requested to make payments thereon aggregately, with the understanding that the Conference Treasurer will allocate such payments according to the appropriate percentage due the fund according to the Conference Budget.
3. An Unrestricted Fund Balance Account will be maintained by the Annual Conference at a minimum level of 20% of the current total of the Conference Funds. Any undesignated interest income will be transferred to the undesignated fund balance at the end of the fiscal year.
4. All apportioned funds, pension and health benefits costs both receipts and disbursements, will be managed through the office of the Conference Treasurer. All boards, agencies, committees, and commissions shall use the Conference Treasurer as the fiscal agent.

- 1 5. The compensation (including housing and utilities) for District Superintendents shall be recommended to the Annual  
2 Conference by the Finance Table (CF&A), using a guideline formula adopted by the Personnel Committee of 1.85  
3 times the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). Calculate the cash portion as follows: 2019 CAC x 1.85 = DS Plan  
4 Compensation. Then, (DS Plan Comp – utilities) / 1.25 = Cash Salary. Example: Where utilities are \$5,000 and housing  
5 is 25% of Cash Salary; \$70,108 x 1.85 = \$129,700. Then, (\$129,700 – \$5,000) / 1.25 = \$99,760. The purpose of the  
6 formula is to relate DS Compensation to Full Time Clergy Compensation. We recommend that the salary  
7 computation should also be applied to other clergy appointed to the conference staff at Cabinet level.  
8  
9
- 10 6. All agencies receiving funds from the Conference budget shall affirm that funds will not be expended for uses not  
11 consistent with ¶613.18-19 2016 *Book of Discipline*.  
12
- 13 7. The amount of compensation designated as housing allowance for ordained staff members and district  
14 superintendents of the Conference will be set by an annual resolution of the Conference Finance Table (CF&A) after  
15 consideration of a statement of amounts to be used during the year.  
16  
17
- 18 8. The governing boards of United Methodist related entities must apply to the Finance Table (CF&A) to be granted the  
19 privilege of soliciting and receiving funds from churches, individuals, and other sources (but not from conference-  
20 wide offerings except as indicated in the list which follows) in keeping with ¶262 2016 *Book of Discipline*; no capital  
21 campaigns have been approved for 2019; and the following, and only the following, conference-wide offerings are  
22 approved for 2020:  
23 Human Relations Day.....General Conference  
24 UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing).....General Conference  
25 Native American Awareness.....General Conference  
26 Peace with Justice.....General Conference  
27 World Communion.....General Conference  
28 United Methodist Student Day.....General Conference  
29 Harvest Sunday (see Transforming Communities Vision Team Report).....Annual Conference  
30
- 31 9. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary of the Conference Finance Table (CF&A), the Chairperson of the  
32 Audit Committee, the Chairperson of Equitable Compensation and the Conference Treasurer/Director of  
33 Administrative Ministries constitute the executive committee of the Conference Finance Table (CF&A).  
34
- 35 10. The Finance Table (CF&A) is authorized to appoint a Conference auditor.  
36
- 37 11. A Conference Fund will not be permitted to carry over unobligated budget allocations from one conference year to  
38 another unless specifically authorized by the Finance Table (CF&A). Agencies receiving funds from sources other than  
39 apportioned funds may carry over such unspent funds into the next year. Any unobligated budget allocations not  
40 authorized for carryover will be added to the undesignated Fund Balance of the Annual Conference.  
41  
42
- 43 12. Each year, the Conference Comptroller shall set a cutoff date for all apportionment payments to the Conference  
44 Treasurer to be applied to the preceding year. The cutoff date will be communicated to the local churches no later  
45 than December 1 each year.  
46

- 1 13. Each Conference board, agency, or institution receiving or disbursing funds not managed by the Conference  
2 Treasurer shall maintain adequate financial records and prepare and submit annual audit reports to the Conference  
3 Treasurer and the Finance Table (CF&A). All treasurers shall be properly bonded.  
4  
5  
6 14. The Conference fiscal year shall begin on January 1 each year, and end on December 31 each year.  
7  
8 15. The Conference Finance Table (CF&A) is responsible for designating depositories for Conference funds.  
9  
10  
11 16. The Conference will include in each annual budget an appropriate line for each "shall" ministry as defined by *The*  
12 *Book of Discipline*.  
13

REPORT VI  
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION POLICIES  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

14 The Río Texas Conference Equitable Compensation Policy is as adopted in the Journal of the Special Session of the Southwest  
15 Texas and Rio Grande Conferences, February 8, 2014, pages 81 through 110. The Called Special Session Journal is available  
16 at <https://riotexas.org/annual-conference-journal-rio-texas-conference>  
17  
18

REPORT VII  
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION POLICY FOR THE USE OF HISPANIC MINISTRY FUND  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

19 The Commission recommends the following strategic process to provide assistance for pastoral leadership to new and  
20 existing churches engaged in ministries with Hispanics/Latinos within the Río Texas Conference utilizing the Hispanic Ministry  
21 Fund. The process involves various local, district and conference entities in order to provide the most strategic use of these  
22 limited funds.

23 The Commission shall be responsible for the following:  
24

- 25 1. Collect and analyze data\* pertaining to local churches engaged in or with potential to be in ministry with  
26 Hispanics/Latinos in communities of growth, in collaboration with the Mission Vitality Center;  
27 2. Identify and list possible local churches that could benefit from these funds, in collaboration with the Mission  
28 Vitality Center;  
29 3. Share the data and list of local churches with the Bishop and Cabinet, district strategy teams, and key conference  
30 staff in order to discuss, negotiate, and prioritize potential local churches;  
31 4. In consultation with the district strategy teams, invite local churches to apply to the Commission's Hispanic Ministry  
32 Fund, review applications, and approve annual grants;  
33 5. Require the approved local churches to incorporate and utilize appropriate conference programs and tools, such  
34 as coaches, mentors, Healthy Church Initiative, etc., and monitor and celebrate progress in its development and  
35 accomplishments of ministry with Hispanics/Latinos;  
36 6. Review and approve additional grants to same churches and others annually.  
37

38 \* Data to be gathered and analyzed includes the following:

39 population growth (actual and projected)	profile of the area served or to be served
40 membership growth (trend)	average worship attendance (trend)
41 number of baptisms (trend)	number of professions of faith (trend)
42 number of years of existence	outreach programs
43 ethnicity of congregation (trend)	age profile of members

language(s) utilized by congregation  
other key indicators

building size: sanctuary, educational bldg.

**REPORT VIII**  
**MEETING EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

All boards and agencies are urged to schedule meetings, as far as possible, on dates and places coinciding with other groups in order to affect economy in travel expenses. Travel Expense shall be paid to members going to official in-conference meetings (between Annual Conference Sessions) at the rate of 40¢ per mile. The allowance for meals shall be \$3.00 for breakfast; \$7.00 each for lunch and dinner necessitated by the meetings. Reimbursement of 100% of lodging expenses necessitated by meetings at contracted hotels through the Annual Conference will be made. Those who choose to stay elsewhere will be reimbursed at the lowest contracted rate. The Conference meeting organizer will provide contracted hotel information to participants. Original lodging receipts must accompany the Disbursement Request. These allowances are not to cover full cost at all times, simply to assist in the additional expense of attending meetings.

Childcare expenses per meeting day not to exceed \$30.00 for the first child, not to exceed \$20.00 for each additional child, shall be allowed and included in the meeting expense of the board or agency.

Travel for duly elected delegates or representatives of the Conference to meetings of other organizations or connectional agencies shall be paid as stated above. However, actual air travel, lodging, and other expenses may be paid if funds are available from the board or agency concerned.

When it is necessary to fly to a meeting, flight must be booked at least 14 days prior to the meeting. If flights are not booked 14 days prior to the meeting, the member booking the flight must pay the difference in the cost of the flight. This does not apply in the rare instances when the meeting is an emergency meeting that is not announced prior to 14 days.

Each local church is encouraged to undergird the meal, transportation, and lodging expenses of Annual Conference members in attending Annual Conference by adding a minimum of \$100 to the church budget for each lay and clergy delegate. The district superintendents are asked to encourage such support at each Charge Conference.

**REPORT IX**  
**AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Río Texas Conference Audit Committee is chartered and reports to the Finance Table (CF&A). The Audit Committee is in the process of reviewing audits of 2018 financial statements. Audits for the Río Texas Conference and Board of Pensions will be published in the Conference Journal later in 2019. Members of the Río Texas Audit Committee are as follows:

Jim Noble	Clergy	Chairman
Zeda Alvarado	Laity	
Drew Claes	Laity	
Brad DeHaven	Clergy	
Oscar Garza	Laity	
John Winn	Laity	
Jim Wynn	Laity	

TEXAS UNITED METHODIST COLLEGE ASSOCIATION  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

As a result of the generous support of our churches in Texas, the mission and ministry of the Texas United Methodist College Association remains strong. The churches have exhibited an extravagant generosity through their support of scholarships for TUMCA students in our United Methodist Universities. We believe this partnership reflects a Wesleyan tradition of the union and power of knowledge and vital piety. Together they provide an education well suited to the challenges of modern life.

The TUMCA funds granted to Southwestern University, Southern Methodist University, McMurry University, and Texas Wesleyan University are restricted to scholarships for deserving student from United Methodist congregations in Texas. During the Fall of this academic year, 86 students representing all five of the Texas United Methodist Conferences have received TUMCA scholarships this academic year (2018-19). They join thousands of others who have been helped through the years by the support of our United Methodist family. As always, funds cannot be used for endowment or capital projects. All support goes to fund scholarships at our United Methodist colleges.

As our TUMCA scholars graduate, they become contributing members of the American experience. Their intellectual and spiritual development prepares them to play an important role in our rapidly changing church and society. These students who go on to become clergy, laity, leaders, teachers, and responsible business and civic leaders will help chart the course of our church.

We at TUMCA are grounded in our belief that our work is an extension of the work of our congregations. This partnership helps in the realization of the great commission and works to create disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We Thank God for the ministry we share with the Rio Texas Conference and the opportunity to serve so many students from our diverse church family. We look forward to our continued work together.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Greetings from Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) as we live together as disciples in uncertain times!

**BREAKING NEWS:**

**Students:** We continue to increase and celebrate diversity in our student body, creating remarkable opportunities for in-depth exchanges and fruitful collaboration.

**Faculty:** We welcomed two amazing faculty this year: **Shively Smith** as Assistant Professor of New Testament, and **Nicolette Manglos-Weber** as Assistant Professor of Religion and Society.

**Online Lifelong Learning:** We are launching a new Online Lifelong Learning Program at the School, offering webinars, workshops, and reading groups for professional enrichment.

**Scholarships:** We continue our offer of free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry, and we continue to build student scholarships and housing as a central campaign priority. New scholarships include the Korean Student and African Student Scholarships, and leadership fellowships for promising leaders: Raíces Latinas for Latinx leaders, Sacred Worth for leaders in the LGBTQIA+ community, Howard Thurman for African-American leadership, and Indigenous Studies Fellowships.

**Faith and Ecological Justice Program:** This new student program undertakes initiatives to increase ecological awareness, education, and activism in ecological justice.

**Theology and the Arts Initiatives:** Recent exhibits and events include "Moments in Time" and "Transcending Conflict."

**Grants:** Henry Luce Foundation has awarded a 3-year grant to support the Educating Effective Chaplains Project. The grant supports work with other seminaries to develop models that can better prepare chaplains for effective ministry.

**Website:** After several years of planning, a new School website will launch in Fall semester 2019.

**PARTNERING FOR MINISTRY AND TRANSFORMATION:** Preparing students for ministry means meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community.

**Creative Callings:** Our vocational project is an exciting partnership with local churches, seeking to create “a culture of call.” It is sponsored through a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

**Engagement with the UMC:** Many of our students are delegates, project leaders and assistants, and class participants in General Conference 2019.

**Congregational courses:** The Continuing Scholar program offers current BUSTH courses to alums and local clergy as continuing education credit for a small fee per course.

**Doctor of Ministry:** The DMin in Transformational Leadership is soaring with lively student cohorts that are broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and faculty mentoring.

**Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic:** The Clinic provides internships and workshops that foster justice and peace-building.

**Travel seminars:** These courses engage students with immersion journeys to the Arizona-Mexican border, Israel and Palestine, Argentina, and other sites of learning and ministry. Attendees from the recent Serbia and Croatia Seminar presented to the 2018 Parliament of the World’s Religions in Toronto, Canada.

**Ecumenical partnerships:** We continue to build robust Communities of Learning with the Episcopal Church and United Church of Christ, and to develop new communities with the Unitarian Universalist and Baptist Churches.

**Partnership with Hebrew College:** Together we are able to enrich interreligious learning through joint courses and public events, and also co-sponsor *The Journal of Interreligious Studies* and *State of Formation* cohort of emerging leaders.

#### **TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:**

**Campus action:** Work to improve accessibility and sustainability. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU, and participates actively in the Green Seminary Initiative. It has also been named as one of the “Seminaries that Change the World” for the second consecutive year.

**Internships in global service and peacemaking:** We provide internships that support students who engage in ministry with churches and service organizations across the world.

**COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE:** Celebrating differences while joining in action.

Faculty and students have led and participated in UMCOR; support efforts with victims of hurricanes and fires; protests on behalf of Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida; protests of white supremacist movements; services with immigrants and DACA young people; and ecumenical and interreligious witnesses for justice in the city of Boston.

Through student-led Town Hall meetings, the community has had deep conversations on issues that divide (including theological differences). We seek to foster respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

#### **OTHER NOTABLE NEWS:**

2019 marks the 180<sup>th</sup> year of the School of Theology, originally founded as the Newbury Bible Institute in 1839.

Our major development campaign for BUSTH will end in September 2019, and we continue working toward grand success for the future of our School and the vitality of your ministries.

As BUSTH looks to the future, we celebrate transformational leaders of the United Methodist Church, who keep the word of Jesus Christ alive. Your living legacy and faithful witness give us hope and courage for the future.

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean



CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

For more than 100 years, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has prepared *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Since our founding in 1914, more than 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

This is especially important to note amid the current uncertainty in our denomination. It is an honor and a privilege for Candler to be one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church. Yet true to the Methodist tradition of ecumenical openness, Candler has enthusiastically welcomed the entire Wesleyan family to our community for generations. Faculty, staff, and students from the AME Church, the AMEZ Church, the CME Church, Free Methodists, Nazarenes, and others have worked, worshiped, learned, and prayed alongside United Methodists, and have been a vital part of shaping Candler and our mission. This diversity has been a wonderful gift and a rich blessing. As we move forward from the Special Session of General Conference, we will continue to invite and welcome wholeheartedly those from all expressions of the Wesleyan tradition. Indeed, we will continue to welcome all those who follow Jesus Christ.

Candler is also privileged to be one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University in Atlanta. With the resources of a top-tier research institution and the reach of a global city, our students benefit from a rich academic and hands-on learning environment: The General Board of Global Ministries is in Atlanta, as are numerous public health, international development, and social service organizations. Candler's intentional involvement with our surrounding community has contributed to our inclusion on a list of "Seminaries that Change the World" for six years running. In short, there is no better place to prepare for ministry that engages our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 16 degrees: six single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, and social work. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry and immediately apply to their context what they learn in class. Our Teaching Parish program allows eligible United Methodist students to serve as pastors in local churches while they're enrolled—they earn a salary as they earn course credit and pastoral experience, plus they are mentored by an experienced United Methodist elder.

Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 453, reflecting 51 percent women, 39 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 27 among MDivs. Students represent 44 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and promoting financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded \$5.8 million in Candler scholarships, with 100 percent of MDiv students receiving aid. Plus, our comprehensive "Faith & Finance" program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of our denomination. Visit us in person or online at [candler.emory.edu](http://candler.emory.edu) to see firsthand how Candler prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world.

Jan Love, Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Saint Paul School of Theology, a seminary of the United Methodist Church, is committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution with campuses in Kansas and Oklahoma. During the 2018-2019 academic year, the seminary enrolled 99 students in master and doctoral degree programs.

Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2018-2019 academic year moving its Kansas staff and faculty offices to the Kansas Campus where classes are held. This move was the final step in the process of renovating classrooms with larger spaces as well as bringing Kansas faculty, staff, and students together. A new Common Room equipped with refrigerator, microwave, and snacks was added to give students a place to gather for community meals, student forums, and study. Enhanced technology upgrades were made on both campuses with the launch of the new FLEX schedule and FOCUS week. We received a \$5,000 grant from the Missouri United Methodist Foundation to support our technology program for students. In an ever-increasing digital world, Saint Paul is constantly working to reach beyond its walls.

A new **Doctor of Ministry (DMin) focus**, Spiritual Leadership in Unsettled Times, was announced **with courses beginning** Fall 2019. The new DMin focus is offered in partnership with Church of the Resurrection, Gamaliel Network, and the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity. Students can take a mixture of online and hybrid (blended online and on-campus courses to complete the required curriculum).

This year marks the celebration of over 10 years in Oklahoma. Since 2008, Saint Paul has prepared Oklahoma-area leaders for ministries that meet the needs of today's churches and society. In collaboration with Oklahoma City University, students enjoy access to all the resources of a vibrant university, as well as the hospitality and support of a close-knit seminary community.

For Fall 2019, The Oklahoma Foundation, in partnership with Saint Paul School of Theology, is offering a three-year scholarship to educate future church leaders. An Oklahoma Foundation Fellow will receive 3 years of full-tuition and fees (covering 79 credit hours toward the Master of Divinity degree). Foundation Fellows will learn multiple ministry skills in areas such as worship, pastoral care, evangelism, and discipleship.

Saint Paul's faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society. Dr. Elaine Robinson, Professor of Methodist Studies and Christian Theology, worked along with co-editor Amos Nascimento to solicit chapters from United Methodist scholars around the globe who could present an indigenous account of the history of Methodism in their own context. These authors include: Fulgence Nyengele (Congo), Julio Vilanculos (Mozambique), Ulrike Schuler (Western Europe), Sergei Nikolaev (Russia), and Luther Oconer (Philippines). The manuscript is now finished and in the process of being published by GBHEM's Foundry Books under the title, *Global United Methodism: Telling the Stories, Living the Realities*.

Dr. Jim Brandt, Professor of Historical Theology and Director of Contextual Education, wrote the lead article in the recently published book, *Schleiermacher and Sustainability: A Theology for Ecological Living*. As part of the Columbia Series in Reformed Theology, each chapter deals with a particular locus in Schleiermacher's systematic theology, focusing on its implications for sustainable living.

Saint Paul's 2018-2019 Lecture Series boasted several exciting key note speakers from across the United States to speak on a myriad of topics such as "10 Steps on the Path of Moral Leadership" and "Speaking of Jesus: Early Methodist Principles for Bearing Witness to the Christian Story in a Multi-Religious World". In October, Dr. Luke Bretherton of Duke University was the speaker for the Wayne E. Drake Peace Lecture. In February, the Foundation for Evangelism sponsored Rev. Dr. Jack Jackson of Claremont School of Theology to present this year's Wallace Chappell Lecture. In March, Rev. Dr. David Gushee of Mercer University was the keynote speaker for the Slater-Wilson Lectureship on Spiritual and Intellectual Life.

For 2018, Saint Paul received a grant from Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) in Wichita, KS that allowed 20 people to experience KLC programs. Several faculty, staff, and alumni were able to practice KLC's approach to leadership. Those participants have reported being enriched and inspired by the program. For 2019, Saint Paul received 40 slots for community leaders to attend KLC programs.

Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 299 students in Leawood, KS; Hays, KS; Oklahoma City, OK; Columbia, MO; and Springfield, MO. Saint Paul launched a part-time, accelerated COS satellite program in Columbia, MO this year. Comprised of 9 courses in practical theology, this COS option is designed specifically for part-time local pastors or certified lay ministers entering ministry following completion of the Missouri Conference Licensing School. Like any other COS Satellite, the Columbia satellite is a pilot and collaborative program of Saint Paul Course of Study Regional School in collaboration with the Missouri Conference. Since September 2018, COS has offered two courses and enrolled and registered 23 students in the satellite program.

Saint Paul School of Theology is pleased to report that the Higher Learning Commission has changed the seminary's status from "Accredited - Probation" to "Accredited". For 60 years, Saint Paul has supplied excellence in theological education and our previous challenges have inspired us to strive beyond excellence. We are excited about our future and furthering the mission of Saint Paul.

President Neil Blair, Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students thank you for your interest, prayers and support.

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY  
PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

In 1911, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, founded Southern Methodist University as a nonsectarian institution of higher learning committed to the enduring values of academic freedom and open inquiry. In continuing partnership with The United Methodist Church, SMU welcomes students of all faiths and serves as a powerful catalyst for addressing the world's most urgent challenges in new and innovative ways. Now entering our second century, we are committed to shaping world changers – for today and tomorrow.

#### **SMU Update**

##### **Students, Faculty and Staff**

Fall 2018 enrollment, totaling 11,649, included 6,479 undergraduates and 5,170 graduate students. Ethnic minority students made up 28 percent of total enrollment. An international enrollment of 1,596 (approximately 14 percent of total enrollment) represented 83 foreign countries. Our impressive Class of 2022 was chosen from a pool of nearly 14,000 applicants, and it's the most academically qualified in our history. With 1,530 students, the class's average ACT score is 30.4, representing the top 6 percent of all students who take the test. The average SAT score is 1363, an increase from last year. SMU employs 2,830 faculty and staff, including 2,394 full time and 436 part time/adjunct.

##### **Rankings**

For the third consecutive year, SMU was ranked in the top 20 percent of best national universities by *U.S. News and World Report* and in the top 10 percent of U.S. universities by *The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education*. In the 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* listings, released September 2018, SMU is ranked No. 59 among the nation's top universities – representing a two-point rise from No. 61 in 2017. SMU saw key improvements in the peer assessment score, the rating of academic reputation by college admission deans, provosts and presidents, as well as in the high school counselor assessment score. In addition, SMU ranked No. 31 for best national universities for veterans. Several individual schools and academic programs also earned elevated national rankings.

Dedman School of Law is ranked No. 50 among 194 accredited law schools, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. In addition, the law school is ranked 18th in the U.S. for Employment Rate 10 months after graduation.

*U.S. News & World Report* ranked SMU's Simmons School of Education among the 100 best graduate education schools and Lyle School of Engineering among the 100 best undergraduate and graduate engineering programs.

For the second year in a row, SMU Guildhall has been ranked first in the world for graduate game design and development, topping The Princeton Review's 2018 annual list of the 25 best graduate game design programs

*The Hollywood Reporter* ranked SMU Meadows among the top 25 schools internationally for an M.F.A. in acting.

SMU placed in *Forbes'* 2018 Best Value Colleges ranking of only 300 schools nationwide that are worth the investment, based on net price, net debt, school quality, alumni earnings, timely graduation and population of Pell Grant recipients.

##### **Funding**

In FY 2018, SMU received \$26.6 million in external funding for research in the U.S. and worldwide, representing a 21 percent increase over the previous year. Current research subjects cover a wide spectrum of disciplines, including the search for dark matter, drone communications, antimicrobial resistance, data analytics, broadening the math teacher pipeline, improving algebra instruction, understanding the impact of genetic diversity on the health of marsh ecosystems, immigration, cancer treatments, recognizing joy in the face of depression, and exploring the connection between brain function and asthma. Regarding private fundraising, we finished FY 2018 strong, as well. In total, we raised \$111 million for capital priorities and current operations.

##### **2018 Highlights**

##### ***Significant Gifts and Grants***

**Perkins School of Theology Received \$1 Million Grant from Lilly Endowment**

In December, SMU received a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to Perkins School of Theology to fund a new initiative designed to help ministries rethink and reconfigure strategies to strengthen youth participation in their congregations. Entitled “Reboot: The Congregation as Youth Worker,” the project will identify a cohort of 18 congregations without paid full-time youth workers within a 300-mile radius of Dallas. The program will help the selected congregations assess the viability of youth ministries in their communities and introduce the innovative models for engaging youth.

#### **Toyota USA Foundation Granted \$2 Million to Simmons School of Education for STEM Model School**

The Dallas Independent School District (Dallas ISD), Toyota USA Foundation and SMU are collaborating to create an innovative model for STEM education for kindergarten through eighth-grade students in West Dallas. Toyota USA Foundation granted \$2 million to the Simmons School of Education and Human Development to develop a business-aligned curriculum, provide professional development for teachers, and coordinate with nonprofits implementing supportive community programming. The school will begin a phased opening with kindergarten to first grade and the addition of grades seven and eight in fall 2020.

#### **Rich and Mary Templeton Gave \$5 Million to Establish Templeton Endowed Research Excellence Fund**

Longtime SMU supporters Rich and Mary Templeton committed \$5 million for research at SMU’s Lyle School of Engineering. Their generous gift provides a major boost to the University’s externally sponsored research, which is critical to the University’s global academic influence. Designed to provide the flexibility necessary to respond to the Lyle School’s most pressing and important research needs, the Templeton Endowed Research Excellence Fund includes \$4 million for an endowment and \$1 million for operations. It covers a range of project essentials, including postdoctoral researchers, doctoral and graduate student stipends, equipment and supplies.

**Center for Business Law and Leadership Named for Robert B. Rowling through \$4 Million Gift Consortium** A \$4 million gift consortium created the Robert B. Rowling Center for Business Law and Leadership in SMU’s Dedman School of Law. The center will train the next generation of prominent legal and business leaders, and also influence national conversations surrounding business and corporate law. At the request of the anonymous lead donor of \$3 million, the new center is named in honor of Dallas businessman Robert B. Rowling, owner and chairman of TRT Holdings, Inc., which owns Omni Hotels and Resorts and Gold’s Gym International. The Dedman Foundation is also providing support.

#### **Hoblitzelle Foundation Committed \$1.25 Million to the Owen Arts Center Renovation**

A \$34 million project to renovate and modernize existing spaces will add new space for the Division of Art, Art History and Creative Computation. The Hoblitzelle Foundation gift supports these capital enhancements, as well as the creation of welcoming reception areas, accessible entrances, updated classrooms and enhanced studio spaces to attract talented artists and their audiences.

#### **NSF Granted \$1 Million to Discover New Algebra Solutions**

SMU math researcher Candace Walkington has received a three-year \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop and test strategies to increase student engagement in algebra problem-solving. The grant also funds further development of ASSISTments, a powerful online tool that ties algebra skills to everyday interests. An associate professor at the Simmons School of Education and Human Development, Walkington says her research will identify ways to enhance student interest in algebra and in STEM careers.

#### **NIH Granted \$2.6 Million to Fund Collaborative Study of Cognitive Impairment in Older Asthma Patients**

SMU psychologist Thomas Ritz and UT Southwestern Medical Center psychiatrist Sherwood Brown will lead a \$2.6 million study funded over four years by the National Institutes of Health to explore the apparent connection between asthma and diminished cognitive function in middle-to-late-age adults. The Dallas Asthma Brain and Cognition Study will build on the work Ritz and Brown have accomplished with a core group of researchers over a period of eight years as it explores ***relationships between inflammatory lung disease and brain function in older adults.***

#### **Program Highlights**

“Sea Monsters Unearthed” Opened at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

In November, “Sea Monsters Unearthed” opened at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. This groundbreaking exhibition brought together an international team of researchers with more than 100 undergraduate SMU students representing diverse majors, including Myria Perez ’18, who is now working at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas. A longtime member of the SMU family, Louis Jacobs, professor *emeritus* of earth sciences in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, spearheaded this remarkable 13-year study of fossils off the west coast of Africa that had never been “unearthed.”

The Meadows School of the Arts Announced the Formation of SMU DataArts

In August, SMU announced the merger of the Meadows School's National Center for Arts Research with DataArts, a respected Philadelphia-based data-analytics resource for nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. The formation of SMU DataArts represents yet another major investment in big data and research with impact. SMU DataArts' mission is to empower arts and cultural leaders with data insights to make better decisions, such as how to optimize tight marketing and management budgets. Thanks to the support of major national funders, such as Bloomberg Philanthropies, SMU DataArts offers these valuable tools at no cost to organizations in exchange for their data input.

#### **SMU Team Shares \$3 Million XPRIZE for Development of Mobile App to Increase Adult Literacy**

In 2018, SMU was named one of five finalists among 109 teams contending for the \$7 million Barbara Bush Foundation Adult Literacy XPRIZE, sponsored by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. After a year of field testing, we learned in February 2019 that the SMU team tied for the Grand Prize – winning \$1.5 million – and also received **an additional \$1 million Achievement Award for the most effective adult literacy app for English language learners.** SMU's Simmons School of Education and Human Development joined forces with SMU's Guildhall and Literacy Instruction for Texas (LIFT) to form People ForWords, a dedicated app production team. Currently available on Android devices at no cost, the goal of the project is to transform the lives of low-literate adults nationwide.

#### **Holly Jeffcoat Appointed Dean of SMU Libraries**

Following an international search, Holly Jeffcoat assumed the role of dean of SMU Libraries on August 1, 2018. Jeffcoat, a proven leader in leveraging technology in instruction and library services, came to SMU from the University of Connecticut. As associate dean of UConn Library, Jeffcoat led core library operations that include access services, administration, marketing, development, facilities, finance, human resources, information technology and strategic planning. Prior to UConn, Jeffcoat held positions at the University of New Mexico College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences, as well as at the UNM Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center and the Charles Darwin Research Station in Galápagos, Ecuador. Jeffcoat has published and presented on translational science support, use of virtual reality in education collection development and numerous scholarly communication topics.

#### **Nazi Hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld Receive 2018 Triumph of the Spirit Award**

In November, world-renowned Nazi hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld visited SMU and were honored by the Embrey Human Rights Program in SMU Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences with the 2018 Triumph of the Spirit Award. As dedicated docents of the Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance, they received the award for their tireless efforts to educate our world about the history of the Holocaust, as well as for advancing human rights to fight prejudice, hatred and indifference. At the ages of 79 and 82, Beate and Serge Klarsfeld have earned prestigious international awards for their activism, such as the French Legion of Honor and German Federal Order of Merit, but they paid the price – with beatings, prison time and attempts on their lives. They describe their experiences in the memoir *Hunting the Truth: Memoirs of Beate and Serge Klarsfeld*, published in English in March 2018. While on campus, they met with human rights students in a special seminar class.

#### **Empowering Cultural Intelligence (CIQ) as a Core Value**

SMU is leading the way for other universities nationwide in the realm of cultural intelligence. CIQ is a revolutionary approach in higher education to ensure that every member of the SMU community is equipped with the skills and the knowledge to manage and communicate effectively in complex cultural contexts. "If you are going to be a world changer, you need to know how to talk to the world," says Maria Dixon Hall, senior advisor to the Provost for Campus Cultural Initiatives and associate professor of Corporate Communication and Public Affairs. Changing the world requires being able to learn, teach, mentor, collaborate, and work with people of a myriad of cultural identities, including race, ethnicity, political ideology, gender, sexual orientation and religion. The goal of CIQ is for SMU community members to move beyond appreciating diversity to being able to effectively and authentically communicate respectfully with anyone, anywhere.

SMU is a grateful member of the Methodist family, and we request your continued prayers and support as we endeavor to make a meaningful difference in the lives of all those we serve.

R. Gerald Turner, President, Southern Methodist University

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UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
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459 men and women are being equipped as faithful, fruitful pastors and Christian leaders for the Church  
292 Masters Students  
167 Doctoral Students  
Third largest United Methodist seminary in the United States<sup>i</sup>

Founded nearly 150 years ago by Bishop Milton Wright, father of famed aviators Wilbur and Orville Wright, United has continued that spirit of innovation through:

**Online degrees:**

98% of master's students have taken one or more course online while studying at United.  
United students live in 39 different states.  
Week-long intensives fulfill UMC residency requirements.

**Live Interactive Virtual Education (LIVE):**

New grant brings the latest technology in virtual education.  
Participate in on-campus courses via webcam and enjoy live lectures and real-time discussion with faculty and peers.

**Doctor of Ministry Degree:**

Become a doctor for the Church, addressing a real problem or challenge in your church or community.  
Study under a mentor who is an expert in their field and learn alongside a small group of dedicated peers.  
3-year program that allows you to complete project as you go, leading to a 78% program graduation rate in 2017 (vs. 54% average among other seminaries)

**Practical education designed to resource the Church:**

The majority of United faculty have pastored churches.  
91% of entering United students are already serving in ministry, bringing that context to the classroom.

**A focus on Church Renewal:**

165 Course of Study students

42 students in the Hispanic Christian Academy (3-year Spanish online course of ministry program for Hispanic lay pastors and leaders)

Certificates in Church Planting, Disability Ministry, and Supervision

**Academic AND Spiritual Growth:**

95% of students say the United community supports both their academic and spiritual growth.

**Diverse Christian Views:**

Over 30 different denominations

19 international students from 15 different countries

96% of students feel their views are respected in the classroom/seminary community and say they have been taught to respect the views of others.

47% of students who reported are African-American, 43% Caucasian and 10% represent other ethnicities

We thank God for the men and women coming to United because God has called them to serve the least and the lost. We pray as the Lord Jesus instructed his disciples saying, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

Dr. Kent Millard, President, United Theological Seminary

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the Rio Texas Annual Conference:

Four (4) students affiliated with the Rio Texas Annual Conference are enrolled at Perkins, including: two Master of Divinity (M.Div.) students, one Master of Arts in Ministry (M.AM.) student, and one Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) student.

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2018-19 academic year totals 318 students, including 33 enrolled in the Ph.D. program. Fall 2018 statistics reflect the following: 59% of our entire student population are United Methodist and more than 41 percent are ethnic minority students. Master's degree programs comprise approximately 45 percent male and 55 percent female students. The D.Min. program includes students from southern Asia taking classes in Dallas.

Enrollment at Perkins for the Fall 2018 totaled 298 students, including 33 students enrolled in the Ph.D. program and with an additional 28 students enrolling in Spring 2019. Fall 2018 statistics reflect the following: 59.5 percent of our entire student population are United Methodist and more than 41 percent are ethnic minority students. Degree programs are comprised of 51 percent male and 49 percent female students.

In the midst of his third year as Dean and Professor of New Testament at Perkins School of Theology, Dr. Craig C. Hill a number of his early initiatives are bearing fruit, including deeper and more fruitful relationships with feeder colleges, new co-curricular initiatives, revamped D.Min. and Houston-Galveston Programs, additional staffing in critical areas, and additional financial aid. Enrollment, giving, impact, and overall momentum continue to surge under his leadership with deep appreciation for those who make up and support the school.

**2018 HIGHLIGHTS**

- Fall 2018 admissions increased by 14.1 percent over the previous year with an incoming class of 89 students (including D.Min. but excluding Ph.D. students). Six new international students enrolled. An additional 28 students were added for the Spring 2019 semester. Over half of the entering class have average undergraduate GPA's above a 3.2.
- Perkins School of Theology is the recipient of a five-year, \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., for an initiative designed to strengthen congregational ministry with youth. Co-directors of the grant are the Rev. Bart Patton, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Education, and Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison, Associate Dean, Office of External Programs.

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- Perkins received a \$931,000 estate gift specifically designated for the upkeep and maintenance of Perkins Chapel which allows us to move ahead with the planned phase 2 remodeling. That gift underscores the importance of making estate plans, so that causes which are important during life can also be supported after death.
  - The Office of Enrollment Management welcomed a number of new staff in 2018. Stephen Bagby is the new Director of Recruitment and Admission. He succeeds Herbert Coleman, who was appointed to a newly created position of Director of Retention and Student Success. Yazmin Elaine Strauss joined as Recruitment and Admissions Associate. Caleb Palmer and John Lowery serve as new Ministry Discernment Associates. Finally, the office added Jean Nixon in the new position of Financial Literacy Coordinator.
  - The highly successful *Perkins Scholars* scholarship program, which each year adds to the financial aid of 10 outstanding M.Div. students, continues to attract excellent scholars. A total goal of \$630,000 in funding will provide for 10 additional scholarships for fall 2019. Next fall there will be a total of 30 Perkins Scholars in the student body. Combined with additional financial aid, this program provides nearly full scholarships for these highly skilled servant leaders.
  - The Fall 2018 Convocation, drew clergy, laity and prospective students to the SMU campus Nov. 12-13, to explore worship through the lenses of social justice and reconciliation with internationally acclaimed author, theologian and pastor Brian McLaren and Chicago-based preacher, liturgist and activist Sandra Maria Van Opstal.
  - The revised Perkins Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree program, under the direction of program director Dr. James Lee welcomed a new cohort of 14 students in 2018.
  - Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University has announced the appointment of [Hugo Magallanes](#) as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, effective June 2019. Currently, Magallanes serves as director of Perkins' Houston-Galveston Extension Program and is Associate Professor of Christianity and Cultures. In his new role, he will manage the curriculum of academic programs, support faculty development and provide for academic advising to students.
  - Judy Woodruff, anchor and managing editor of PBS NewsHour was the featured guest for the 2019 Bolin Family Public Life Personal Faith Scholarship Luncheon. Woodruff was interviewed by Peggy Wehmeyer, former religion correspondent for ABC World News Tonight, on the topic of personal faith in the public square.
  - In an effort to deepen relationships between Perkins and undergraduate college and universities, new partnerships in the form of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been launched in 2018. Formal agreements have been signed with historically United Methodist institutions including Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas; Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas; Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Texas; and Wylie College in Marshall, Texas. These are in addition to those previously noted: Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana; Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas; McMurry University in Abilene, Texas; Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas; and Presbyterian-related Austin College in Sherman, Texas. These MOUs establish a preferred pathway for graduates of the institutions interested in pursuing ministerial vocations at the graduate level, granting preferred consideration and early acceptance to Perkins School of Theology for students pursuing ministerial vocations. The agreement also states that the undergraduate institutions and Perkins will encourage new opportunities for future cooperation.
  - The Perkins School of Theology Global Theological Education Program has launched a major program to create and distribute teaching and learning resources for Seminaries, Course of Study Schools, and other



United Methodist educational institutions world-wide. We are drawing on resource scholars from Asia, Africa, and Latin America to create video-based class modules that can be incorporated into a variety of educational programs; from seminary and COSS courses to Sunday Schools and other training events. Our goal is to make the best of UM scholarship from around the globe available for a global church. With generous funding from the Woodworth Estates, In-Trust Foundation, and The Grimes Center, and Southern Methodist University we are working in cooperation with the GBHEM, the Endowment fund for Theological Education in the Central Conferences, and members of the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities to create an ongoing program to insure that United Methodists and others world-wide have access to the resources they need to offer a quality theological education.

- Anthony Elia has been named J.S. Bridwell Foundation Endowed Librarian and Director of Bridwell Library effective June 1. He succeeds retiring Director Robert Schaafsma, who served in that role since April 2007.
- Rev. Dr. William J. Abraham, Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies was the recipient of the 2018 SMU Faculty Career Achievement Award for his extensive work and dedication to Perkins and Southern Methodist University.
- Rev. Andrew Keck has been named Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives and Special Assistant to the Dean. In the newly created position, Keck will work closely with Dean Craig C. Hill to provide leadership and management for school-wide projects and priorities.

Marcell Silva Steuernagel, an internationally acclaimed musician and scholar, is the new director of the Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M) Degree Program. Steuernagel succeeds Dr. C. Michael Hawn, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Church Music, who retired as director of the Master of Sacred Music Program in 2017. In 2017, SMU launched a three-year current-use giving campaign called *Pony Power*, with a goal of raising \$150 million over three years for the University in current-use giving. The University's goal for 2018-19 is \$45 million. Perkins' goal for this fiscal year, which ends May 31, 2019, is \$2.5 million. Perkins donors are asked to consider making a three-year pledge to a current-use project at Perkins. The areas of greatest need are 1.) the SMU Fund for Perkins, which is used by Dean Hill at his discretion, and 2.) Perkins student financial aid. Perkins School of Theology is committed to those *called to serve* so that they might be *empowered to lead*. We thank our many colleagues, friends and alumni/ae across the connection for generous their support, including referrals of prospective students, as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

Craig C. Hill, Dean and Professor of New Testament

## WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Fostering wisdom and courage

Wesley Theological Seminary, celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> year in Washington, DC, has equipped Christian leadership for nearly 150 years. We prepare students to lead innovative ministries while remaining grounded in our biblical and theological traditions. President David McAllister-Wilson writes in his new book, *A New Church and a New Seminary*, "Leadership requires a seminary to foster both wisdom and courage."

Our faculty is chosen to prepare these kinds of leaders. In the past year, we welcomed Academic Dean Phil Wingeier-Rayo, Ph.D. plus two new faculty, the Rev. Lorena Parrish, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Urban Ministries and Director of the Community Engagement Institute, and the Rev. Anna Petrin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Worship and Chapel Elder. Learn more about all the remarkable scholars on Wesley's faculty at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/faculty-2/>

Whether you are clergy or laity, an alumnus or a prospective student, looking for master's or doctoral work, or continuing education or simply deeper knowledge, Wesley stands ready to support you in your current and future call to ministry. Here are a few ways Wesley can help you grow in the wisdom of the faith and the courage to lead.

#### ***Discover exciting pathways to seminary studies***

Wesley offers a 81-hour Master of Divinity, a 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies. **Wesley equips all those called to serve for ordained Elder and Deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit.**

Some are able to take advantage of our modern and affordable on-campus housing and food service to be full-time residential students, living in an exciting international capital. But we understand the struggle to balance life, family, ministry, and finances. So, **Wesley's Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years**, designed for those with busy ministry, work, and family lives. Check out upcoming flexible course offerings for Summer and Fall 2019 at <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3/>

In our **3+3 Fast Track B.A./M. Div. program**, in partnership with Shenandoah University, students enter ministry with less debt after earning their degrees in six years. Learn more at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/3+3degrees](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/3+3degrees).

Wesley provides **more than \$2 million dollars annually in scholarships** thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends. Our new **Generación Latinx Scholarship** joins our many merit-based scholarships that enable students to afford seminary education. The **Community Engagement Institute at Wesley** embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-based organization engage their communities. Our **Community Engagement Fellows program** prepares students to **engage in entrepreneurial ministry**. **Generous stipends are available for each Fellow** while they complete their M.Div. degree. Students can focus their fellowship on Public Theology, Urban Ministry or Missional Church. Meet our current Fellows at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/community-engagement-fellows/>

#### ***Take your ministry to the next level***

Wesley is a leader in **Doctor of Ministry programs in specialized tracks that can include international study**. Our **2020 tracks** will include **Church Leadership Excellence**, offered in conjunction with Wesley's internationally respected **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** and **Life Together: Spirituality for Transforming Community**, and a track designed for military chaplains. Find out more or apply at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/).

Wesley also offers opportunities for individual study without pursuing a degree. The **Certificate in Faith and Public Life** explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse through graduate courses. For more information, visit [www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/)

A **Certificate in Wesleyan Studies** is available online via the **Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy**. Topics include United Methodist identity, early church history, Christian ethics, interfaith relations, and the intersection of faith and science. The courses can also be taken for personal education and enrichment. More information can be found at [www.beadisciple.com/wesley/](http://www.beadisciple.com/wesley/).

#### ***Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry***

The Lewis Center continues to be on the leading edge of research for the local church. The Lewis Center's *Leading Ideas* e-newsletter is now the go-to source for over 20,000 people in ministry each week. From this we've launched a new podcast – **Leading Ideas Talk**. Sign up or listen at [www.churchleadership.com/](http://www.churchleadership.com/). And look for new practical online courses at [lewisonlinelearning.org](http://lewisonlinelearning.org).

From their new location at The Methodist Building on Capitol Hill, the **Center for Public Theology**, under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology Mike McCurry, equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. In its second year, the **Center's Faith and Public Life Immersion for undergraduates** offers a week-long experience of study and encounters with public theologians and those advocating for justice in Washington. **For more information, visit** <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>.

The **Luce Center for Arts and Religion** is the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The Luce Center offers regular classes and workshops with visiting artists. **For information on past and upcoming opportunities visit** [www.luceartsandreligion.org](http://www.luceartsandreligion.org).

The innovative **online Health Minister Certificate Program** prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact Tom Pruski at [tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu) for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

The **African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization** gives contextual preparation for the opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the **Public**

**Theology specialization** allows master's degree students to gain community leadership and advocacy skills. Learn more at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/african-american-church-studies/> or <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>

Through the Wesley Innovation Hub, a research project funded by the Lilly Endowment, we are working with **20 local congregations** to design innovative ministries as models for ministry by and for young adults. **Follow the work and connect with resources** at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/).

#### ***Stay connected***

**Contact us at (202) 885-8659 or [admissions@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@wesleyseminary.edu) about how Wesley's degree programs can equip you for your next step in ministry.**

Ready to join in our mission? Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/). Join the Wesley Community online via Wesley's social media, [www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary](https://www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary), on Instagram at **wesleyseminary**, and on Twitter at **WesleyTheoSem** or sign up for our electronic newsletter, *eCalling*, at [www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling](http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling).

## AFRICA UNIVERSITY REPORT 2019 RIO TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Africa University thrives in ministry because of the steadfast support of local congregations of The United Methodist Church. Thank you to the leaders and members of the Rio Texas Conference for prioritizing Africa University with the contribution of 92.28 percent of your asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2018. The students, faculty and staff value every gift and the university community is especially humbled by the sacrifices that are being made as the Rio Texas Conference strives to achieve 100 percent support for the AUF.

Through its investment in the Africa University Fund, the Rio Texas Conference continues to affirm the university's core mission of nurturing leaders who help communities to know Jesus Christ and to experience peace, sustainable livelihoods, food security and abundant health. Thank you, Rio Texas United Methodists, for your steadfast commitment and strong support.

#### **Institutional Update:**

Africa University remains a top choice for African young people who are seeking a relevant and life-changing educational experience. In 2018, Africa University enrolled more than 700 new students and maintained an overall enrollment of around 2,000 students. There were 25 African countries represented in the student body. Women made up 53 percent of the student population, which is almost twice the average for African higher education institutions.

Throughout 2018, Africa University weathered the challenges of Zimbabwe's depressed and uncertain socio-economic environment with creativity and prudence. The university delivered teaching, learning and community service activities of high-quality without interruption, while also renewing and expanding its infrastructure. Key enhancements in 2018 included the refurbishment of three residence halls for women students and the full implementation of an ERP software system to integrate and manage all facets of the university's operations.

For the first time in five years, there is new construction on the Africa University campus thanks to a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift from Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. In December 2018, work began on the foundation for a new residence hall. The university subsequently broke ground for the construction of phase two of its Student Union and Cafeteria building. Both projects are progressing well and are expected to be fully in use by August 2020.

With conflict, poverty, and the impact of climate change persisting as the key drivers of food insecurity and the rise in internal displacement, migration, and refugeehood in Africa, the university consolidated its position as a trailblazer

1 by offering new graduate training and research opportunities. Africa University has also continued to provide  
2 scholarships for refugee women so that their experiences, talents and ideas are integrated into the search for  
3 sustainable solutions.

4 Africa University delivered critical data for reducing malaria deaths in southern Africa and controlling the spread of  
5 insect-borne diseases world-wide. AU's insectary—a laboratory for rearing and studying live insects, such as  
6 mosquitos—shares its findings through the Southern Africa Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research. This data  
7 informs regional policies, practices and malaria control efforts.

8 The students, faculty, administrators and trustees of Africa University thank the members of the Rio Texas  
9 Conference for their prayers and support, which continue to grow and sustain this ministry. Thank you for all that  
10 you have sown into Africa University over the past 27 years. As Africa University and the Rio Texas Conference move  
11 forward together in missional engagement, we trust in God's unending grace for the increase.

12 *James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement*  
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## SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY FOR INFORMATION ONLY

21  
22 As I begin my sixth year at Southwestern University, I look back with pride and amazement at all we have  
23 accomplished. From early challenges and difficult decisions through the evolution of Paideia and the creation of our  
24 new curriculum, we have made significant strides toward not only our strategic goals and long-term vision but also  
25 in leading a national redefinition of a meaningful, transformational undergraduate education in the 21st century.

26 This year has seen many notable highlights and achievements. In August, Southwestern welcomed 442 entering  
27 students, the second largest class in our University's history. Within this new group of bright, motivated first-years,  
28 70% had been in the top 25% of their graduating high school class, and 34% were in the top 10%. Altogether, 19  
29 states and six foreign countries are represented in the class. Underrepresented students make up 31% of the class.

30 Thanks to the generosity of alumni Dr. Red McCombs '49 and his wife Dr. Charline Hamblin McCombs '50, the largest  
31 single gift in Southwestern's history has allowed the University's award-winning Office of Career Services to amplify  
32 its national success and relaunch as the Center for Career & Professional Development (CCPD). This expansion will  
33 enable the CCPD team to better support Southwestern students as they hone their professional identities and  
34 develop 21st-century career readiness.

35 This past year, we also implemented the Mosaic program, in which Southwestern students shape their futures  
36 through mindful consideration of activities and experiences beyond the classroom. By selecting with intention and  
37 reflecting on the value of each component of their involvement in student organizations, community service, and  
38 campus life, our students become actively engaged in their personal development and continued growth.

39 The final phase of the Fondren-Jones Science Center expansion continues—our commitment in stone to  
40 interdisciplinary collaboration, learning, and research. Alongside faculty, Southwestern students continue to conduct  
41 original research and test their own hypotheses, not only delving deeper into but also contributing knowledge to  
42 their fields of study.

43 These and so many other achievements represent more than just forward momentum. What Southwestern  
44 University is experiencing now is acceleration, fueled by our commitment to preparing our students for a future that  
45 will be vastly different from that of any other generation. In a 21st-century career, our students will be required to  
46 advance the frontiers of knowledge, understand more deeply, adapt quickly to change, resolve new and complex  
47 challenges, create new ideas, and anticipate what's next.

### 2018 Accolades

49 *Forbes* ranked Southwestern the #1 undergraduate liberal arts and sciences college in Texas in the Grateful  
50 Graduates Index (#92 nationally). The ranking measures "the happiest, most successful alumni" among private,  
51 nonprofit colleges for annual giving.

52 *U.S. News and World Report* and *Washington Monthly* rank Southwestern as the top national liberal arts college in  
53 Texas.

Southwestern's Center for Career & Professional Development ranks seventh in the nation and first in Texas, according to *The Princeton Review's* latest college guide.

*The Princeton Review* also ranked Southwestern third in the nation and first in Texas among its Impact Schools. Southwestern is also listed among *The Princeton Review's* Green Colleges and Colleges That Pay You Back.

Southwestern is one of only 12 Texas colleges and universities to be featured in the 2019 edition of the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*.

## **Academics**

Southwestern University introduced an updated curriculum in the fall of 2017. The new structure continues to incorporate Southwestern's Paideia philosophy, where faculty members encourage students to make connections not only within their classes, but also across disciplines. This concept is woven throughout our campus and incorporated in all areas. In the new articulation of Paideia, students are expected to take the thinking process from each of their classes and apply it to another class or experience—whether it's in the theater, on the athletic field, or in the science laboratory.

This past fall, 400 new students had the opportunity to participate in the First Symposium, which showcases work from the First-Year and Advanced-Entry Seminar experience.

For the 18th consecutive year, the King Creativity Fund supported significant, innovative, and visionary student projects across the disciplinary spectrum. The program is designed to give Southwestern students the opportunity—and means—to explore ideas and projects that creatively approach problems from new directions, combine the methods and subject matter of multiple fields, connect curricular and extracurricular interests, and/or move beyond traditional academic forms of work. Sixteen different teams composed of 33 students participated.

Thirty-five students participated in 10 different SCOPE research projects. SCOPE is an eight-week, student-faculty collaborative summer program that provides opportunities for students to participate in research and investigative learning, gain hands-on experience as well as valuable insights in diversity, persistence and collaboration.

Southwestern added one new minor in fall 2018: Design Thinking. Students and faculty across the disciplines study how effective and creative design in different modalities has affected society in diverse cultures across history. This addition brings the total minors offered to 40, with 35 majors.

## **Faculty Achievements**

Numerous Southwestern Faculty members were honored this year:

- In 2018, six faculty and emeritus faculty members published books.
- Eleven full-time faculty members received Sam Taylor Fellowship grants from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church for 2018 to support their scholarly work. These competitive awards provide pivotal support for our faculty in the early phases of a research project.
- Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Maha Zewail-Foote was awarded a prestigious research grant from the National Institutes of Health. Zewail-Foote and colleagues are using a cutting-edge technology to detect DNA damage caused by environmental agents within specific DNA sequences. DNA damage can lead to genetic mutations and instability, which is responsible for many human diseases.
- Associate Professor of Mathematics Therese Shelton is a coprincipal investigator with a newly awarded three-year grant from the National Science Foundation. This will support the mission of the mathematical community SIMIODE to encourage and support faculty in using modeling to motivate learning of differential equations in context. The award funds faculty development, practitioner workshops, and more.
- A research proposal by Professor of Economics Dirk Early, "Effective Homeless Interventions and the Importance of Local Housing Market Conditions," was accepted for funding through a partnership between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Early is examining which interventions available to homeless families are the most effective in reducing homelessness and whether their effectiveness varies with local housing market conditions. The primary goal of the research is to guide policymakers in developing homelessness-prevention strategies that are the most effective for their area.
- Professors of Biology Maria Cuevas and Maria Todd received a \$12,000 grant from the Joe and Jessie Crump Foundation for Medical Research. The funds will support their current research project on uterine cancer. This grant will enable them to expand the scope of their studies and increase the clinical relevance of their research.

## **Student Achievements**

Southwestern students also earned a variety of honors and awards in 2018. Here are just some examples:

- Twenty-seven students were inducted into our chapters of Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

- Music and computer science double major Isabel Tweraser and computer science and chemistry double major Lauren Gillespie, both class of 2019, coauthored the peer-reviewed paper “Querying Across Time to Interactively Evolve Animations” with Assistant Professor of Computer Science Jacob Schrum. This work examines the simulated evolution of artistic animations and includes the results of a human-subject study conducted at Southwestern. This research will also be presented at this year’s Research and Creative Works Symposium.
- Six students—Tyler Adams, Ryan Peraino, Margaret Rowand, Triston Beadle, Jillian Bradley, and Alison Riggs, all class of 2018—presented their research at the American Chemical Society National Meeting, in New Orleans, LA, in March 2018.
- Five economics majors—Maranda Kahl, Manuela Figueroa-Casa, Aresha Davwa, and Penny Phan of the class of 2018 and Stan Kannegieter of the class of 2019—presented their research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas in April. Their presentations focused on topics such as whether marriage improves mental health, the costs and benefits of federal housing assistance programs, the effects of higher education on hypertension-related deaths, and the effects of H-1B visas on economic growth.
- Studio art majors Marissa Shipp and Angelina Palacios, both class of 2019, along with Professor of Art Mary Visser, had their animated artworks accepted for the International Mathematical Games Committee’s 19th Salon Culture et Jeux Mathématiques (Culture and Math Games Exhibition), which took place at Place Saint-Sulpice in Paris, France, in May. Shipp’s work *Sneak Peak*, Palacios’s work *Radar*, and Visser’s animated film *A Different Way to Be* were shown.
- Professor of Psychology Fay Guarraci, together with current psychology and animal behavior majors Chantal Gonzalez, Devon Lucero, and Morgan Stinnett, all class of 2019, along with alumni Paige Womble, of the class of 2018, and Heba Abdel-Rahim, Jennie DeVore, and Emma Quadlander, all class of 2017, published an article in the journal *Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior* titled “The Effects of Ketamine on Sexual Behavior, Anxiety, and Locomotion in Female Rats.” While investigating the effects of ketamine on sexual behavior, they found that a dose and protocol used for treating human depressive symptoms not only had no disruptive side effects on sexual function but actually improved sexual motivation in an animal model.
- Esther Ramos, class of 2019, a Latin American and border studies major and Mellon undergraduate fellow, presented “The Shadow Beast Within: La Quinceañera as a Means of Cultural Resistance” on a panel titled “Cultural Expressions, Cultural Resistance” at the 2018 meeting of El Mundo Zurdo, hosted by the Society for the Study of Gloria Anzaldúa at Trinity University in May.
- Abigail Jendrusch of the class of 2019, Jake Stagner and Kyle Leon of the class of 2020, and Haley Druart of the class of 2021 conducted preservation work under the supervision of Professor Art and Art History and Chair of Art History Thomas Noble Howe on the site of the ancient Roman villas of Stabiae near Pompeii in June and July 2018.
- Southwestern students Sarah Buchanan, class of 2020; Abby Earle, class of 2019; and Abigail Luna, class of 2020—along with Professor of Education Michael Kamen; alumna Kelli McLaughlin, class of 2018; New York City-based playwright Adaire Kamen; and Dr. Alys Mendus of the University of Hull, United Kingdom—performed and discussed their collaboratively written original play “*They Call Teachers by Their First Names!*”: *An Ethno-Drama of Pre-Service Teachers Visiting Schools* at the 2018 Performing the World conference in New York City. The conference brought together professionals, artists, and scholars who share an interest in the role of performance and play for activism, education, and healthcare.
- Five math majors—Gillian Glover, Stan Kannegieter, and Will Price of the class of 2019; Aiden Steinle of the class of 2020, and Mercedes Gonzalez of the class of 2021—presented their research at the Texas Undergraduate Mathematics Conference in Nacogdoches, TX, in November. Their topics included staying

in shape with mathematical mapping, using linear algebra to analyze stock portfolios, and connecting differential equations to the kissing disease.

## **Athletics**

Accolades earned by Southwestern student-athletes and coaches in 2018 included the following:

One-third of the student body participates in intercollegiate athletics: 478 students out of 1,425.

Southwestern finished second for the SCAC President's Trophy.

Southwestern University was awarded 102 All-Conference honors, including 33 First Team selections, 28 Second Team selections, 7 Third Team selections, and 34 Honorable Mention selections.

Seven different teams advanced in the SCAC Tournament to the championship match: women's basketball, men's tennis, women's tennis, softball, men's soccer, women's soccer, and volleyball.

Our student-athletes earned five NCAA National Championship Tournament appearances: men's golf made their fifth appearance; Rehgan Hartsell appeared for women's swimming; Alexis Dimanche was Southwestern's first men's tennis player to compete in the NCAA singles championship; Mary Cardone represented women's tennis; and men's soccer made their first appearance in program history.

Southwestern coaches earned six Coach of the Year Awards: Greg Sigler, women's golf (SCAC) and third consecutive distinction for men's golf (SCAC); Matthew Grosso, women's lacrosse (IWLS); Billy Porter, men's tennis (SCAC) and ITA West Region Men's Tennis; and Linda Hamilton, women's soccer (SCAC).

Southwestern is home to four All-Americans: Cade Osgood, men's golf, first team; Alexis Dimanche, men's tennis, singles; Kate Daugherty, women's tennis, singles and doubles; and Esther Bowers, women's tennis, doubles.

Student-athletes comprised six West All-Region Team Selections: Tyler Gammill, men's golf; Cade Osgood, men's golf; Seth Sparks, baseball, third team; Brendan Dauth, men's soccer, third team; and Mary Cardone, women's soccer, second team.

The University boasts four SCAC All-Sportsmanship Teams: men's basketball, women's golf, men's track and field, and women's track and field.

Grace Phelps was named the SCAC Softball Newcomer of the Year.

Julia Tape was named the Independent Women's Lacrosse Schools Rookie of the Year.

Grant Gideon received the West Region Men's Tennis Arthur Ashe Leadership & Sportsmanship Award.

Football's third consecutive winning season reached no. 26 in the BennetRank poll and no. 41 in the AFCA poll. The team also set school season records for rushing touchdowns, passing touchdowns, interception return yards, interception return touchdowns, and yards per punt return.

Men's soccer finished season ranked no. 1 in the West Region.

Volleyball ranked no. 9 in preseason polls.

Men's cross country finished no. 15 in the South/Southeast Region.

### **Speakers and Symposia**

Dolores Huerta, a longtime civil rights leader and an advocate for farmworkers, immigrants, and women, visited Southwestern in January as part of Remember, Honor, and Act: MLK 50, a celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy. Huerta discussed relevant controversial topics, which she said parallel the social and political climate of the 1960s. The event drew a large crowd of students, teachers, and community members.

The 2018 Roy and Margaret Shilling Lecture was held in January, featuring renowned social psychologist Jonathan Haidt. He presented "The Age of Outrage — What It Is Doing to Our Universities and Our Country."

The 2018 Research and Creative Works Symposium was held on April 10, 2018. The event featured 244 presenters mentored by 50 faculty and staff from across the University's departments and programs. These students gave poster, panel, and oral presentations, showed art and other creative work, shared the results of capstone research, and discussed experiential learning projects.

The University celebrated its 174th Commencement Convocation on May 12, 2018. Dr. Sybil Hampton, the first African-American student to complete her entire education at Little Rock Central High School in 1962 and later president of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Hampton served as a higher-education administrator, philanthropist, and political advisor throughout her career.

1 World-renowned scholar Carole Levin, Willa Cather Professor of History and Director of Medieval and Renaissance  
2 Studies at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, delivered a public lecture at the 2018 History Colloquium on campus  
3 in September. The event also featured a staged reading of Dr. Levin's play, *Elizabeth I: To Speak or Use Silence*, by  
4 students and faculty.

5 Throughout fall 2018, The President's Thinking Symposium on Living, Learning, and Leading hosted six guests,  
6 including Matthew Barger, a senior advisor at Hellman & Friedman Private Equity; Lizzette Gonzalez Reynolds, class  
7 of 1987, a former deputy legislative director for Texas Governor George W. Bush; Konrad Bouffard, class of 1993,  
8 cofounder of Round Rock Honey and Beekeeping School, one of the leading producers of heirloom honey; Tanya  
9 Otti, president and founder of Continental Healthcare, Inc.; Igor Perisic, vice president of engineering and chief data  
10 officer at LinkedIn; and Donna Fujimoto Cole, president and CEO of Cole Chemical and Distributing.

11 In Conclusion

12 I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to visit Southwestern and experience, in person, the  
13 ways in which this intellectual community is thinking, creating, and connecting ideas to make meaning and make a  
14 difference.

15 Edward Burger, President and Professor

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OFFICE OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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37 The Office of Connectional Ministries is emerging as a valuable and very present resource to the Rio Texas  
38 Conference. As Director, I continue to listen, discern, and build relationships within our Conference and with our  
39 ecumenical partners and neighbors. Through this office we strategically plan small-scale to large-scale events  
40 (including hosting general agencies and boards) that have the capacity to impact our clergy, laity, and ultimately the  
41 local congregations in our mission fields and throughout the greater connection.

42  
43 **Annual Conference (AC) Meeting-** the Connectional Ministries Office continues to be grateful to the many gifted  
44 conference staff, clergy and laity who devote a tremendous amount of time and energy to planning this annual  
45 event. Our AC 2019 theme, ***"We Make The Path By Walking - Hacemos El Camino Al Andar"*** stems from the  
46 realization "though the church is not always of one mind, we make the path by walking in the spirit of hope, peace,  
47 connection and with a focused commitment to the needs of our communities and the world around us."



Throughout the planning season both the AC Design and Structural Planning teams meet on a regular basis to ensure the core values of Christlikeness, Fruitfulness, Excellence, Accountability and Collaboration are lived out in every facet of this primarily teaching/fellowship conference.

In addition to the above support and planning, a new AC worship service planning structure is in place this year which includes the following – AC Theme and Design Consultant and AC Worship Project Manager. In addition, each worship service, including the Retirement Ceremony and Plenary music offerings, are planned/executed by way of Lead Coordinators who meet on a regular basis.

**Clergy Convocation** – The 2019 Clergy Convocation - **!Adelante!** (Meaning - **Ahead; forward; come in!**) was planned by a team of talented clergy and laity, with the goal of providing excellent opportunities for worship, inspiration and processing the results of the 2019 General Conference session as well as plenty of opportunities for fellowship and wellness activities. Exceptionally hosted by University UMC San Antonio, this year's 24-hour event was meaningfully spent. Attendees left the Convocation feeling heard, supported, encouraged, hopeful and challenged to thrive and live our callings even in the face of the unknown and challenging times ahead.

**Nominations** –As we look towards the AC 2020, the Connectional Ministries Office, along with the committee on Nominations will introduce a new application-based, online nomination process that will enable the Conference to fill every AC committee with “diverse, qualified and called leaders” —matching gifts, passion and commitment, with the opportunity to lead. This process will be available early Fall 2019.

**Uniting Table** – As stated in the Pre-Conference Uniting Table (UT) Report, as a governing body, the Uniting Table continues its task of keeping God's vision for the AC in front of us by supporting the vision and strategic priorities of the Conference through a process of discernment, to help address and clarify adaptive challenges, with an overall goal of assisting the conference, in this unprecedented time of change- to “walk the path that is before us.”

**Uniting People's Vision Team** – “The Uniting People's Vision Team's function is to facilitate unity, witness, communication and justice, as well as to work towards intercultural competency in all areas of conference life.” (Unification Plan) Under the oversight of the Office of Connectional Ministries, and similar to Uniting Table, this Vision Team continues to discern how it can best align itself with the strategic priorities of Rio Texas Conference as the team seeks to clarify adaptive challenges, help unite people and best work with the district strategy teams to develop, resource, communicate, support and offer witness in all areas of conference life.

**Administrative Oversight** – The Connectional Ministries Office continues in its responsibility of overseeing the day to day administration and supervision of the following ministry offices – Communication and Media, Intergenerational Ministries, Mission, Service and Justice Ministries, the Rio Texas Conference Disaster Team, Administrative Support staff as well as provides supervisory support to Project Transformation.

In collaboration with the District Superintendents and the Districts in which they serve, the Office of Connectional Ministries will continue to be fruitful in its ministry—to steward the Conference's vision of reaching the mission fields in intentional, fresh new ways and to do its part in ensuring the strategic priorities of the conference (Fruitful Congregations/Faith Communities; Clergy Effectiveness/Leadership Development; Reaching Younger Generations; Grow in sense of Bicultural, Bilingual, Border identity and practice; Excel in Mission, Service, and Justice Ministries) are lived out. It is truly exciting and humbling to see and experience all that God is doing in and through the Office of Connectional Ministries! It is my privilege to serve the Rio Texas Conference.

Rev. Diana K. Phillips. Director Connectional Ministries (DCM)

#### UNITING TABLE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

In many ways our Annual Conference Theme (“We Make the Path by Walking”) encapsulates the work of the Uniting Table. The Uniting Table is task with keeping God's vision for the Annual Conference in front of us as we walk the path before us. At the same time, we are to stay focused upon some expectations: Christ-centeredness, Fruitfulness, Excellence, Accountability, and Collaboration. Our Vision teams have found ways to be productive and faithful to

the vision of the Annual Conference. Their reports will follow. During these days where we have been involved with Harvey relief and border justices issues, our churches have been faithful to proclaim God's kingdom.

Last spring, Bishop Schnase shared a vision with us that we embraced as a Uniting Table. That vision created within us a desire to lead the conference to focus upon our primary mission – To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. Along with that, we desire to multiply our United Methodist witness; to increase the number of vital-outward focused faith communities that offer Christ and provided ministries that relieve suffering and that transform lives and communities. Furthermore, we want to foster spiritual, mature, effective clergy, lay leadership, and discipleship; to push congregations, pastors, and leaders to focus outwardly and to engage the mission field. And, if we can get there, to force future oriented thinking, yet still stay connected to those who have gone before. My friends, the church is changing; ministry is changing; we are in liminal space. The Uniting Table does not desire to control our future, but to pay attention to God as we make the path by walking.

Rev. Dr. Ralph Mann, Uniting Table Chair

## THE OFFICE OF CREATING / VITALIZING CONGREGATIONS AND DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

What a joy this last year has been to work with so many congregations, pastors, laity, Campus Ministers, and seminaries who love Jesus, those they serve and their community/mission field.

With the continued focus on fruitfulness both in congregational vitality, new faith communities and leadership development, I had the joy of walking and working with many congregational leaders and pastors, teaching at many of the District Profession's meetings, District Leadership workshops for laity, as well as helping District Strategy teams think about how they could help encourage, teach, and lead congregations to be bold in reaching out into the community they serve. We also held or attended larger events for clergy and laity to learn together as well as smaller cohorts. All of these are strategies so that churches can learn, grow, and reach new people for Christ.

Creating Congregations: the world is changing, and the church needs to look beyond the "traditional" ways of reaching new people for Christ and the attractional models of only expecting people to come to them. While traditional church starts and multi-site / satellite church plants are still very important (and we need more of them), they are also expensive and clergy centric as they start. We have begun teaching and dreaming about newer, more organic and less cost prohibitive ways to connect with those not attending local congregations like Fresh Expressions, Focused Worship in the community, and Intentional Faith Communities while also leaving room for newer, not-yet-known ways we can join God in creative ways of reaching people. I am excited that the 4 new church starts in 2019-2020, we have multiple ways of reaching new people. FUMC Pflugerville will create a satellite multiplying the Methodist witness in the East Pflugerville area. It is our prayer that we can create a multi-cultural community of faith from the very beginning. Valley Praise will also be launching a new satellite in McAllen early 2020. This will be the third campus of VP. New Wineskins in Leander is moving even deeper into the community by creating a network of Intentional Faith Communities. Rev. Ray Altman has been doing this work very part-time but feels God leading him into this new type of edge ministry full-time. Crestview UMC has voted to become our first Legacy Church relinquishing responsibilities of leadership, property, and assets so that another church(es) can transform the property, send an influx of people, reach the immediate community of the prior declining congregation, and start a new community. It is our prayer that most if not all of the legacy church faith community will choose to remain connected to the new faith community.

We also hosted our first ever Fresh Expression Vision Days – two days in 5 locations! Almost 400 participated in one of the two days. While we don't know the full impact yet, God is certainly planting seeds of growth in various ways in our conference.

We started the conference year with 9 "un-charted" church starts (one satellite, five traditional new church starts, two missional churches, and one intentional incarnational community). One was closed in March, one chartered, one satellite has become self-sustainable. We anticipate one more to charter in June and one to charter by the end of the calendar year.

Leadership Development: 79 lay and clergy attended Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection in KS in September 2019. This is the second year in a row to help financially support part of this learning event. This year, however, we were able to give some financial support to a church team – lay and clergy- as we believe that shared learning translates into stronger congregational growth. Next, 25 clergy attended Texas Methodist's Courageous Leadership Imperative in St. Louis. It was a three-day innovation gathering of clergy across the jurisdiction. Many of the pastors who participated in the large event are continuing in cohorts.

1 There have been 3 seminaries visited to recruit interns to the Rio Texas Conference followed by visits from the  
2 Bishop. Candler School of Theology, Wesley School of Theology, and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.  
3 From these visits we have interns from two of these seminaries as well as an on-going teaching relationship with all  
4 three.

5 College / Campus Ministry: Campus Ministry continues to thrive in the Rio Texas Conference. 11 Campus Ministries  
6 are on 10 campuses reaching almost 1000 students! Rev. Lizzie Wright and Rev. Wes Cain are coordinating the  
7 campus ministries along with Rev. Karen Horan in the conference center. Campus Ministers are connecting more  
8 regularly with each other, with their District Strategy Teams and submitting regular reports to the conference office.  
9 We are pleased to welcome 4 new campus ministers – Lo Alaman (UTSA), Rev. Valerie Vogt, interium (SAC), Brandon  
10 Beasley (UTRGV and STC) and Will Durham (U of H Victoria). We still currently have an opening at Angelo State  
11 University.

12 Vitalizing Congregations: There have been 7 Vitalizing Cohort groups with 32 churches whose AWA was between  
13 65-110. These are 9 month cohorts where clergy and 2 or 3 laity read books, learned about design thinking process,  
14 ideated innovative ways to connect with their immediate community and conducted 2 “experiments”. These  
15 churches are from all over the conference – from north Austin to the Rio Grande Valley, from Victoria and the eastern  
16 boarder of the conference to Junction and Brady and the coastal bend. The experiments have caused excitement  
17 and most all of the churches have seen an increase in relational connections in their neighborhoods. Expect more  
18 of these cohorts to be formed in the Fall of 2019.

19 First UMC Pflugerville is completing their contract with The UnStuck Group. They have seen tremendous growth  
20 and vitality. I look forward to more connections with this group in the future. Also, more than a dozen churches /  
21 pastors have reached out to various conference staff to come and work with their boards or leadership teams on  
22 everything from hospitality to simplified structure to staffing models. Other churches have reached out for coaching  
23 for their youth or children’s ministry areas. Others have joined the Asset Based Community Development classes as  
24 they learn how to connect with the community in new ways. All of this learning, reaching out, and strengthening  
25 structure allows for a church to be more vital.

26 Finally, 14 churches were granted “New Places / New People” grants for a total of \$121,340. Of these 14 grants, 8  
27 of the grants were for specifically reaching Latino Hispanic communities. Some of the grants were to reach new  
28 ways to serve the underserved, others were to teach lay missionaries to reach out in their community and colonia,  
29 others started new worshipping communities while others reached out to the Military in their mission field. What a  
30 joy to partner with this many churches as they reach new people to become more vital in their area!

31 Rev. Karen Horan, Director of Creating /Vitalizing Congregations and Developing Leaders  
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TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES VISION TEAM / OUTREACH VITALITY  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

During the Unification process, consultant Gil Rendle reminded the development team that, in the future, once Rio Texas was to come into being, it will be important to “remember and rehearse the vision”, so that each person can find the way in which their part supports and deepens the mission of the whole. This, thereby leads to missional alignment. The vision of the Rio Texas Conference is: Uniting Peoples, Vitalizing Congregations, Developing Leaders, Transforming Communities. Regarding Transforming Communities, the 2014 Plan of Unification asserts:

*We can move from inwardly oriented to transforming communities. If we assume that the people in our community know that everyone is welcome in our church, their lack of engagement with us is out of our power. When we see our primary mission field as the existing membership of our church and those visitors who do find us, our mission outreach takes place on our terms. We hope to attract the mission field to us by being friendly and welcoming to the unchurched in our community.*

*Unification gives us the opportunity to transform communities. We will live under God’s reign as engaged servants in our world – transforming the world one community at a time. In neighborhoods, families, towns and cities we will be the body of Christ; a gospel people, moving together in one Spirit. We will be agents of God’s healing and reconciliation, holiness and peace, wholeness and joy. We will be missionaries, not just members. Our churches will be gospel movements and missional outposts, not just buildings and programs. [Rio Texas Unification Plan – p.17]*

Over the past four years, the Transforming Communities Vision Team has gathered twice annually striving to remember and rehearse the vision of the church’s opportunity to transform communities. The vision team’s charge is to support and learn from the ministries of mission, service, and justice within the Rio Texas Conference and as expressed through the UMC’s 2016 Book of Discipline ministry portfolios of Global Ministries and Church & Society – paragraphs 629, 633, 654, 656, and 657 and outlined per Rule 5 RTC Standing Rules. The vision team is fostering relationships and dialogue with various entities reflecting the realms and ministries of mission, including Methodist Healthcare Ministries, Justice for Our Neighbors, Texas Impact, and Methodist Federation for Social Action.

Likewise, the Vision Team and the Office of Mission, Service, and Justice Ministries works with task teams and coordinators in the areas of:

- Processing of Mission Personnel and Itineration
- Conference Advance and the Five-Star Program
- Immigration / Migration Responses and Border Ministries
- Community Development through the Transformational Communities of Praxis Program and Community Development Network
- Conference Disaster Response Committee
- Conference Volunteers-In-Mission Committee

The following additional reports are specifically related to portfolio of the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, Sandy Wilder, as part of the work of the Transforming Communities Vision Team:

- Missionaries and Mission Support
- Harvest Sunday Offering 2018 & 2019
- UMCOR Sunday 2018
- Advance Giving 2018 and the Five-Star Program

The conference 2018 statistical report reflects indicators of mission, service and justice ministries flowing from the local church. Below is reflection of these ministries conference-wide over the life of the Rio Texas Conference’s four-year history. Self-reported local church activity data reveal significant increase in the number of persons served by community ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy [Line 23] over the past four years from 677,004 in to 2015 to 899,552 in 2018. This possibly reflects the increased needs discovered in communities served through these critical ministries. To understand this specifically, the type of ministries and needs addressed would need to be qualified.

For 2018 [second table], conference-wide, of the 2,046 community ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy identified [Line 21], 724 / 35% focus on global / regional health and 1,623 / 79% focus on engaging in ministry with the poor / socially marginalized. We know that approximately 1/3 of churches in the conference have a Methodist Healthcare Ministries Wesley Nurse assigned to their parish and that Wesley Nurses may offer coverage to more than one parish which may explain the 35% focus on global / regional health type ministry activities.

Regarding the number of persons from congregations serving in mission / community ministries [Line 22], we show an increase of 9,147 persons involved over four years. In 2017, 42,059 persons were involved, which is an increase of 16,801 persons from the prior year. Though not fully substantiated, it is believed that this dramatic spike in involvement could be due to volunteer response in various forms to Hurricane Harvey.

A next major step conference-wide may be to begin the process of qualifying the various types of ministries carried out. By doing so, we may discover common social determinants of health regionally within districts and / or conference-wide. We may begin to gain knowledge of how many congregations are partnering with their local school and in what ways, number of food pantries or food cooperatives, number of after-school tutoring programs, quality of life improvement activities, etc. Increasingly, we are aware of the importance of being in ministry “with” the community versus carrying out ministry “to” the community and the importance of fostering ministry out of mutual relationships to transform communities and congregations respectively.

Statistics Line	Conference-wide annual comparison Mission, Service & Justice Ministries [formerly Outreach Vitality]	2018	2017	2016	2015
14	Vacation Bible School Participants	20,275	22,489	23,260	23,294
20a	Number of Volunteer-In-Mission Teams	122	182	101	82
20b	Number of persons participating in Volunteer-In-Mission Teams	1,144	1,514	1,217	1,112
22	Number of persons from your congregation serving in mission / community ministries	27,861	42,059	25,258	18,714
23	Number of persons served by community ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy	899,552	849,230	660,583	677,004

Statistics Line	14	20a	20b	21	21a	21 b	22	23
<b>2018 Statistics by District</b>	Vacation Bible School participants	Number of Volunteer-In-Mission Teams	Number of persons participating Volunteer-In-Mission Teams	Number of community ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy	Of the ministries counted in 21, how many focus on global / regional health?	Of the ministries counted in line 21, how many focus on engaging in ministry with the poor / socially marginalized?	Number of persons from your congregation serving in mission / community ministries	Number of persons served by community ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy
<b>Capital</b>	3,588	55	304	430	101	281	5,931	128,625
<b>Coastal Bend</b>	2,007	4	33	341	145	227	3,830	118,303
<b>Crossroads</b>	1,714	3	35	227	61	139	1,548	44,712
<b>El Valle</b>	1,380	2	30	142	59	97	1,735	57,780
<b>Hill Country</b>	2,859	27	210	340	130	450	5,686	291,994

<b>Las Misiones</b>	6,680	20	472	413	156	253	7,438	179,054
<b>West</b>	2,047	11	60	153	72	176	1,693	79,084
<b>TOTAL</b>	20,275	122	1,144	2,046	724	1,623	27,861	899,552

During the 2018 – 2019 annual conference year, the *Office of Mission, Service, and Justice Ministries* [formerly Outreach Vitality] with the Transforming Communities Vision Team continued to nurture the ongoing developments in the areas of:

- Disaster Response
- Transformational Communities of Praxis
- Immigration / Migration Response and Border Ministries

### **Disaster Response**

The Disaster Response Committee continues to support the massive recovery effort remaining from Hurricane Harvey but is committed to responding to new disasters that occur in the Conference.

Over the last year response efforts have included a major flood in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties in the Rio Grande Valley as well as flooding in the city of Sonora and the Highland Lakes region.

When disaster hits, Early Response Teams (ERT) are called to help with clean up. All ERT members are certified by UMCOR and must complete a day long training. This year 111 were trained bringing the total to 798. Many of these team members have received additional special training. These include: 69 chain saw operators, 33 skid steer operators, 79 site assessors, 43 team leaders, 10 advanced clean-up specialists and 15 on-site managers. The Rio Texas Conference is a national leader in on-line training making it more convenient for team members to get recertified (every three years) and to get specialized advanced training.

The Martinez Disaster Response Center continues to serve as a collection center for UMCOR kits assembled by churches in the Conference as well as storage for disaster response equipment. UMCOR now receives only school kits, hygiene kits, and cleaning kits (flood buckets). Although the center serves as a collection site for all kits, a small inventory of hygiene kits is maintained but the main inventory is cleaning kits. Excess kits are shipped to the UMCOR Sager Brown warehouse in Baldwin, LA. Limited volunteer opportunities are available at the center in Kerrville for groups to verify cleaning kits before they are delivered to flood survivors. Contact warehouse manager Jack Clarke at [jack@jdc3.com](mailto:jack@jdc3.com) for information about volunteer opportunities.

Thanks to a \$500,000 grant from UMCOR, the Conference is taking a new approach to recovery following flooding in the Valley last summer. The funds have allowed the Conference to hire a case manager and a construction manager to assist families recover. A unique aspect of the program is focusing on homes that have flooded multiple times and mitigating for future damage. (Many homes have been flooded multiple times in the past ten years.) Another unique goal of the program is connecting church-based outreach programs with the disaster survivors being served, to help build relationships that will continue to be of service after disaster recovery is complete.

The Highland Lakes area of Burnet and Llano Counties experienced major flooding in October 2018. Lutie Watkins UMC in Llano and First UMC Marble Falls played key roles in the response to this disaster. UMCOR made a \$100,000 grant that has allowed the Conference to provide Case management to the survivors of the disaster and volunteer teams are being recruited to help with repairs to damaged homes along the Llano and Colorado Rivers.

Hurricane Harvey recovery has been far and away the center piece of the Disaster Response Ministry since it struck in August 2017. Thanks to nearly six million dollars from UMCOR and participation in the FEMA funded Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP), the Conference has been able to hire 23 case managers in the 14 impacted counties to assist families as they walk the long road to recovery. Rio Texas case managers have worked with 846 families and will help even more in coming months. A construction staff that includes a Supervisor and six Project managers have also been hired so that volunteer teams have proper guidance in making repairs to damaged homes. So far, 116 volunteer teams have provided over 18,000 hours of labor to assist 121 families to repair damage caused by the hurricane. In addition, the Conference has funded 22 complete home replacements (mobile home, RV and complete rebuilds).

It is noteworthy that Rio Texas Conference case managers have assisted many additional clients who have received funding for repairs and home replacements from other funders. Repairs and home replacements would not be possible if it were not for funds made available through Unmet Needs Tables sponsored by local long-term recovery groups. As of February 2019, the Rio Texas Conference has been able to offer \$1.7 Million dollars of financial assistance to meet the needs of Hurricane Harvey survivors. In addition to cases managed by Rio Texas, The Society

of St Vincent De Paul, Victoria County Long Term Recovery Group, Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group, Catholic Charities, and BCFS bring cases to the unmet needs tables. Funds available at the tables are provided by gifts made to the Disaster Response Fund by individuals, churches, and UM Conferences. In addition, major gifts from UMCOR have been supplemented by grants to the Conference by the American Red Cross, Rebuild Texas, Bonneville Inc., and Kronkosky Foundation.

All of this work would not be possible without you and your churches--and we still need your help. To learn more, go to [riotexasresponse.org](http://riotexasresponse.org), reach out to your District Disaster Response coordinator, or contact us through the conference office to volunteer! Each team that serves represents HOPE for the survivors that have been living in the chaos for almost two years.

*Report submitted by: Eugene Hileman; Conference Disaster Response Coordinator*

### **Transformational Communities of Praxis**

Through continued funding from Methodist Healthcare Ministries, Transformational Communities of Praxis [TCOP], now in the midst of its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, has allowed the program to train and work with ten church / community teams to engage in new methods and approaches for missional outreach leading to the development of community and congregation. TCOP is based on discovering, connecting, and building upon the gifts and assets that flow out of the relationships the church builds with its community neighbors – residents, organizations, and institutions; all working towards mutual transformation.

The core learning team participants [TCOP teams listed below] experience transformation as a learning community through new insights and skills gained throughout the one-year program, thus creating a shift in mindset and skillset towards transformation through application [praxis] in the context of congregation and community. TCOP teams meet for three major training sessions throughout the year and are provided with funds to leverage accessing national and regional learning events offering outreach and community development best-practices and networking opportunities. TCOP teams reflect various congregation and community sizes as the tools and frameworks are applicable to any given context.

Year	TCOP Teams	Location	Population	District
2017	Parker Lane UMC	Austin	950,715	Capital
	First-La Trinidad UMC / Mission Border Hope	Eagle Pass	28,945	Hill Country
	First UMC / Hope Outreach	Brackettville	1,740	West
	Pollard Memorial UMC	San Antonio	1,511,946	Las Misiones
2018	First UMC	Portland	17,287	Coastal Bend
	El Valle District Ministry Center	McAllen	142,696	El Valle
	University UMC	San Antonio	1,511,946	Las Misiones
	First UMC	Poteet	3,415	Las Misiones
2019	Gruene UMC	Gruene	79,152	Hill Country
	Bethel UMC	San Antonio	1,511,946	Las Misiones

The TCOP process is based in the context of the Body of Christ in community and in the theology of God's abundance and shalom [perfect peace] as noted by Jeremiah 29:7 - *But seek the welfare (shalom) of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare (shalom) you will find your welfare (shalom).*

Likewise, TCOP is based in the frameworks of **SHALOM** as a learning process of development: **S** - systemic and sustainable change, **H** – health, healing, harmony, and wholeness, **A** – asset-based community development tools and process, **L** – love of God, neighbor, and self, **O** - organizing for community transformation, and **M** – multi-sector collaboration.

The initial teams are applying the TCOP tools learned in their existing outreach ministries. Thinking about moving from charity to justice, the process challenges participants to rethink ministry activity that is done “to” and / or “for” the community to shift to ministry based on relationships with the community. It is through relationships that gifts

and resources are discovered and connected for the common good that can lead to generative and sustaining ministry, service, and justice.

An exciting expansion for TCOP is the birth of a community development network through the participation of the TCOP teams. Initial stories shared are demonstrating the ways most significant changes are occurring due to the application of TCOP tools to existing ministry activities. As the network grows over time, identified transforming communities will emerge to serve as reference points and teaching centers of spiritual transformation within the church and community.

### **Immigration Response and Border Ministries**

During the June 2018 Annual Conference, two critical statements were affirmed by the annual conference as noted in the 2018 Conference Journal - *Welcoming the Migrant in Our Midst* [page 193] and *Resolution to End Family Separation* [page 147]. The resolution came forth to the annual conference as an impromptu response to the then recently implemented zero-tolerance immigration policy – see <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homesecc/R45266.pdf>. Our conference's southwest is defined by 469 miles of border with Mexico, and as Methodists, with the Eastern Conference of the Methodist Church of Mexico. Along this border are 20 listed points of entry between Del Rio and Brownsville. Historically, Methodism has flourished organically on both sides of this border and flowed fluidly over the years. The Methodist relationship continues through the Methodist Border Friendship Commission reflecting ministry at a bi-national level. The two statements affirmed by the annual conference reflect the reality of our border region where south to north migration is a daily increasing occurrence.

At the end of July 2018, the newly formed South-Central Jurisdiction Immigration Task Force gathered leaders to survey the various immigration and migration support responses occurring amongst the eleven conferences within the region. As stories were shared, it became apparent that the Rio Texas Conference is a focal-point region of global migration reality. Particular expressions of our border reality are:

Through mobilized efforts from Hill Country District churches, critical hospitality and crisis response ministry is effectively carried out through Mission Border Hope in Eagle Pass through provision of food, clothing and supplies to migrants held in limbo on the bridge and to those in shelters in Piedras Negras.

Likewise, the Holding Institute in Laredo is a “go to” location housing migrants seeking asylum. On average, 40 to 50 persons weekly stay at Holding receiving respite through shelter, food, medical attention, and resourcing in making connections for their next steps in seeking asylum. The Holding Institute is noted as a Point of Assistance on an International Red Cross / United Nations High Commission for Refugees map migrants may receive traversing across Mexico enroute to the United States.

Other expressions of migrant hospitality and advocacy at the border are through participatory support, resourcing, and presence with the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, the Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville, La Posada Providencia in San Benito, Texas Impact's Courts and Ports advocacy presence program, and provision of food, clothing and supplies to migrants held in limbo on border bridges.

Throughout the summer of 2018 and continuing into the present, various groups have come from within the United Methodist Church and beyond to the border to learn of the migration reality and the various response ministries and systems in our midst. About 50 groups will have visited the Brownville – McAllen area since June 2018 until the end of July 2019. As the story is told, our leaders in this work express the challenges and realities of being in ministry in a *liminal* space, that which is *in-between* and reflects complexity and ambiguity. Leaders speak of the challenges of being in ministry the sojourner who is seeking asylum and a better way of life as well as with those called to protect our southern border.

During August / September, clergy and laity from the conference participated in leading worship and communion with unaccompanied minors – children and youth held in the Tornillo Detention Center outside of El Paso. An impacting take-away for the clergy and laity experiencing the worship services was reading the prayers the detained children and youth wrote on prayer cards submitted, such as [translated]: “*Lord, thank you for [my] health. I ask you for my family, give them health. Lord, I ask you to help me in my case so that everything goes well and [that I can] leave this place as soon as possible. My Lord, you are great, you will help me. I have faith in you, my beloved Jesus listens to my prayer. Lord, you give me health to be good. Amen and Amen.*”

In September 2018, about 30 persons gathered in San Antonio for a visioning summit on immigration and border ministries. Participants represented various ministry expressions within Rio Texas, the Methodist Church of Mexico, and the UMC General Board of Church and Society. Various reports shared on the current state of the church responding to the realities of migration in the U.S. and Mexico led the participants to see this mutual work as connectional and bi-national. Vision components identified for the collaborative work moving forward are: the mapping of resources and connections, providing education on the issues of migration and immigration, creating a support system for migrants, immigrants, advocates, and practitioners in this work, providing holistic legal care for migrants and immigrants, advocating for and engaging in systemic change, and providing spiritual care for all



involved. Acting upon these identified components is a slow process being they reflect large long-term goals. Since October 2018, regular check-in conversations, about every 3 to 4 weeks or so, are conducted via ZOOM where participants report on their evolving and emerging work in this regard.

Within Rio Texas are two Justice for Our Neighbors [JFON] chapters - San Antonio / Corpus Christi Region [www.sarjfon.org](http://www.sarjfon.org) and Austin Region [www.jfonaustin.org](http://www.jfonaustin.org). JFON is a hospitality ministry that welcomes immigrants by providing free or low-cost, expert immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. JFON engages in advocacy for immigrant justice, and offers education to communities of faith and to the public. In September as well, the JFON [www.njfon.org](http://www.njfon.org) National Roundtable met in San Antonio, a gathering of staff, volunteers, and board directors of the JFON chapters across the country that meet to learn of best practices, development strategies, networking, and changing trends in immigration law and global migration patterns. As Rio Texas JFON responds to immigrant case needs through educational clinics, asylum qualification and court representation, some next steps are to expand its presence through outreach engagement in our border communities between Brownsville up to Laredo and eventually Eagle Pass, to cultivate the public witness presence of the church in the courts during removal proceedings for those pleading for granting of asylum, and to elicit the support of congregations to provide companionship to families in the asylum seeking process.

The Transforming Communities Vision Team sponsored *MISSION BREAKFAST*, will be held at the ABC Center during Annual Conference on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 am. Panelist – Susan Hellums, Becky Baxter Ballou, and Matt Lohmeier will be presenting on Border Ministries and Migration / Immigration Responses.

Sandy Wilder, Chair & Abel Vega, Director

#### RÍO TEXAS CONFERENCE ADVANCE GIVING AND THE FIVE-STAR PROGRAM FOR INFORMATION ONLY

In 2018, 152 Rio Texas Conference churches achieved Five Star mission giving status.

Capital District	15
Coastal Bend District	23
Crossroads District	43
El Valle District	14
Hill Country District	20
Las Misiones District	22
West	15

To achieve Five Star status, these congregations:

1           paid 100% of their apportionments (294 churches in the annual conference did this)  
2           contributed toward UMCOR Sunday (formerly called One Great Hour of Sharing)  
3           contributed in each of the following five mission categories  
4           one Rio Texas district or conference Advance project  
5           one national Advance project somewhere else in the U.S.  
6           one international Advance project  
7           one UMCOR project  
8           support for a Global Ministries missionary  
9  
10        Congratulations to each of these congregations for their generous mission giving and for their growth in mission  
11        outreach and knowledge.  
12

13       **CAPITAL DISTRICT**

Austin: Berkeley UMC  
Austin: Bethany  
Austin: Crestview UMC  
Austin: First UMC  
Austin: Northwest Hills  
Oak Hill UMC  
Austin: St. Luke  
Austin: Tarrytown UMC  
Austin: University  
Austin: Wesley UMC  
Cedar Park: First  
Dripping Springs  
Leander UMC  
El Divino Salvador UMC  
Latin American UMC

14  
15       **COASTAL BEND DISTRICT**

Beeville: First UMC  
Bishop / Falfurrias  
Freer/Bruni  
El Buen Pastor  
CC: First UMC  
CC: Grace  
CC: Island in the Son  
CC: St. Paul  
CC: St. Peter's by the Sea/CC District  
Fannin / Telferner  
Freer/Bruni  
Goliad: Fannin St.  
Hebbronville: FUMC  
Ingleside UMC  
Bishop: El Redentor/Kingsville: El Buen Pastor

Point Comfort / Lolita

Palacios UMC

Pettus/Pawnee

Pettus/Pawnee

Portland: First UMC

Refugio UMC

Skidmore UMC

Three Rivers UMC

1

2 **CROSSROADS DISTRICT**

Altair: Wesley Chapel

Bastrop UMC

Monthalia / Belmont

Bloomington

Columbus: First

Cuero/Rabke

Dewville

El Campo: First UMC

Elgin

Gonzales: Evans Chapel/Henson Chapel

Fentress

Flatonia / Freyburg

Ganado/Louise

Eagle Lake / Garwood: Lehrer Memorial

Gonzales: First UMC

Hallettsville / Mossy Grove

Haynie Chapel / Decker

Yoakum/Hope

Kingsbury

La Grange: First UMC

LaGrange: St. James

Luling: First UMC

Luling: Wm Taylor UMC

Lytton Springs

Manor UMC

Monthalia / Belmont

Hallettsville / Mossy Grove

Port Arthur: Getsemani

Yorktown: First/ Runge

Schulenburg

First UMC

Seguin: La Trinidad

Shiner

Hallettsville Circuit  
Smiley UMC  
Smithville: First  
Fannin / Telferner  
V: First UMC  
V: Webster Chapel  
Weimer  
Winchester  
Yoakum/Hope  
Yorktown: First/ Runge

1

2

**EL VALLE DISTRICT**

Brownsville: First  
First United Methodist Church  
Edinburg: First UMC  
Harlingen: Wesley UMC  
La Feria UMC  
Lyford: First United Methodist Church  
First UMC  
Mercedes  
Mission: First UMC  
Port Isabel: First  
Raymondville: Bethel/Mercedes: El Buen Pastor  
Rio Grande City: First  
Rio Grande City: St. John's  
First UMC

3

4

**HILL COUNTRY DISTRICT**

Buchanan Dam: Highland Lakes  
Buda UMC  
Center Point  
Fredericksburg UMC  
Hondo UMC  
Johnson City UMC  
Kerrville: First UMC  
Kerrville: St. Paul's UMC  
Lakehills UMC  
Leakey UMC  
Marble Falls UMC  
Montel  
New Braunfels: First UMC  
New Fountain  
Sabinal: First UMC

San Marcos: El Buen Pastor  
San Marcos: Jackson Chapel  
First UMC  
Wimberley UMC  
Poteet / Yancey

1

2 **LAS MISIONES DISTRICT**

Bulverde UMC  
Devine UMC  
Floresville: El Mesias  
Helotes Hills UMC  
Jourdanton  
La Trinidad UMC  
Pleasanton: First UMC  
SAnt: East St. Paul  
SAnt: Epworth  
SAnt: Jacob's Chapel UMC  
SAnt: Laurel Heights UMC  
SAnt: Pollard Memorial  
SAnt: Resurrection UMC  
SAnt: Sanford Chapel  
SAnt: St. Andrew's UMC  
SAnt: St. John's UMC  
SAnt: St. Mark's UMC  
SAnt: St. Paul UMC  
SAnt: Travis Park UMC  
SAnt: Trinity UMC  
SAnt: Westlawn  
Stockdale: Christ UMC

3

4

5 **WEST DISTRICT**

Art  
Rocksprings: FUMC/Barksdale  
Brackettville UMC  
Brady: First UMC  
Eldorado: First  
Goldthwaite UMC  
Junction / London  
Mason: First UMC  
Miles  
Rankin  
Robert Lee  
Wesley Trinity UMC

Sonora: First UMC  
Sterling City: First UMC  
Veribest / Paint Rock

As of March 2019, the following Rio Texas district and conference Advance projects are approved for Five Star giving and are listed in the online catalog on the conference website.

Capital District

Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT)  
Texas Wesley Foundation of Austin  
Mobility Worldwide (PET Project of Austin)  
Montopolis Friendship Community Center  
Caritas of Austin  
Austin Region Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON)  
Care Communities – Care Team Program  
Austin Habitat for Humanity

Coastal Bend District

Corpus Christi Metro Ministries, Inc.  
Mission of Mercy Texas Mobile Medical Program  
Wesley Community Center – Corpus Christi  
Wesley Community Center – Robstown  
First Light Learning Center

Crossroads District

Cathedral Oaks Worship and Retreat Center  
Crossroads District Missions  
Lighthouse 2911  
Gonzales Youth Center  
Golden Age Home Assisted Living

El Valle District

United Methodist Campus Ministry of the Rio Grande Valley  
Women Together Foundation  
Hand Crank Transportation Rio Grande Valley  
Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley  
Colonia Ministries  
El Valle District Border Refugee/Immigration Ministries  
El Valle District Special Mission Outreach  
El Valle Ramp Project

Hill Country District

Habitat for Humanity Kerr County  
The Helping Center of Marble Falls Area, Inc.  
Barnabas Connection  
Good Samaritan Center  
Mission: Border Hope  
Kerr County Christian Assistance Food Ministry  
United Campus Ministry, San Marcos

Las Misiones District

1 San Antonio Food Bank  
 2 Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program  
 3 San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Inc. (SAMM)  
 4 Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio  
 5 PET Project of San Antonio  
 6 Help for Families (formerly Hispanic Religion Partnership)  
 7 Magdalena House  
 8 Jireh House  
 9 San Antonio Region JFON  
 10 San Antonio United Methodist Campus Ministry  
 11 Christian Assistance Ministry  
 12  
 13 West District  
 14 Daily Bread  
 15 H.O.P.E. Outreach Center  
 16  
 17 Rio Texas Conference  
 18 Kingdom Kamp  
 19 Project Transformation  
 20 Russia/Eurasia Initiative  
 21 Mt. Wesley Conference Center  
 22 U.M. Army  
 23 Conference Disaster Response Fund  
 24 Mission Service Project  
 25 Methodist Border Friendship Commission  
 26 Academy for Spiritual Formation Scholarship  
 27 Sandy Wilder, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries  
 28  
 29

# RÍO TEXAS CONFERENCE - MISSIONARIES AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

30 The Rio Texas Conference is well-represented by people responding to God’s call to serve in mission. The conference  
 31 is also well-represented in missionary support: in 2018, congregations gave \$30,876.70 to support mission personnel  
 32 bringing the Good News across the country and around the world.

33 Currently, there are five deaconesses from and serving in the Rio Texas Conference. They are

34 Sonia Cruz; Coordinator, Rethink Mercy, Westlawn UMC, San Antonio  
 35 Judy Davis; Minister of Congregational Care, Coker UMC, San Antonio  
 36 Cindy Johnson; Consultant for Discernment, Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner,  
 37 National Office of United Methodist Women  
 38 Julie Smith; Children’s and Outreach Director, First UMC, Bastrop  
 39 Diana Woods; Site Manager, Community Partner Program, Buda UMC

40 Deaconesses and Home Missioners are laywomen and laymen who are called by God to be in a lifetime relationship  
 41 in The United Methodist Church for engagement with a full-time vocation in ministries of love, justice, and service.  
 42 The Office of Deaconess has been part of our tradition as a church since 1888. The Office of Home Missioner was  
 43 established at the 2004 General Conference.

44 One young adult from Rio Texas, Cecilia Hayes from San Antonio, is finishing a two-year term with the Global Mission  
 45 Fellows Program of Global Ministries.

46 Additionally, many Rio Texas congregations support one of the missionaries assigned to our annual conference (see  
 47 list below) or one of the other nearly 300 Global Ministries missionaries serving in over 60 countries.

48 - Marsha Alexander, serving in Baguio City, Philippines, as a professor at Asbury College

- Willie Berman, serving in Reynosa, Mexico, as director of the Mexican Methodist Border Mission
- Rev. Rosemary Grattan, from the Rio Texas Conference, Church and Community Worker serving with the House of the Carpenter in Wheeling, West Virginia
- Bill Lovelace, serving in Lithuania as a pastor and district superintendent
- Tendai Manyeza, serving in Mutare, Zimbabwe, as administrator of Old Mutare Mission Hospital
- Gaston Ntambo, serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a pilot with Wings of the Morning aviation ministry
- Jeanne Ntambo, serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a radio operator with Wings of the Morning aviation ministry
- Rev. Anna Troy, from the Rio Texas Conference, Church and Community Worker finishing service with the Church for All People in Columbus, Ohio

Three missionaries have itinerated in the annual conference this spring: Anna Troy, Rosemary Grattan, and Michael Arteen, serving at Bethlehem Bible College in Palestine/Israel. We expect to host other missionaries later in the year.

If you feel called to become a missionary yourself, please explore the various categories of short-term and long-term adult and young adult mission service opportunities that are described on the Global Ministries web site (<http://www.umcmision.org/Get-Involved/Missionary-Service>).

Sandy Wilder, Conference Secretary for Global Ministries

## UMCOR SUNDAY 2018 (FORMERLY ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING) FOR INFORMATION

UMCOR Sunday (formerly called One Great Hour of Sharing) is one of the six recognized church-wide Special Sundays with offerings of the United Methodist Church.

In 2018, the total One Great Hour of Sharing offering from Rio Texas churches was \$67,595.53.

- Capital District – 23 churches
- Coastal Bend District – 34 churches
- Crossroads District – 49 churches
- El Valle District – 16 churches
- Hill Country District – 25 churches
- Las Misiones District – 29 churches
- West District – 19 churches

Special thanks to the Crossroads District for the high number of congregations who gave.

Participation in the UMCOR Sunday offering is one of two basic requirements for local churches wanting to achieve Five Star mission giving status. (The other requirement is 100% payment of apportionments.)

One Great Hour of Sharing was established before World War II to underwrite national and international outreach efforts of the United Methodist Church. Since then, all of the funds given support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR's work includes disaster response, refugee ministries, hunger and poverty programs, and sustainable global development projects.

Thanks to all the congregations that supported this vital offering in 2018 and made it possible for the United Methodist Church to reach out in caring to our neighbors in need.

Sandy Wilder, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries



RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE - HARVEST SUNDAY 2019  
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

The Harvest Sunday Initiative Group recommends the following for approval by the 2019 Annual Conference:

That Sunday, November 3, 2019, be recognized as the date of participation by local congregations in the Harvest Sunday Offering.

That acknowledgement be given to congregations for their action toward meeting United Methodist goals of “engaging in ministry with the poor” and “combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally.” One of the four areas of mission focus for the church is **Ministry With the Poor**. In the gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25, we hear the biblical mandate to care for those in need: “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.” [www.umc.org]

That distribution of 2019 Harvest Sunday offering funds shall be as follows:

1/3 of totals collected will be allocated for hunger initiative projects along the Texas-Mexico border areas that are situated and served within the El Valle, Hill Country, and West Districts.

1/3 of totals collected will be returned to participating districts. Funds will be distributed in consultation with district mission committees. Projects that seek ministry with and address root causes of poverty will be of priority.

1/3 of totals collected will be equally allocated among 5 Global Ministries Advance Projects with focus on food security and economic empowerment to be determined by the Harvest Sunday Initiative Group with concurrence by The Transforming Communities Vision Team

The Harvest Sunday Initiative Group, under guidance of the Transforming Communities Vision Team, will coordinate promotion and publicity for the 2019 Harvest Sunday offering.

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Rio Texas Conference has had a very fruitful year. The archive is receiving several requests a month for research on church histories, pastoral appointments and other Methodist history questions. To help with Rio Grande research questions, the Rio Texas Conference Archives is pleased to announce our own volunteer, Lillie Jenkins. Lillie is based at Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. Bridwell library houses most of the records for the Rio Grande Conference. She has helped significantly with research questions pertaining to this conference. She is a valuable asset to our Conference.

As archivist for the Conference, I am meeting with church historians interested in preserving their church’s history. On these visits, I supply the historian with a supply bag of archival safe materials that will aid in their preservation and processing of the church’s historical materials.

A joint effort with the Commission on Archives and History and the Rio Texas Historical Society will be to participate in a cemetery cleanup of the Vordenbaum Cemetery in Cibolo, TX. Fredrich Vordenbaum and some of his family members are laid to rest in the cemetery. Unfortunately, the cemetery has become neglected with overgrown weeds and deteriorated head stones. Vordenbaum was a circuit rider in the mid to late 1800s for the German Mission Conference and dedicated the majority of his life to preaching the Methodist gospel. Our hope is to help the Vordenbaum family clean up this cemetery to provide a nice place for the Vordenbaum relatives to visit their ancestors.

1 The Jackson Ranch Church and Eli Jackson Cemetery is a new project for the Commission. We were made aware of  
2 the dire circumstances these historic places are in by the General Commission on Archives and History. Both sites  
3 are designated Texas Historical Sites by the Texas Historical Commission. Still, they are threatened by the impending  
4 border wall. The land these sites sit on hold significant Methodist history as well as Underground Railroad  
5 connections. The Commission is applying to make these sites United Methodist Historic Sites under the General  
6 Commission on Archives and History.

7 The Kate Warnick Award was awarded to one of our Conference churches. Congratulations Pfulgerville UMC! Their  
8 award will be presented to the church in an upcoming Sunday service. The Kate Warnick Award is awarded to  
9 churches throughout Texas for the best published local church history. There are three categories: small church,  
10 medium church, and large church. If you would like to submit your churches history or would like information on  
11 how to apply contact Bonnie Amaro, Conference Archivist at [bamaro@riotexas.org](mailto:bamaro@riotexas.org)

12 We aim to continue another successful year in preserving Methodist history. Do you have some documents you think  
13 the Conference Archive should have? Visit our website to see a list of donations we would love to accept.  
14 [www.riotexas.org/archives](http://www.riotexas.org/archives)

15 Submitted by: Bonnie Amaro

## OFFICE OF INTERGENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP FOR INFORMATION ONLY

18 It has been another year full of hard and holy work for the Office of Intergenerational Discipleship. Four tasks  
19 continue to shape the work of this office: Safety, Relationships, Research, and Leadership Training. With these words  
20 as my guide, I worked alongside members of our conference to implement the Safety Policy and Trusted con  
21 Confianza safety certification process, guide the Youth Ministry Council and the Young Adult Ministry Council,  
22 convene Holy Listening Circles across our connection for faith formation conversations, conduct two qualitative  
23 research projects that take a deep look at leadership development for Christian Educators and Youth Ministry leaders  
24 in our conference, and create a new leadership development system.

### **Trusted con Confianza**

26 The Rio Texas Conference is still hard at work creating safe spaces for children, youth, and vulnerable adults. We  
27 currently have over 6,000 certified adults engaged in fruitful ministry across our conference. In the last year Safe  
28 Gatherings recognized 166 of our churches for doing this work with excellence. We currently have 23 facilitators  
29 trained to lead certification sessions across our conference. We hosted our second facilitator training retreat in  
30 February 2019. The Rev. Joy Melton, author of *Safe Sanctuaries*, joined us once again as our guest speaker. In the  
31 last year, these facilitators have led a total of 116 facilitated sessions (70 in person and 46 online). I am grateful to  
32 our facilitators, churches, and all the certified individuals for their commitment to this important work.

33 This year we also created the Trusted con Confianza coalition to help continue the important work of keeping  
34 children, youth, and vulnerable adults safe in our conference. This new coalition consists of 21 leaders, clergy and  
35 laity, from across our conference. This coalition is tasked with supporting the work of our conference as we seek to  
36 live into our Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult safety policy. The Trusted Coalition represents three separate work  
37 teams: Policy, Training, and Response. Each team began their work with a 24-hour retreat in early 2019.

38 **Policy work team:** Met in January 2019 to review and evaluate the current safety policy. This team reviews the safety  
39 policy annually with plans to present any changes needed to the Annual Conference body every four years (unless  
40 denominational or state standards require earlier changes).

41 **Training work team:** Met in February 2019 to create the Trusted con Confianza recertification ministry. Information  
42 on recertification can be found at: [riotexas.org/safesteps](http://riotexas.org/safesteps).

43 **Response work team:** Met in March 2019 to begin working on a response process for local churches when harm  
44 occurs in our communities.

45 It has been a blessing to meet and hear from leaders across our conference as they celebrate their work and gain  
46 tools for safe ministry. We are grateful for the work of these ministry leaders and their commitment to the safety of  
47 the children, youth, and vulnerable adults in their care. Together we are keeping all of God's children safe.

### **Youth Ministry Council (YMC)**

49 The youth ministry council met bi-monthly over the last 12 months. Their focus as leaders in our conference was on  
50 learning about leadership in the United Methodist Church as they gain insight and awareness of UMC polity and holy  
51 conferencing. They also shared and celebrated the work they are doing in their districts and their local churches.  
52 This group continues to be a place where 6th-12th graders can come together to pray, discern, and support one

another in the work God is calling them to do. This year, the youth have been discerning their hopes and dreams for the church and have begun identifying ways our churches and faith communities can support them in this work. The question our youth are asking the church is: are you willing? Are you willing to support, include, invite, encourage, mentor, listen to young leaders in your community as they do God's work in our communities?

#### **Young Adult Ministry Council (YAMC)**

The mission statement of the Young Adult Ministry Council (YAMC) is to be a group of diverse young adults called to ministry and service, that strives to provide voice and support for all young adults in the Rio Texas Conference, as modeled by Jesus Christ. The YAMC has had a busy year as we have begun discovering what it is we feel the biggest needs are for the Rio Texas Conference. The four values of the YAMC are: connection, relationship, representation, and service. The YAMC believes that everything we do should reflect these values. We continue to seek out and welcome new members as well as find avenues in which our members can be involved in the affairs of our conference through district representation. One of our biggest goals for the year is to find clergy and campus ministers to be mentors for the YAMC as we strive to stay true to Christ, understand the needs of the church, and connect with students on college campuses. The YAMC is also in the process of creating a database of young adults within our conference for the purpose of connecting the YAMC with them through prayer, service opportunities, and membership.

#### **Global Young People Convocation 2018**

In July 2018, three delegates, plus four observers represented the Rio Texas Conference and the South Central Jurisdiction at the 2018 Global Young People Convocation in Johannesburg, South Africa. This quadrennial event brings young United Methodist leaders from around the world together for worship, fellowship, leadership development, and conversation. Through the legislative forum, young people discussed significant issues being faced by the church and the world where they live. The Forum produced legislation that will go directly to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2020. Through this conference, young people have a chance to shape the direction of the church. Our delegates included: Marlee Claes (Youth, Kyle UMC), Zephyr Straus (Young Adult, Westlake UMC), and Tori Perales (Young Adult, Christ UMC, Stockdale).

**Listening circles** Over the last 12 months, 14 listening circles were held via Zoom video conference. Members of the Rio Texas conference gathered online to share what is happening in their ministry area while connecting to others with a similar ministry focus. Listening Circles included: District programming staff, camp and retreat ministry, children's ministry, and youth/student ministry. These listening circles will continue in the coming year. Come join us! [riotexas.org/listeningcircles](http://riotexas.org/listeningcircles).

#### **Growing Together**

Building on the work and research done in 2016 and 2017, the office of intergenerational discipleship continued the work of identifying: How can the office of Intergenerational Discipleship be a helpful resource and ministry partner for faith formation or discipleship ministry leaders in the Rio Texas Conference? In 2018, the research continued with a deep look at discipleship including an intentional research project looking at Youth and Student ministry in the Rio Texas Conference. In response to this work, the Office of Intergenerational Discipleship is continuing to develop the growing together discipleship platform as we ask: How can we support discipleship ministry leaders in our conference? This discipleship system seeks to include opportunities to connect with other ministry leaders, share best practices, gain new resources, and participate in leadership training. Webinars, Listening Circles, Family Monthly Newsletters, and other resources are now available online as a result of this project. Two creative teams, one focusing on Christian Education, and the other focusing on youth/student ministry have begun their work as they seek to respond to the research and identify ways to support leaders throughout our conference. In the fall of 2019 creative cohorts will begin the work of creating and implementing discipleship systems in their contexts. For more information visit: [riotexas.org/discipleship](http://riotexas.org/discipleship). The Office of Intergenerational Discipleship is looking forward to continuing this work in 2019 and 2020 as we continue to identify ways to empower and equip districts, churches, and ministry leaders as they reach out to the mission field-making disciples of Jesus Christ.

#### **Other ministry this year**

I am greatly enjoying my work with children's ministry leaders, youth ministry leaders, district programming staff, camp and retreat leaders, Christian educators, and other individual congregations and leaders throughout our conference. It is humbling and inspiring to see all that God is doing in and through intergenerational discipleship in our conference. I am grateful to serve alongside each and every member of the conference and look forward to more conversations, collaboration, and fruitful ministry in the next twelve months.

Rev. Dr. Tanya Campen

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## COASTAL BEND DISTRICT FOR INFORMATION

Want to know some things that happened in the Coastal Bend District since the last Conference?

**A Lay Academy** was started in the fall of 2018 to help Lay persons who are serving as pastors. The first session was on the “4 “P’s” of Leadership: Prayer, Planting, Planning, People”. The spring session of Lay Academy is on “Dealing with Church Boards” and “Leadership Communication”. These classes have been expanded to those who are leaders in smaller churches.

**Book Studies** have been offered in the Coastal Bend District. There has been a six week study on the “The Art of Neighboring” last fall with various groups throughout the district. A new 12 week book study is offered based on the books of “Fresh Expression”, “Art of Neighboring”, and “From the Steeple to the Street”. This new study will begin March 2019.

**District Celebration** was celebrated in 2018 showing the fruitfulness of the Coastal Bend District through pictures of various ministries throughout the district. An offering was taken to undergird the newest mission of the Coastal Bend, JFON. Plans are being made for this year’s Celebration it will focus on Celebrating Children and Youth.

**Holy Land Trip** was put together through the vision of both Coastal Bend and El Valle vision teams. After nearly a year, 30 participants made the joint Holy Land Trip in early January 2019. They walked where Jesus walked and learned new insights each step of the journey.

**Lay Servant Ministries** classes were hosted in fall of 2018 and spring of 2019. During Fall of 2018 and Spring of 2019, there have been 18 new Basic Lay Servants go through the Basic class. In the Fall of 2018, 14 Lay Servants attended the “Leading in Conflict Resolution” class. During the Spring class “Living Our Beliefs” was the topic. 14 Lay Servant attended this class as well.

**Youth Midwinter** was offered through the work of youth workers of the Coastal Bend District and the El Valle District. The camp was held at Zephyr encampment in February 2019. 260 people attended. From the Coastal Bend 116 youth and 32 sponsors were in attendance. This year’s theme was “In and Through the Fire” based on the third chapter of Daniel. The Keynote speaker, Rev. John Fletcher, using the passage, gave three sessions: Courage, Prayer, and Commitment. On Saturday evening the youth were given the opportunity to commit their hearts to Christ either for the first time or as they renewed and recommitted their lives to Christ. It was wonderful to see the young people coming forward to make their commitments. In the midst of the weekend, the youth supported flood victims by raising money through a penny war. \$365.50 was raised. And 12 flood buckets were assembled.

**Youth Rally** was started in 2018. The Youth Rally took place at Zephyr with 95 youth in attendance. A second Youth Rally is planned for 2019. The Youth Rally helps to bring youth together through fun, food, worship, and allows them to celebrate and encourage those who are being confirmed.

Rev. Linda Morrow, Director of District Ministries

CROSSROADS DISTRICT  
FOR INFORMATION

While still fighting to overcome damages from Hurricane Harvey and related flooding, the churches of the Crossroads District have forged ahead with determination in rebuilding and fulfilling their mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

And the Crossroads District leadership has been heavily engaged in assisting in the accomplishment of that goal by offering training and support at its Pastor's and Professionals' Meetings and other programs.

In the theme of being a "Welcoming District", The Crossroads District held a "Koinonia Day" in August at Cathedral Oaks to welcome the incoming pastors to our district. Great food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

The Cluster Charge Conferences took place throughout the fall. There was an opportunity for worship at each of the Cluster Charge Conferences and the various required reports were submitted.

Several from the District were able to attend the Leadership Institute in September at Church of the Resurrection UMC, Leawood, Kansas in September. In between the Plenary Sessions, a number of Specialized Training Sessions were offered.

The Lay Servant Ministries Training (for both the Basic and the Advanced) was held at Cathedral Oaks with an overnight retreat in November and approximately 25 in attendance. Upon completion, Certificates were awarded for the Basic Lay Servant and the Advanced Lay Servant.

Know Your Joy Workshop was held in January at FUMC-La Grange with approximately 75 in attendance. Breakout sessions included Finance, Trustees, Lay Leadership, SPRC, and How to be an Effective Liturgist. The afternoon Plenary Session featured Rev. Tommy Hays, an ordained UMC pastor and director of Messiah Ministries from San Antonio who led us in "Going Deep, A Culture of Prayer".

The Youth District Mid-Winter Retreat took place in February at Camp Lone Star in La Grange with Rev. Kim Ethridge and the Rev. Ryan Jenson leading the two night event of approximately 50 youth. Worship, games, special events, and breakout sessions were all part of the retreat.

The UMM District Steak Dinner was held in Victoria in February at Sun Valley Ranch with some 75 hungry men in attendance. Guest Speaker was David Klinger, former quarterback of the University of Houston and now a professor at a Christian Seminary. The Conference UMM Light the Fire Event was held in March at University UMC- San Antonio as the men heard from guest speakers Bishop Robert Schnase, Greg Arnold, and Robert Noland as they presented effective ways to reach men.

UMW Celebration Day was held in September at FUMC-Lockhart, the Conference UMW Program was hosted by FUMC-Gonzales in October and the Spring Lenten Retreat led by Rev. Cathie Evins was held at Cathedral Oaks in March.

The District Youth Confirmation Rally and Yoking Ceremony was held at the end of March with some 15 youth attending. Youth from FUMC-Seguin, Haynie Chapel UMC, FUMC-Victoria, FUMC-Goliad, and FUMC-Schulenburg all participated. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Marcus Freeman led the Yoking Ceremony as he placed a Cross around the neck of each of the Confirmands followed by the laying of hands and a blessing. The youth who attended learned about how God's grace has been working in each of their lives, some basic tenets of the Christian faith, as well as what it means to be a United Methodist.

The District Trustees met throughout the year, often following the Pastor Professional Meetings. Budget, policies, and ministries were some of the items discussed (and ratified). A special Planning and Visioning Sub-Committee was headed up by Wes Dukes of FUMC-Cuero and Rev. Carl Westbrook of John Wesley UMC-Victoria to develop a Strategic Plan for Cathedral Oaks. At an overnight retreat in March, a number of representatives from several churches (as well as some other denominations) were led by Tom Stanton of Texas Methodist Foundation as he presented a Vision Statement for Cathedral Oaks. Also, he presented the concept of an Endowment Fund for the sustainability of Cathedral Oaks. Future meetings to pursue this concept are in the works.

In addition to these activities, the Crossroads District Strategy Team ("DST") has unified in its mission to offer guidance to the District in its missional work. The DST presented a Strategic Ministry Plan to the District Conference on April 6, 2019. That plan highlighted our vision, mission, values and priorities. Those priorities are (1) prayer; (2) children and young people; and (3) small churches. A planning retreat to plan at least one implementation project for each of the three areas is planned in June 2019.

The District was graced with the opportunity to help in the transformation of one failing small church into a community-based mission. As far as we know, this was the first such undertaking in the Rio Texas Conference and required coordination among the local, district and conference levels to accomplish.

1 For all the blessings which have been poured out on the Crossroads District, Thanks Be to God!

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WEST DISTRICT  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

7 The West District Conference voted in May, 2018 to move to a one board model where the District Strategy Team  
8 will become the committee that deals with Finance, Trustee, Church Location and Building, and District  
9 Superintendency. We still have a District Committee on Ordained Ministry committee to do the work with our  
10 Candidates and Local Pastors.

11 Bishop Schnase appointed DS Andy Smith to be the District Superintendent in the West and Hill Country Districts.  
12 He began the dual appointment July 1 and moved to Kerrville in August.

13 In September, at London UMC, we welcomed our new Pastors to the West District with a West District Survival Kit.  
14 Our special guest for the day was Rev. Laura Heikes from Bee Creek UMC, who discussed taking our churches outside  
15 the walls of the church building.

16 With the flooding in our area, we have had several ERT Trainings and churches helping their neighbor churches  
17 rebuild in their communities. We are working to give hope to those that feel forgotten.

18 The West and Hill Country Districts are beginning to work together. We came together with some joint pastors and  
19 professionals meetings and the January Equipping the Saints. The District Strategy Teams joined together for a  
20 retreat at Mt. Wesley.

21 Following the General Conference in February, 2019, the Districts came together with Rev. Laura Merrill and Rev.  
22 Kendall Waller in Mason. In spite of the misty rain, we were able to be together with worship, communion, a walk  
23 to the river or sitting on the porch, and lunch.

24 The West District is striving to continue ministry in our communities. We are training Lay Servants to do the work of  
25 the Church with our Lay Servant Training sessions. Our churches are feeding the hungry, working with parents to  
26 build better families, reaching all with shush-free worship opportunities, helping the homeless, and striving to make  
27 disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

32 Brothers and Sisters of the Rio Texas Conference,

33 Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior. I bring you greetings and prayers from the Leadership of the Rio Texas  
34 Conference of United Methodist Men. I want to say thank you to the churches who have a National Chartered United  
35 Methodist Men's Unit and to the subscribers of Every Man Shares (EMS) Magazine.

36 During last March, we held our annual retreat at University UMC San Antonio, our theme was Light the Fire - Men  
37 all in. We focused on igniting a desire in our men to help be better Christians, great family men, more active in our  
38 churches, mentors to younger men, growing their local men's ministry, supporting their pastors and being  
39 connectional to other men's groups outside their congregation.

40 We decided to move our retreat to a centralized area in the conference, so we can reach and teach more people.  
41 We heard an inspirational message from our Bishop Schnase as well as from Men's Ministry Specialist Greg Arnold  
42 and Author Robert Noland. We also offered various workshops that focused on growing men's ministries in our  
43 conference. If you missed it please join us for the next conference because it will be even better.

44 We created a conference men's website [www.riotexasumm.org](http://www.riotexasumm.org) to help enhance our communication throughout  
45 the conference.

1 You will see us during Annual Conference in Corpus Christi, Texas shuttling people to the arena from the parking lot  
2 and back, passing out water, working as delegates, operating the television cameras and doing what we can to make  
3 sure you have a smooth and enjoyable experience.

4 When you see us at the United Methodist Men's table or in and around the arena, please feel free to stop by and  
5 say hello. We look forward to seeing you soon.

6 Charles E. McGarity, Jr, President, Rio Texas Conference United Methodist Men  
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METHODIST HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES OF SOUTH TEXAS, INC.  
2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

9  
10 The following are individuals elected as members of the Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 Board year (June to June). These  
11 names are submitted for election by the Annual Conference:  
12

Mindi Alterman  
Douglas W. Becker  
Bonnie K. Berry  
Sam G. Dawson  
Alice H. Gannon  
Lavonne Garrison  
Susan Hellums  
Susan Holmes  
John E. Hornbeak  
Joe E. Johnston, M.D.  
Margaret A. Kelley, M.D.

Alan C. Kramer  
Michael J. Lane, M.D.  
Barbara J. Lyons  
Nancy F. May  
Lott McIlhenny  
Sam O'Krent  
Michael F. Porter, Jr.  
George N. Ricks  
Thomas E. Sanders  
Rev. Virgilio Vázquez-Garza  
Pendleton Wickersham, M.D.

1 Ex Officio Members with Vote:

2 Bishop of the Rio Texas Conference: Bishop Robert Schnase

3 Assistant to the Episcopal Office: Rev. Laura Merrill

4 District Superintendent of Las Misiones District: Rev. Greg Hackett

5 Two Persons Representing Transformation Communities Vision Team:

- 6 • Rev. Javier Leyva
- 7 • *Vacant position*  
8

## CABINET REPORT

The Rio Texas Cabinet worked over the past year with five district superintendents covering seven districts, as established at the last annual conference. These five, along with the four ministry directors, have worked during the past year alongside the bishop as a strong, reliable team.

We have been glad to see areas of growth and experimentation in congregations of all sizes and in places beyond the walls of our churches. We have made appointments to leverage current vitality and to start or plant new and innovative ministry, following the 2018 Annual Conference theme: "From Come and See to Go and Do."

We have also witnessed the end of several communities of faith. Last fall, the Cabinet voted to approve the closure of Muldoon UMC, effective October 14, 2018. This year, the Cabinet also approved the closure of Crystal City, El Campo: St. Paul, and Austin: Parker Lane, all effective July 1, 2019. These churches represent generations of faithful Christian witness in the Wesleyan tradition, and we lift prayers of gratitude for their ministry and the lives and communities they have served.

It is a privilege to serve the church as part of the Rio Texas Cabinet, alongside laity and clergy committed to the cause of Christ. We pray God's blessing on our common work.

Laura Merrill, Assistant to the Bishop and Dean of the Cabinet

## PROVIDENCE PLACE MINISTRY FOR INFORMATION ONLY

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and those on our campus who are working hard to achieve their own personal level of success, I thank you – Robert Schnase and the members of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference – for your dedication in partnership with the ministry of Providence Place. By God's grace, we celebrated our 122<sup>nd</sup> anniversary in 2017 thanks to the committed support from individual donors and United Methodist Churches. We have been able to be a blessing to those around us for well over a century, and we couldn't have done it without you.

Providence Place provides a safe haven for those who have felt excluded. We offer adoption services to women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy, as well as those who are looking to open their hearts and homes to a child in need of a forever family. We have expanded on this wonderful service and now offer Parenting with a Purpose classes for parents to improve upon their parenting skills.

We regrettably had to say goodbye to our Center for Higher Independence (CHI) Program. The program had run for 43 years; but due to changes with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), we were not able to sustain the program. We did have a final graduation for the CHI in October of 2017, and we had a record 43 students graduate.

We were able to hold onto our Transition Program which is now called Legacy. This is a transitional living program for young adults with disabilities, and we presently have 15 young adults with disabilities living independently in apartments either on campus or in community apartments.

On April 26, 2019, Providence Place will host our second Fiesta Event which we call Familia Palooza. Families from our surrounding community and San Antonio are invited to take part in Fiesta activities that will include a live band, games, food trucks and face painting.

On Friday, May 24, 2019, Providence Place will have a Grand Opening Event for My Mariposa Home; which is an eighteen month transitional housing program to help survivors of human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. First Lady, Cecilia Abbott, was one of the keynote speakers.

Last but certainly not least, I would also like to take the time to recognize those from the Rio Texas Annual Conference who give of themselves, their time and resources to serve on the Providence Place Board of Directors:

### **Board of Directors**



1	Mario Berrera	San Antonio, TX	Melanie Stone	San Antonio, TX
2	Kenner Coon	San Antonio, TX	Patricia Wilson	San Antonio, TX
3	Pamela Allen	San Antonio, TX	Preston Woolfolk	San Antonio
4	Beth Eadie	San Antonio, TX	Amelia Edelman	Selma, TX
5	Rev. Austin Frederick	San Antonio, TX	Ellen Shoemaker	Helotes, TX
6	Beth Woolfolk	San Antonio, TX		
7	<b><u>Honorary Board Members</u></b>			
8	Helen Keaton	San Antonio, TX	Bishop Robert Schnase	San Antonio, TX
9	Richard Planto	San Antonio, TX	Sharon Daggett	Horseshoe Bay, TX
10	Patrick Perron	San Antonio, TX	Kent Leighton	Marble Falls, TX
11	Dan Rebmann	San Antonio, TX	David Kinder	San Antonio

12  
13 I encourage you to schedule a tour of our beautiful 25 acre campus, coordinate a volunteer mission trip, arrange a speaker for your  
14 congregation or church group, and request offering materials for an annual church offering. We couldn't continue these ministries without  
15 you and we would love to come and share the stories of Providence Place! If we could be a resource to you, contact our Advancement  
16 Team at (210) 696-2410 or at [mission.advancement@provplace.org](mailto:mission.advancement@provplace.org). Also, please visit our website at [www.provplace.org](http://www.provplace.org) to learn more  
17 about these special ministries and to hear first-hand stories from those we have served.

18 Dr. Judith Bell, President and CEO

## GOLDEN AGE HOME FOR INFORMATION

### 22 **Golden Age Home celebrates 60 years of excellence by looking towards the future.**

23 Golden Age Home's Board of Directors is well aware of the concept that before you can grow, you must plant the seeds. For this reason,  
24 GAH Board of Directors and leadership have been diligently planting seeds to embrace the growth of our community and the surrounding  
25 area. Located 40 miles southeast of Austin, the community of Lockhart has seen tremendous growth throughout the last 3-4 years. At an  
26 event which spotlighted economic development and community growth, Lockhart Mayor Lew White stated "The message is getting  
27 out about Lockhart. Lockhart is on the upswing, and we're going to try to keep it going in that direction." This fact is only further  
28 proven by the beginning of 2 new apartment complexes in 2019 as well as many new and relocated businesses that have moved into  
29 the Lockhart/Caldwell County area.

30 Taking care of an aging population is a skill that Golden Age Home's team members take pride in doing very well. One family member recently  
31 wrote, "The staff are very nice & caring. They are friendly not only with residents but also with family." GAH's team strives to take care of  
32 the "hard" things to allow the residents more time to enjoy their hobbies and socializing. While the community of Lockhart is growing, GAH  
33 works to keep the small town feeling where everyone knows your name and puts your needs first. Longevity within the care team means  
34 that the residents can rest assure that the person taking care of them knows their individual needs. This longevity gives strength, consistency  
35 and peace of mind to each of our residents. They know that each team member is going to love and treat them as their own family member.  
36 It takes a committed team to provide the excellent level of care expected at GAH. While GAH is a nonprofit organization, that does not affect  
37 the way we meet Assisted Living regulations. We are proud to have received deficiency-free surveys since 2015.

38 It has become increasingly necessary to also take care of an aging building while offering services at affordable rates to Senior Adults who  
39 would otherwise not be able to afford the services. Raising awareness of our nonprofit status is one of the seeds being planted constantly.  
40 Renewing our Advanced program status was an integral part of this seed. The Advanced Five Star Giving allows churches and individuals  
41 to come alongside the ministry of Golden Age Home. Contributions designated for Golden Age Home will need to have the project  
42 number #1331. The Board of Directors is also working with a grant writer to identify foundations and other investors interested in joining  
43 GAH on its' future journey.

44 Being a nonprofit organization means we can choose to offer a program like the subsidized independent living. It means we can receive  
45 grants and community support. It means that there is a local Board of Directors making the hard decisions not someone out-of-state. And  
46 most importantly it means the bottom line is about people not money.

### 47 **WHY should your church be involved with Golden Age Home?**

48 Golden Age Home began as a dream in the hearts & minds of the citizens of First United Methodist Church in Lockhart in the late  
49 1950s. In 2019, GAH celebrates 60 years from the original groundbreaking for the facility. November of 2020 will mark 60 years  
50 from its grand opening. The (former) Southwest Conference, the Crossroads District of the Rio Texas Conference and local churches  
51 have maintained involvement in the operations of GAH throughout its 60 years of establishment. This involvement is what sets GAH  
52 apart from the next Assisted Living facility down the road. **Your involvement enables:**

- 53 • A caring, Christian environment with in a small community-type setting
- 54 • Rates that are 80-90% of market value including low-income independent housing
- 55 • Employees who feel part of a family & therefore treat the residents as such

### 56 **HOW can you be involved with Golden Age Home?**

There are a variety of ways organizations can be involved either directly with the residents or indirectly. These needs change with the time of year. Listed below are some current needs.

- Volunteers Needed:

- Afternoon & Weekend activities &/or entertainment- help lead a scheduled activity such as crafts, bingo, games, music, puppets, drama, educational presentations, etc.
- One-on-One- visit with a resident one-on-one who does not have many visitors. General conversation, reading a book out loud, etc.
- Gardening- Group needed to help in the garden areas.

- Activities Department seeks sponsors:

- Snack Bingo- need snack packs; activity held **every Monday**.
- Store Day- need household type items; held **1<sup>st</sup> Thursday** of each month
  - Hygiene products, activity books, air fresheners, laundry soap, picture frames, baseball caps, Kleenex, fashion jewelry, jigsaw puzzles & puzzle glue, snack food
- Craft Items- ongoing need for all types of craft supplies
- Monthly parties- sponsor a birthday or holiday party

- Direct Financial Support

- **Designate your Communion Rail Offering twice a year**
- **Designate GAH as your Advance project giving (Project #1331)**
- Support by [shopping at AmazonSmile](#); .05% of your purchase will be donated to GAH
- Make an online donation at [www.goldenagehome.com](http://www.goldenagehome.com)
- Leave a legacy by donating a portion of your estate to Golden Age Home

- **Serve as a member of our Board of Directors.** (contact Nicole Burnett if interested)

- Join our Facebook page to learn more about when special events will be held or needs that arise.

[www.facebook.com/GoldenAgeHomeAssistedLiving](https://www.facebook.com/GoldenAgeHomeAssistedLiving)

TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION  
REPORT TO 2019 RIO TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

TMF is committed to being faithful to the future by casting a God-sized vision and building our capacity to fulfill that vision. During 2018, TMF continued our role as managing agent of The United Methodist Development Fund (UMDF), while preparing to transition to controlling agent in January 2019. UMDF is a national lender to United Methodist churches with \$120 million in assets. We joined forces with Heartspring Methodist Foundation, consolidating resources to better serve our constituency. We continued to gather and assimilate new knowledge, build new partnerships, and implement new technologies to support our goal of helping congregations unite their leadership and financial resources into a purposeful plan for living out God's unique call for them to serve their communities.

Tom Stanton, TMF Senior Area Representative for the Rio Texas Conference, is the primary point of engagement between congregations (clergy and laity) and TMF. He connects Rio Texas Conference constituents to resources relevant to their unique goals for missional growth in their congregations and communities.

TMF, headquartered in Austin, serves United Methodist individuals, churches and agencies within the six annual conferences in Texas and New Mexico. We appreciate the opportunity to report some of the ways we served United Methodists last year.

**Within the Rio Texas Conference:**

- Loans to churches in the Rio Texas Conference totaled \$58.2 million at the end of 2018.
- Churches and agencies, not including individuals, within the Rio Texas Conference had \$49.3 million invested in the Methodist Loan Fund.

**Throughout Texas and New Mexico:**

- As of December 31, 2018, **total assets** under management by TMF were approximately \$549.4 million.
- **Methodist Loan Fund investments** ended the year at \$333.6 million, and our loan portfolio at \$324.1 million.
- TMF's **Undesignated Endowment** ended the year at \$38.4 million.
- Our **Leadership Ministry Endowment** was \$7.4 million at the close of 2018.
- Highlighting a significant year of **financial support for TMF** was a gift of \$1 million from the Lilly Endowment to fund TMF's Courageous Leadership Imperative (CLI). **Gifts to Leadership Ministry and unrestricted support to TMF** totaled \$1.4 million, including more than \$110,000 in new gifts to the Dr. Gil Rendle Learning & Leadership Endowment.
- During 2018, the TMF **Grants Ministry** awarded \$1.5 million in support of 35 churches and not-for-profits. Of that total, an estimated \$804,000 came from restricted endowments, \$660,000 from TMF operations, and \$23,000 in individual and on-line gifts. We awarded approximately \$118,000 for Hurricane Harvey victims. The Grants Committee of the TMF Board of Directors determines distribution decisions for the discretionary funds. In 2018, grant funds were distributed as follows: 40% to outreach ministries and evangelism targeting systemic change; 37% to ministries which systemically benefit families living in poverty; 15% for scholarships; and 8% Hurricane Harvey relief
- TMF continued its work with individuals and families to support their philanthropic goals. In 2018, TMF received \$2.7 million in gifts and pledges to support ministries across Texas and New Mexico including \$1.6 million in support of the ministries of TMF. Gifts to endowments will enhance agricultural development in Africa, the Moscow Theological Seminary of the UMC, and the local church.
- TMF distributed approximately \$1 million from **permanent endowments**.
- This year TMF's **Leadership Ministry** launched the Courageous Leadership Imperative (CLI) which seeks to network, resource and embolden innovative leaders throughout the South Central Jurisdiction. 122 leaders from throughout the jurisdiction plus the SCJ bishops and foundation representatives gathered in St Louis for a 48-hour immersive experience designed to expand imagination. These leaders are already experimenting with new ways to make disciples and impact their communities.
- In 2018, the **Area Representatives (AR)** drove over 125,000 miles to visit people from Texarkana to El Paso and from Farmington to Las Cruces. The New Mexico office now has four wheels, as Scott Sharp visits people all over the state. Members of the AR team led groups from Clear Lake UMC (close to NASA headquarters south of Houston), WordServe Church (Fulshear, TX), Waples Memorial UMC (Denison, TX), Elmwood/El Buen Samaritano UMC (Dallas), Northaven UMC (Dallas), First UMC, San Marcos, and First UMC, Corpus Christi, in the Holy Conversations discernment process. The team developed new resources for work with finance and endowment committees and learned new skills from our partnership with Horizons Stewardship Company. It was a very big year for TMF's legacy giving workshop, *Putting Your House in Order*, with area reps presenting it 25 times. The team is proud to welcome Rev. Mark Woodward, who is our newest AR, serving the Texas Conference and working primarily in the area of endowments.

**TMF Board members**

TMF has submitted the following candidates for election and re-election to the TMF Board of Directors from the Rio Texas Conference:

- Dr. Daniel Flores, Clergy, 3-year term (Fort Worth)
- Mrs. Thelma Flores, Clergy, 3-year term (Fort Worth)

TMF Board members previously elected by the Rio Texas Conference include:

- Rev. Laura Merrill, Clergy, currently serving through 2020 (San Antonio)
- Rev. Scott Heare, Clergy, currently serving through 2021 (Austin)
- Mr. Jim Hornbuckle, Layperson, currently serving through 2020 (San Antonio)
- Mrs. Teresa Keese, Layperson, currently serving through 2020 (Brady)
- Judge Henry Santana, Layperson, serving through Annual Conference 2019 (Corpus Christi)
- Mrs. Amy Thomas, Layperson, currently serving through 2021 (Austin)

TMF Board members from within the Rio Texas Conference who are currently serving in an otherwise elected or advisory capacity include:

- Mr. James A. Cox, Jr., Emeritus (Austin)

- Bishop Robert Schnase, Advisory (San Antonio)
- Mr. Robert C. Scott, Emeritus (San Antonio)
- Mr. Robert B. Sunderland, Emeritus (San Antonio)

BOARD OF PENSIONS  
REPORT I  
PAST SERVICE RATE 2020  
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

The Past Service Rate for 2020 will be **\$672** per year of annuity credit. This reflects an increase of \$7.00 or 1.1% over the 2019 Past Service Rate.

In 2016, the Board of Pensions adopted a long-term PSR strategy based on increases of 70% of the reported St. Louis Federal Reserve Cost of Living Index-Urban South Region to set the past service rate each year. The Board believes that this policy provides for the honor, support, and appreciation to our retired clergy while maintaining a sustainable plan to meet benefit liabilities. Any change in the PSR also increases the Plan's liabilities and must be funded in the year adopted if necessary in accordance with the Plan asset level and Wespath funding requirements.

REPORT II  
RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR RETIRED OR DISABLED CLERGY PERSONS OF THE  
RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE  
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

The Río Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons:

WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("clergy persons");

WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and this Conference was and is to provide active clergy persons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled clergy persons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled clergy persons in consideration of previous active service; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for clergy persons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"), which includes all such payments from Wespath Benefits and Investments, during the years 2019 and 2020 by each active, retired, terminated, or

disabled clergy person who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergy person; and that the pension severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespath Benefits and Investments "Wespath" and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a clergy person rendered to this Conference or that an active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergy person of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conferences of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired, or disabled clergy person's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergy person's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations hereunder to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

### REPORT III 2019 COMPREHENSIVE FUNDING PLAN FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Comprehensive Funding Plan is under review by Wespath Benefits and Investments and will be available at the annual conference session and included in the 2019 Río Texas Conference Journal.

### REPORT IV REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Río Texas Conference Board of Pensions continues in its ministry to "care for all those who serve" providing for the honor, support, and appreciation of our retired and active lay and clergy. Our focus encompasses not only short and intermediate term needs but also decades into the future. Despite denominational uncertainty resulting from the 2019 Special Called Session of General Conference in St. Louis, we will continue to maintain a sustainable asset plan to meet benefit liabilities for current and past benefit plans for all beneficiaries. At the Called Session there was also much discussion about pension benefits and church liabilities. We work closely in strategic partnership with Wespath Benefits and Investments which provide interpretation and guidance in our benefits plans and support resources. Wespath will continue to manage all pension benefits for active and retired clergy and assist Conferences should the need arise to determine individual church pension liabilities. Our goal is to be good stewards of the resources and programs we are entrusted with and endeavor to implement denominational and conference policy. I would like to thank all of our Board members for their dedication to our work and invest their time to this valuable work and ministry.

### Clergy Financial Well Being

1 In addition to administering benefits, one of our objectives will include collaborative effort led by Wespath with the goal to  
2 reduce or alleviate some of the key financial pressures that impair effective pastoral leadership. Wespath has identified areas  
3 to improve financial literacy among clergy through national and judicatory grants. There is an increased need for ongoing,  
4 effective financial education to prepare for retirement and financial education needs to be taught at all stages of ministry to  
5 ensure the financial well-being of clergy. Clergy are able to effectively lead when they also have financial literacy and are free  
6 of major personal financial stress that often contributes to emotional distress and physical illness. We've begun implementation  
7 by providing an annual Financial Seminar every spring in conjunction with the annual retirement planning process. We  
8 encourage all active clergy of varying ages and stages of ministry to participate in this Financial Planning event. Together, we  
9 can foster the financial well-being of United Methodist pastoral leaders.

#### 17 **New Defined Benefit Pension Plan Proposed for 2020 General Conference**

18 Due to the need of administering a more flexible, portable and sustainable pension plan, Wespath is proposing a change to a  
19 full Defined Contribution (DC) retirement plan at the 2020 General Conference. The current Clergy Retirement Security Plan  
20 (CRSP) is a hybrid pension plan that includes both a Defined Contribution (DC) and Defined Benefit (DB) component. The CRSP  
21 DB plan includes guaranteed lifetime annuities based on years of service. DB plans carry significant benefit liabilities and require  
22 long-term fiscal pension management for every annual conference. Based on stakeholder feedback, a DC only plan is the  
23 appropriate design for the future UMC due to the need for flexible administrative simplicity, sustainability and to alleviate  
24 liability burdens on the future Church. The current proposal includes implementation for January 1, 2023. The expected  
25 contribution level of the DC is approximately 9.5 % for full-time clergy.

#### 30 **HealthFlex Implementation Update**

31 We are pleased to report a successful implementation of the HealthFlex Private Exchange in 2019. 67% of plan participants  
32 chose another plan from the previous single offering B100 Plan. This multi-option health plan allows individual active full-time  
33 clergy and lay participants to choose from various plan options with a pre-determined Defined Contribution or (DC) to "select"  
34 for coverage. This approach gives participants the ability to tailor coverage and utilize Health Savings Accounts (HSA) and Health  
35 Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) not previously provided. The individual Defined Contribution (DC) has been set at \$900 for  
36 2020. We are not expecting significant plan design changes for 2020. However, on average 2020 rates are increasing by 12%  
37 and most impacted are the rates for family coverage. These rate increases are a direct result of Rio Texas participant claims  
38 experience in 2018 and Wespath plan realignment. After several years of experiencing claims loss ratios below Wespath's  
39 average which kept premium increases to a minimum, we experienced a significant uptick in claims for 2018 resulting in a 23%  
40 increase in claims costs and a loss ratio above 100%. The Board is establishing grant programs to assist clergy with health care  
41 costs. In 2020, funding of the HealthFlex plan for the full-time clergy participant will no longer include apportionment funds  
42 and will be direct invoiced at 100%. This results in a 2020 Pension and Health apportionment (Line 5) from \$1,011,000 to  
43 \$400,000 a decrease of 60%. The 2020 premiums for the medical, dental and vision plans, as well as information on the grant  
44 programs, are in Report VI. The Board will continue to work with Wespath to find ways to create competitive and affordable  
45 plans to offer in the exchange. *I would like to thank the Health Benefits Sub-Committee, led by Michele Segura, for all of their*  
46 *hard work over the last 3 years resulting in an effective transition.*

47 Gary W. Anderson, President

REPORT V  
PENSION PLANS  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

**PRE-82 PENSION PLAN**

The Pre-82 Pension Plan also known as Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) is a defined benefit pension plan administered by Wespath and provides eligible clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church before 1982. The Pre-82 Pension Plan was replaced by the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 1982. One of the responsibilities of the Board of Pensions is to recommend to the annual conference the Past Service Rate or (PSR) to clergy for each year of eligible service in the Pre-82 Pension Plan.

As the need to provide adequate clergy pension benefits evolved with the establishment of the Pre-82 Pension Plan, contributions were not adequate to provide the benefits required for many participants during years of active service. Therefore, it became the responsibility of the conference to ensure benefit obligations required by the plan would be provided by annual contributions in an amortization schedule through 2021. The goal for each conference is for the Pre-82 Pension Plan is to be fully funded until all benefit obligations have been met. However, the assets of the Plan are not fixed with the potential of additional liabilities due to market volatility, Wespath policies, and the number of eligible beneficiaries. Further, any increase in the Past Service Rate (PSR) adopted by the Conference also increases the plan's liabilities.

In 2016, the Board of Pensions adopted a long-term PSR strategy based on increases of 70% of the reported St. Louis Federal Reserve Cost of Living Index-Urban South Region to set the past service rate each year. The Board believes that this policy provides for the honor, support, and appreciation to our retired clergy while maintaining a sustainable plan to meet benefit liabilities. Any change in the PSR also increases the Plan's liabilities and must be funded in the year adopted if necessary in accordance with the Plan asset level and funding requirements. As of December 31, 2018, no additional Pre-82 liabilities or Advance Contribution for 2019 to fund the Past Service Rate increase is due.

**MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN (MPP)**

The Ministerial Pension Plan, also known as Supplement Three to the Clergy Security Retirement Plan (CRSP), provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. The MPP is an Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b) retirement plan. The Conference is required to fund any liability attributable to MPP annuities due to market fluctuations, mortality/demographic assumptions, and Wespath Plan policies. As of the January 1, 2018, actuarial valuation for 2020, the MPP and CRSP annuities funded ratio for the Rio Texas Conference is approximately 108.28%. No additional MPP contributions are required in 2019 and 2020 under Wespath's Corridor Funding methodology.

**CLERGY SECURITY RETIREMENT PLAN (CRSP)**

The current pension plan required for eligible full-time clergy is the Clergy Security Retirement Plan or CRSP administered by Wespath. This plan was effective January 1, 2007, and is comprised of both a defined contribution (DC) and defined benefit (DB) component.

**Defined Contribution (DC)** – Provides a defined amount that is deposited into an active full-time clergyperson's account with monthly contributions. This benefit distributed at retirement is the accumulated amount plus earnings (or losses) in the individual's account. The defined contribution (DC) component of CRSP is 2% of Plan Compensation with a match for participant contributions to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) – up to 1% of Plan Compensation. Therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% of compensation to UMPIP, the CRSP DC contributions will be 3%.

**Defined Benefit (DB)** – Provides a specific dollar amount at retirement regardless of market conditions or investment performance. The amount is based on a formula that specifies a monthly retirement benefit to eligible clergy and 70% for eligible contingent annuitants for the remainder of their lives. The CRSP-DB provides a monthly retirement benefit using 1.25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) at retirement multiplied by years of service from January 1, 2007, to December 31, 2013. The multiplier is reduced to 1% for years of service beginning January 1, 2014.

Both components are direct billed to each church for all eligible full-time clergy. The defined contribution (DC) billing is based on 3% of Plan Compensation. The annual defined benefit (DB) direct billing in 2019 to churches for each clergy appointed to full-time service is \$5,866. The annual defined benefit (DB) direct billing in 2020 to churches for each clergy appointed to full-time service is \$6,132, an increase of approximately 5% from 2019.

The annual DB contribution to Wespath is based on the number of eligible full-time clergy, clergy on Medical leave with CPP benefits on the actuarial valuation provided by Wespath. The contribution amount due in 2019 for the DB component is \$1,642,443 and \$1,618,824 in 2020. Any clergy serving less than full-time not eligible for the CRSP DB are eligible to participate in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan with a required church contribution of 9% of Plan Compensation.

**COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)**

The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) is a welfare benefit plan administered by Wespath Benefits and Investments. The CPP includes long-term disability, death and other welfare benefits for eligible full-time clergy. The CPP plan is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor contributions. The CPP required direct billing to churches is 3% of Plan Compensation for eligible full-time clergy up to two times the 2020 denominational average compensation or DAC of \$71,361 and \$72,648 in 2020. Effective January 1, 2016, Wespath adopted a change in the pension plan mortality tables and demographic assumptions for the defined benefit plans resulting in an increase in pension plan liabilities in 2018. To assist

1 conferences with funding increased pension liabilities, a premium holiday for the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) was  
2 adopted for 2018 and 2019 for conferences to offset these liabilities. During 2018 and 2019, the Rio Texas Conference will  
3 continue to direct bill the CPP contributions in reserve for future pension liabilities. The CPP premium holiday concludes on  
4 December 31, 2019.

#### 5 **UNITED METHODIST PERSONAL INVESTMENT PLAN (UMPIP) FOR LAY AND CLERGY**

6 The United Methodist Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement  
7 savings plan administered by Wespath for clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church and affiliated  
8 organizations. Eligible participants may make personal contributions through payroll deductions for before-tax, Roth or after-  
9 tax contributions in a flat dollar amount or percentage of eligible compensation, up to Internal Revenue Code limits. Churches  
10 are encouraged to offer the UMPIP to lay employees and may contact Wespath for additional plan provisions and sponsorship.

11 Any clergy appointed to a church for less than full-time service is eligible to participate in the UMPIP and receive a required  
12 church contribution of 9% of Plan Compensation. Also, all active clergy are encouraged to participate in the UMPIP with  
13 personal contributions. For clergy to receive the maximum church funded pension benefits in the CRSP (DC) Defined  
14 Contribution plan of 3%, they will need to contribute a minimum 1% match into the United Methodist Personal Investment  
15 Plan (UMPIP).

#### 16 **2020 PENSION PLAN CHURCH DIRECT BILLING**

17 Effective January 1, 2020, church direct invoicing by the conference for clergy participants under appointment for current active  
18 service will include:

19 Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) Defined Benefit required annual contribution of **\$6,132** for each eligible full-time clergy  
20 invoiced monthly.

21 Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) Defined required contribution of **3%** of Plan Compensation for each eligible full-time  
22 clergy invoiced monthly.

23 Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) required contribution **3%** Plan Compensation for each eligible full-time clergy to a  
24 maximum of two times the 2018 denominational average compensation or DAC of \$72,648 in 2020 invoiced monthly.

25 United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP-PT) required Contribution of **9%** for each eligible part-time clergy (3/4 time  
26 appointment or less) invoiced monthly.

27 United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) optional contributions as elected by clergy as a payroll deduction invoiced  
28 monthly.

29 The Rio Grande Legacy Fund will continue to provide contributions to eligible legacy churches for full-time clergy in the CRSP-  
30 Defined Benefit Plan, CRSP-Defined Contribution Plan, and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP).

31 The Rio Grande Legacy Fund will continue to provide a **9%** contributions to eligible part-time clergy appointed to a legacy church  
32 in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan UMPIP-PT.



REPORT VI  
2020 HEALTHFLEX  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

## HEALTHFLEX BENEFITS

The Rio Texas Conference participates in the HealthFlex Plan administered by Wespath Benefits and Investments for eligible full-time clergy and Conference lay employees. The HealthFlex plan is also available to lay employees of churches who have adopted a HealthFlex Salary-Paying Unit Sub-Adoption Agreement meeting the eligibility requirements of the Plan. HealthFlex is an integrated, wellness-driven health program that supports healthier lifestyles. The HealthFlex plan is designed to provide eligible participants with a comprehensive plan including medical, prescription, and wellness benefits. HealthFlex uses incentives as part of its strategy to promote engagement in healthy behaviors and wellness programs. The 2020 strategy continues the focus on rewards both for measuring risks through Blueprint for Wellness Screening and Health Quotient (HQ), Diabetes Prevention program and for taking action toward better health and well-being. Rewards emphasize participating in programs that have shown to have a positive impact on health risk, including health coaching and the Virgin Pulse activity program. In addition, to the HealthFlex wellness benefits, the Conference also provides additional holistic wellness benefits for clergy and Conference lay employees including spiritual, mental, emotional and physical care components funded by grants from Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF A HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE FUND

The Board of Pensions recognizes that affordable health care coverage is an essential component of an attractive employee benefits package. In the current health care environment, it is evident that some clergy's health care premiums make up a significant portion of their salaries. To assist with this, the Board of Pensions will establish an endowment fund using the 2016 HealthFlex dividend to assist clergy whose salaries are near the minimum threshold with providing healthcare for their families. This fund will provide grants to align health care cost for the clergy with the current P+1 tier cost. Clergy serving at a Legacy Church who has this same need will be offered similar grants through the Legacy Fund account. These grants will be coordinated through the District Superintendents.

## 2020 HEALTHFLEX PRIVATE EXCHANGE

To align with the changing health care landscape and significant increases in healthcare costs, the Board of Pensions adopted the HealthFlex Private Exchange multi-plan option effective January 1, 2019. The HealthFlex Private Exchange multi-plan option gives participants a greater choice across several HealthFlex plans with varying plan designs and the flexibility to choose the coverage that best fits the participant's health, financial and family needs. The multi-plan approach encourages greater accountability by participants for health care costs and utilization while retaining the valued HealthFlex Benefits and wellness opportunities that participants have come to expect from Wespath.

The current HealthFlex Private Exchange Multi-Plan offers six distinct plan choices for participants. Although HealthFlex has the discretion to modify the plan offerings in 2020, the current 2019 plan design options include:

HealthFlex Exchange	B1000	C2000	C3000	H1500	H2000	H3000
<b>Lifetime Maximum</b>	None	None	None	None	None	None
<b>HRA</b> Individual / Family	NA	\$1,000 / \$2,000	\$250 / \$500	NA	NA	NA
<b>HSA</b> Individual / Family	NA	NA	NA	\$750 / \$1,500	\$500 / \$1,000	\$0 / \$0 <i>Personal contribution allowed</i>
<b>Deductible:</b> Individual / Family	\$1,000 / \$2,000	\$2,000 / \$4,000	\$3,000 / \$6,000	\$1,500 / \$3,000	\$2,000 / \$4,000	\$3,000 / \$6,000
<b>In-Network Coinsurance:</b> Plan / Participant	80% / 20%	80% / 20%	50% / 50%	80% / 20%	70% / 30%	40% / 60%
<b>Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum (OPP)</b>	\$5,000 Individual \$10,000 Family	\$6,000 Individual \$12,000 Family	\$6,500 Individual \$13,000 Family	\$6,000 Individual \$12,000 Family	\$6,500 Individual \$13,000 Family	\$6,500 Individual \$13,000 Family

**HRA** - Health Reimbursement Account

1 HSA - Health Savings Account

2  
3 **2020 HEALTHFLEX EXCHANGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC)**

4 The 2020 HealthFlex Exchange design includes a non-taxable defined contribution of \$900. The DC is a fixed dollar amount  
5 provided to each HealthFlex full-time clergy and Conference lay employee participant. Participants will use the allocated DC  
6 amount to select a health plan in the HealthFlex Exchange and pay for some or all premiums for the plan of their choice.

7  
8 The 2020 DC amount will be \$900 per month and direct invoiced.

9 The DC will appear as a "credit toward purchase" when choosing a HealthFlex plan from all available HealthFlex Exchange plan  
10 options.

11 Participants who choose plans costing less than their DC credit amount will "bank" the excess. The unspent DC balance will  
12 then be credited by HealthFlex to the participant's Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) or Health Savings Account (HSA),  
13 depending on the health plan selected. The excess annual amount (unspent DC balance) is not credited in a lump sum; rather  
14 it is available on a prorated, monthly basis over the plan year. Internal Revenue Code (IRC) limits for annual HSA contributions  
15 will apply.

16 Participants who choose a plan costing more than the DC credit amount including the cost to cover dependents will contribute  
17 the additional amount by a payroll deduction from their church to cover the cost difference between the DC amount they  
18 receive and their higher cost for monthly premiums (the participant's share of the premium cost).

19 **HEALTHFLEX DIRECT INVOICING FOR ALL FULL-TIME CLERGY**

20 To ensure the Plan is efficient and sustainable for the benefit of all participants and churches with clergy appointed full-time,  
21 any church where a clergy has chosen to not participate in HealthFlex will continue to be invoiced the Defined Contribution  
22 (DC) of \$900 per month through direct billing effective January 1, 2019. The Board of Pensions believes that Health Benefits  
23 should not be a hindering factor on equipping a congregation with the excellent clergy it needs for ministry. The Board will  
24 establish a grant program with funds received from churches who have non HealthFlex participating clergy to help clergy with  
25 families transition between churches. We recognize that this can be a financial burden for both the church and clergy and  
26 believe this assistance will help ease the transition. The program would, upon District Superintendent's approval, provide grants  
27 of up to \$5,000 for clergy assistance with six months of health care coverage as part of a clergy's transition to a new church  
28 when the sending and receiving church have adopted differing contributions for dependent coverage.

29 **2020 CHURCH HEALTH BENEFITS DIRECT BILLING**

30 2019 is the final year of the four-year health benefit apportionment phase out for the HealthFlex Defined Contribution (DC).

31 Starting in 2020, churches will be direct invoiced for 100% of the cost of the DC equal to \$900. Concurrently, the Pension  
32 Apportionment Line Item #5 is being reduced in 2020.

33 Effective January 1, 2020, churches will be direct invoiced for eligible active clergy participants under full-time appointment  
34 and eligible enrolled lay employees:

35 The HealthFlex 2020 Defined Contribution (DC) of \$900 for each eligible full-time enrolled clergy or enrolled lay employee.

36 The Rio Grande Legacy Fund will continue to provide contributions to eligible legacy churches for full-time clergy enrolled in  
37 the HealthFlex Plan (individual clergy premium).

38 Additional contributions will be direct invoiced for benefits including any election above than the \$900 Defined Contribution  
39 (DC), the cost of dependent coverage, Optional Term Life Insurance, Health Saving Account (HSA) personal contributions and  
40 the Flexible Benefits Plan funded by payroll deduction

## 2020 HEALTHFLEX INDIVIDUAL DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC) OR "CREDIT"

	Monthly	Apportioned	Monthly Church Contribution	Annual Direct Bill
Active Clergy	\$900	\$0	\$900	\$10,800
Active Conference Lay	\$900		\$900	\$10,800
Pre-65 Retiree or Spouse	\$900			\$10,800
Medical Leave	\$900			\$10,800

Each eligible active clergy and enrolled lay participant will receive a monthly individual Defined Contribution (DC) or "Credit" in the HealthFlex plan of \$900 (funded through church) and will choose from the six HealthFlex plan options.

Participants who choose a plan costing more than the DC credit amount or who choose to cover dependents will contribute the additional amount by a payroll deduction from their church to cover the cost difference between the DC amount they receive and their higher cost for monthly premiums (the participant's share of the premium cost). Covered dependents will be enrolled in the same plan selections chosen by the primary clergy or lay participant.

## 2020 HEALTHFLEX RATES

MEDICAL PLANS	PPO B1000	C2000	C3000	H1500	H2000	H3000
Participant	\$918	\$872	\$740	\$849	\$778	\$678
Participant + 1	\$1,745	\$1,657	\$1,406	\$1,614	\$1,478	\$1,288
Participant + Family	\$2,388	\$2,388	\$1,924	\$2,208	\$2,022	\$1,762

## 2020 DEFAULT PLANS

The HealthFlex exchange is a passive enrollment. Participants who are currently enrolled in the HealthFlex exchange for 2019 will automatically be enrolled in the same plan and coverages for 2020 if no elections are made during the Annual Election Period. Full-time clergy and Conference lay employees who are new to the Conference will be enrolled in the following default plans for all of 2020 if no elections are made. All participants are encouraged to annually evaluate their current and anticipated health care needs and enroll in the plan choices that best match their individual requirements.

2020 DEFAULT PLAN	
If no plan selection is made during Annual Election Period for New Enrollees	
Medical	C3000
Dental	Dental HMO
Vision	Basic

## HealthFlex Flexible Spending Accounts

Eligible full-time HealthFlex participants may participate in the optional Medical Reimbursement Account (MRA) and Dependent Care Reimbursement Account (DCA) offered as a benefit funded by participant payroll deductions and administered by HealthFlex and Wage Works.

## ANCILLARY BENEFITS

### Optional Term Life Insurance

The Conference provides an Optional Term Life Insurance for full-time clergy and conference lay employees subject to the underwriting guidelines of the Prudential Life Insurance Company. Eligible participants may elect group term life coverage as a payroll deduction.

### Retiree Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)

A Retiree Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) is provided by One Exchange for eligible retirees and funded by apportionments. The HRA is based on the stipend amount received by eligible retirees before December 31, 2013. As of January 1, 2018, there are 75 retirees eligible for an HRA with expected benefits totaling \$109,236. Eligible retirees must be enrolled in a Medicare Supplement or Advantage plan through Via Benefits (Formerly One Exchange) to receive the HRA. In order to provide sustainability of the HRA benefit and not increase conference benefit plan liabilities and apportionments, the HRA is a fixed amount per eligible retiree and does not increase from year to year.

Per the policy of the 2014 Unification Plan, the HRA stipend will not be offered to any other retiree not currently receiving an HRA. The HRA provides reimbursement for IRS eligible health care expenses such as Medicare Part B premiums, Medicare supplement plan premiums, and out of pocket expenses such as co-pay and deductibles. To receive HRA funds, eligible retirees must submit a claim form to Via Benefits annually for premium reimbursement or as needed for other IRS eligible expenses.

## REPORT VII 2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The 2018 financial statements of the Río Texas Conference are in the process of being audited. The 2018 audit will be included in the 2019 Río Texas Conference Journal.

REPORT VIII  
2020 PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS BUDGET  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

	2018 Approved	2018 (Unaudited)	2019 Approved	2020 Proposed	% Change 2019 vs. 2020
<b>Pension &amp; Benefits Apportionment</b>	<b>1,166,537</b>	<b>1,140,304</b>	<b>1,011,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	-60.44%
<b>HealthFlex Plan Clergy</b>					
Sources: Apportionment	791,683	781,224	607,392	-	
Direct Invoice	1,847,261	1,818,960	2,429,568		
<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>2,638,944</b>	<b>2,600,184</b>	<b>3,036,960</b>	<b>-</b>	
Uses: HealthFlex	2,638,944	2,600,184	3,036,960	-	
<b>Pension Administration and Grants</b>					
Sources: Apportionment	374,854	359,080	403,608	400,000	-0.89%
Uses: Staffing	-	-	-	-	
Office	25,957	40,021	31,667	40,000	26.31%
Audit	27,000	24,000	29,700	30,294	2.00%
Post Retiree HRA Actuarial Requirement			8,500		
D&O Fiduciary	23,050	23,015	20,000	25,000	25.00%
Legal Fees	13,177	9,313	35,000	27,000	-22.86%
Interim Pastoral Support - Disability	28,594	10,842	24,095	24,095	0.00%
Medical Leave/Sabbatical/Grants	58,113	57,714	58,113	58,113	0.00%
Basic Life	12,509	15,274	12,759	13,014	2.00%
Delinquent Direct Billing	77,218	49,483	80,000	80,000	0.00%
Retiree HRA	109,236	108,770	103,774	102,484	-1.24%
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>374,854</b>	<b>338,432</b>	<b>403,608</b>	<b>400,000</b>	-0.89%
<b>Excess/(Deficit)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,648</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Benefit Plan Direct Invoicing</b>					
Sources: HealthFlex	1,741,752	2,906,398	2,240,412	5,239,000	133.84%
CRSP - CPP, DC, DB	2,867,876	2,727,371	2,872,173	2,771,742	-3.50%
UMPIP - PT	896,129	934,448	952,549	971,600	2.00%
Flex Plan	245,667	273,707	247,000	380,000	53.85%
Optional Life	55,000	43,719	49,000	47,000	-4.08%
<b>Total Sources</b>	<b>5,806,424</b>	<b>6,885,642</b>	<b>6,361,133</b>	<b>9,409,342</b>	<b>47.92%</b>
Uses: HealthFlex	1,741,752	2,906,398	2,240,412	5,239,000	133.84%
CRSP - DC, DB	2,251,638	2,207,600	2,257,308	2,771,742	22.79%
UMPIP - PT, Pass Thru	896,129	933,366	952,549	971,600	2.00%
Flex Plan- HSA	245,667	273,031	247,000	380,000	53.85%
Optional Life	54,628	48,472	49,000	47,000	-4.08%
<b>Total Uses</b>	<b>5,189,814</b>	<b>6,368,866</b>	<b>5,746,268</b>	<b>9,409,342</b>	<b>63.75%</b>
<b>Excess/(Deficit)</b>	<b>616,610</b>	<b>516,776</b>	<b>614,865</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Other Matters</b>					
Sources: Investment Income					

Wespath -RGC Legacy	209,501	(471,316.25)	398,080	361,087	-9.29%
Wespath- RTC Invest/Benefit Reserve	112,857	(161,933.03)	106,548	127,325	19.50%
Wespath - RTC Deposit Account		(92,324.88)	75,164	70,593	-6.08%
	<u>322,358</u>	<u>(725,574)</u>	<u>579,792</u>	<u>559,004</u>	-3.59%

**Uses:**

RGC Legacy - Benefits	282,194	268,561	315,664	398,112	
Pre-82 Pension Plan Liability	-	-	-	-	
RTC	-		-		
RGC	-		-		
Adv. Contribution Past Service Rate	164,732		-	TBD	
Pre-82 Past Service Rate (PSR)	<b>656</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>672</b>	1.1%

STATISTICAL REPORT  
FOR INFORMATION ONLY  
Will be printed in the 2019 Journal

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