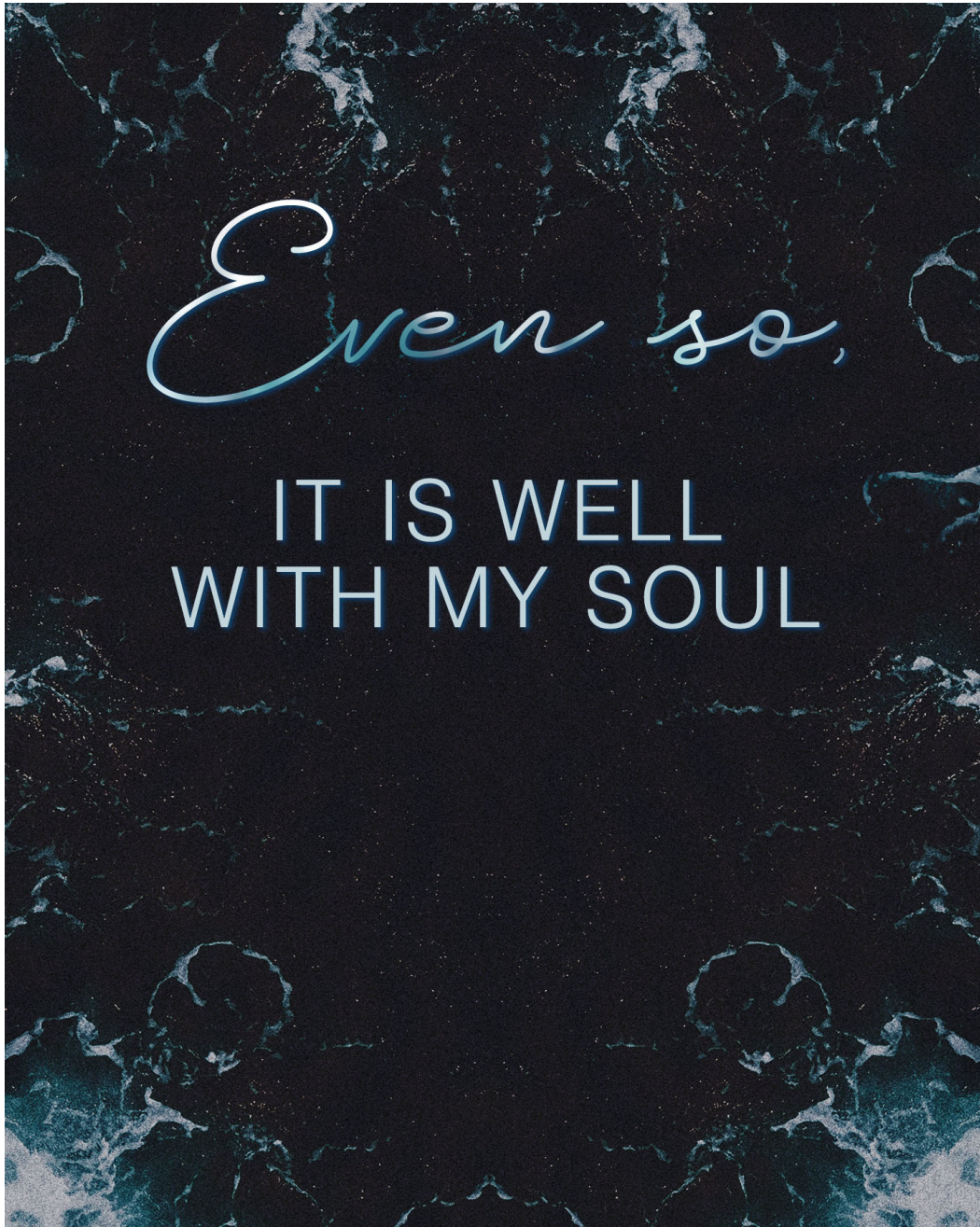


2020 Pre-Conference Journal



October 3, 2020

San Antonio, Texas

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

“EVEN SO, IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL”

THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE RÍO TEXAS CONFERENCE
2015-2020

BISHOP ROBERT SCHNASE, PRESIDING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020

8:00 AM	Welcome Service of Worship Call to Order, 1 st Plenary Session and Introductions Organization of the Conference Establishing the Bar Adoption of the Agenda Vote to receive Consent Agenda I, Pre-Conference Report “For Information Only” Vote to receive Consent Agenda II, Pre-Conference Report “For Action” Bishops Message Report on the Postponed 2020 General Conference Report on Standing Rules Celebration of the Ministry of Lydia Patterson Institute Report of the Board of Ordained Ministry Nominations Report Celebration of the Ministry of Huston-Tillotson University Service of Retirement
12:00 PM	Adjourn 1 st Plenary Session
1:30 PM	Prayer to Open 2 nd Plenary Session Call to Order 2 nd Plenary Session Report on Justice, Service and Outreach Ministry Celebration of Rio Texas Recovery Ministry Report of the Board of Trustees Report of Pension and Benefits Report of the Finance Table Reflection of the Conference Administrative Officer Celebration of Creating/Vitalizing Congregation Remembering Deceased Clergy and Clergy Spouses Celebrating Ordinands and Persons to be Commissioned Fixing of Appointments and Covenant Prayer Announcement of 7 th Rio Texas Annual Conference Session Adjourn 2 nd Plenary Session
5:00 PM	End of 6 th Rio Texas conference Session

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CONSENT AGENDA I

Consent Agenda I includes all "For Information Only" reports that are presented in the 2020 Pre-Conference. By adopting Consent Agenda I, these reports will be printed in the 2020 Conference Journal.

CONSENT AGENDA II

The following Reports are being presented to the Conference for action. It is believed that there is little or no dissent so they are being submitted for action as a group. If there is a desire to debate or amend one of these reports, the appropriate action is to move to have it removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. 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 Committee.

- Cabinet Report, Report II**
- Rio Texas Conference Harvest Sunday 2020**
- Archives and History, Report II**
- Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc**

1

STANDING RULES

REPORT I CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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

3 The first change involves elimination of all references to the Administration Team, and instead having a
4 representative from each of the administrative agencies listed in Rule #6 be a member of the Uniting Table.
5 Rationale: This change lets the Uniting Table be the coordinating body for dialogue among the administrative
6 agencies, the vision teams and the missional bodies of the annual conference. The Administration Team has no
7 function which cannot be done within the Uniting Table structure.

8 The second change involves further simplification of the Conference Staff and Resources section by eliminating Rule
9 #15, re-numbering Rules #16 and #17, and adding Rule #17. Rationale: This allows the flexibility needed to develop
10 creative ministry in an ever-changing environment, and eliminates the need for a change to the Standing Rules every
11 time the conference leadership positions change to support our mission.

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

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

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REPORT II STANDING RULES FOR FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

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

20 **STRUCTURE AND AGENCIES**

21 **Uniting Table**

22 1. There shall be a Uniting Table whose function is to coordinate mission and ministry in the Río Texas Conference
23 through the four Vision Teams focused on the four pillars of the conference Vision: Uniting Peoples, Vitalizing
24 Congregations, Developing Leaders, and Transforming Communities. The Uniting Table and the four Vision Teams
25 are responsible for focusing on the Mission Field. The membership of the Uniting Table shall be: the Bishop (ex
26 officio without vote); the dean of the cabinet; the lay leader; the chairpersons of the Uniting Peoples, Vitalizing
27 Congregations, Developing Leaders and Transforming Communities Vision Teams; the chairperson ~~of the~~
28 ~~Administration Team or a representative of each administrative agency in Rule #6~~; one representative each from the
29 Board of Ordained Ministry, the Committee on the Episcopacy, and the Council on Children's Ministries; the
30 presidents of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, the Youth Ministries Council, and the Young Adult
31 Ministry Council; and the chairperson. There shall also be seven (7) members at large and a Mission Field Advocate,
32 nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. All references in the Book of
33 Discipline to a conference council on ministries will be fulfilled by the Uniting Table. The Uniting Table is accountable
34 to, and funded by, the Annual Conference.

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

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

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

44 d. The Committee on Nominations shall nominate, and the Annual Conference shall elect, the chairpersons of the
45 Uniting Table ~~and~~ each of the four Vision Teams, ~~and the Administration Team~~. None of these chairpersons shall

1 have any other specific ministry responsibilities on the Uniting Table or any of the Vision Teams, nor shall they be
2 chairperson of any other conference agency.

3 e. The Constitutions for United Methodist Women (¶ 647) and United Methodist Men (¶ 648) are included in the
4 2016 Book of Discipline. United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men are independent organizations which
5 nominate and elect their own leaders. Each of these organizations is represented by the president and/or another
6 designated person on various agencies of the Annual Conference, including the Uniting Table. United Methodist
7 Women relates to the national organization of United Methodist Women. United Methodist Men relates to the
8 General Commission on United Methodist Men.

9 ***Uniting Peoples Vision Team***

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

20
21 a. There shall be a Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (the commission) whose function
22 is defined in ¶ 642 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons
23 elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships,
24 plus all the other members of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission relates to the Council of Bishops,
25 and to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to
26 the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.

27 b. There shall be a Commission on Religion and Race (the commission) whose function is defined in ¶ 643 of the
28 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons elected by the Annual
29 Conference whose specific responsibility is Religion and Race, plus all the other members of the Uniting Peoples
30 Vision Team. The commission relates to the General Commission on Religion and Race, and to the Uniting Peoples
31 Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and
32 is funded through the Uniting Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.

33 c. There shall be a Commission on the Status and Role of Women (the commission) whose function is defined in
34 ¶ 644 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons elected by the
35 Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is the Status and Role of Women, plus all the other members of the
36 Uniting Peoples Vision Team, plus a member named by the conference United Methodist Women. The chairperson
37 of this commission shall be a woman, and a majority of its members shall be women. The commission relates to the
38 General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission is
39 accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting
40 Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.

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

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

1 ***Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team***

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

17
18 a. There shall be a Board of Discipleship (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 630 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.
19 The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific
20 responsibility is Discipleship, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The board
21 relates to the General Board of Discipleship, and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The board is
22 accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the
23 Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

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

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

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

44 e. There shall be a Commission on the Small Membership Church (the commission) whose function is defined in
45 ¶ 645 and ¶ 633.5i of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons
46 elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is the Small Membership Church, plus all the other
47 members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The commission relates to the General Board of Global
48 Ministries and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Vitalizing
49 Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision
50 Team portion of the budget.

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 k. There shall be a Young Adult Ministry Council (the council) whose function is defined in ¶ 650 of the 2016 Book
30 of Discipline, and which will fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Council on Young Adult Ministries.
31 The council will provide voice and support for all young adults in the conference. The council will be a group of
32 diverse young adults called to ministry and service as modeled by Jesus Christ. The council is represented by the
33 president and/or another designated person on various agencies of the Annual Conference, including the Uniting
34 Table. The council relates to the General Board of Discipleship’s Division on Ministries with Young People. The
35 council is accountable to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team
36 portion of the budget.

37 ***Developing Leaders Vision Team***

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

49
50 a. There shall be a Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 634
51 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual
52 Conference whose specific responsibility is Higher Education and Campus Ministry, plus all the other members of
53 the Developing Leaders Vision Team. The board relates to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and
54 its Division of Higher Education, and to the Developing Leaders Vision Team. The board is accountable to the

1 Developing Leaders Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Developing Leaders Vision
2 Team portion of the budget.

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

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

15 16 ***Transforming Communities Vision Team***

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

28
29 a. There shall be a Board of Church and Society (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 629 of the 2016 Book of
30 Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific
31 responsibility is Church and Society, plus all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision Team, plus
32 a member named by the conference United Methodist Women. The board relates to the General Board of Church
33 and Society, and to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The board is accountable to the Transforming
34 Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Transforming Communities
35 Vision Team portion of the budget. The board shall name the Peace with Justice Coordinator.

36
37 b. There shall be a Board of Global Ministries (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 633 of the 2016 Book of
38 Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific
39 responsibility is Global Ministries, plus all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision Team,
40 including the Secretary of Global Ministries, plus a member named by the conference United Methodist Women.
41 The board relates to the General Board of Global Ministries, and to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The
42 board is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded
43 through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.

44
45 c. There shall be a Committee on Native American Ministries (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 654 of
46 the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual
47 Conference whose specific responsibility is Native American Ministries, plus all the other members of the
48 Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee relates to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The
49 committee is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is
50 funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.

51 d. There shall be a Committee on The Advance (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 656 of the 2016 Book
52 of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose
53 specific responsibility is The Advance, plus all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision Team.
54 The committee relates to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the

1 Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Transforming
2 Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.

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

9 **Administration Team Administrative Agencies**

10 6. There shall be ~~an Administration Team Administrative Agencies~~ whose ~~function is~~ functions are to provide ongoing
11 administrative support to the conference ~~through the agencies represented among its members.~~ The membership
12 of the Administration Team shall be one representative each from the Finance Table, the Board of Trustees, the
13 Committee on Standing Rules, the Agenda and Worship Committee, the Committee on the Episcopacy, the Episcopal
14 Residence Committee, the Board of Pensions, the Commission on Archives and History, and the Committee on
15 Nominations, plus a chairperson. Each of these functions will be carried out by a separate and independent agency
16 whose members are nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference, unless
17 otherwise specified by the Book of Discipline. Each of these agencies is directly accountable to the Annual
18 Conference, reports to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the budget of the Annual Conference, unless
19 otherwise specified by the Book of Discipline. Each of these agencies shall have one representative on the Uniting
20 Table for support of the missional emphases of the Uniting Table and Vision Teams.

21 a. There shall be a Finance Table whose function is defined in ¶¶ 611-628 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, and which
22 will fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Council on Finance and Administration. The Finance Table
23 will also fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Commission on Equitable Compensation, whose function
24 is defined in ¶ 625 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be sixteen (16) members of the Finance Table. The
25 Finance Table relates to the General Council on Finance and Administration. There shall also be a Personnel
26 Committee to carry out those functions of the Finance Table in ¶ 613.13 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall
27 be four (4) members of the Personnel Committee plus a representative of the Finance Table and a district
28 superintendent.

29 b. There shall be a Board of Trustees whose function is defined in ¶ 2512 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall
30 be twelve (12) members of the Board of Trustees, who will be elected in four classes of three members each. The
31 first Board of Trustees will have three persons elected by the Southwest Texas Conference whose terms end in June
32 2015, three persons elected by the Río Grande Conference whose terms end in June 2016, three persons elected by
33 the Río Grande Conference whose terms end in June 2017, and three persons elected by the Southwest Texas
34 Conference whose terms end in June 2018. The members of the Board of Trustees are also members of the Board
35 of Directors of the United Methodist Río Texas Conference Board of Trustees corporation, and their election shall be
36 consistent with the Certificate of Formation and the Bylaws of that corporation.

37
38 c. There shall be a Committee on Standing Rules whose function is to oversee the rules of the Annual Conference,
39 as permitted in ¶ 604.1 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be six (6) members of the Committee on Standing
40 Rules

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

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

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

51 g. There shall be a Board of Pensions whose function is defined in ¶ 639 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall
52 be sixteen (16) members of the Board of Pensions who will serve eight-year staggered terms, with four members
53 being elected every other year. The first Board of Pensions will have four persons whose terms end in June 2016,
54 four persons whose terms end in June 2018, four persons whose terms end in June 2020, and four persons whose
55 terms end in June 2022 in order to establish the staggered terms. The 2014 conferences will each elect two persons

1 for each class to make up the first Board of Pensions. The members of the Board of Pensions are also members of
2 the Board of Directors of the United Methodist Rio Texas Conference Board of Pensions corporation, and their
3 election shall be consistent with the Certificate of Formation and the Bylaws of that corporation. The Board of
4 Pensions relates to the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.

5
6 h. There shall be a Commission on Archives and History whose function is defined in ¶ 641 of the 2016 Book of
7 Discipline. There shall be eight (8) members of the Commission on Archives and History. The Commission on
8 Archives and History relates to the General Commission on Archives and History ~~and to the Uniting Table through~~
9 ~~the chairperson of the Administration Team.~~

10 i. There shall be a Committee on Nominations (the committee) whose function is to identify nominees for each
11 elected leadership position for which the Book of Discipline does not specify another method of nomination. The
12 members of the committee shall be the Bishop and the Assistant to the Episcopal Office; the seven district
13 superintendents; one person from each parent conference representing United Methodist Women, United
14 Methodist Men, the Young Adult Ministry Council, and the Youth Ministries Council; the conference lay leader; and
15 six (6) at large members nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference to
16 ensure equal representation on the committee from each of the parent conferences. At least through 2024 the
17 Committee on Nominations will consist of an equal number of members from each of the parent conferences.

18
19 7. There shall be an Administrative Review Committee (the committee) whose function and membership are defined
20 in ¶ 636 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be three (3) members of the committee and two (2) alternates,
21 nominated by the Bishop and elected by the clergy session of the Annual Conference. The committee is accountable
22 to the clergy session of the Annual Conference.

23 ***Applying to All Agencies***

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

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

38
39 10. Any elected position on a conference agency which is vacant at the end of the Annual Conference session or
40 which becomes vacant during the conference year may be filled by the Committee on Nominations, unless otherwise
41 specified by the Book of Discipline.

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

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

45
46 13. When a person is absent without notice from two consecutive conference agency meetings of which he/she is
47 a member, such person shall be considered to have resigned such membership, and the Committee on Nominations
48 shall be notified that another person can be nominated for the remainder of the term.

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

1 **Conference Staff and Resources**

2 ~~15. There shall be a Mission Vitality Center to equip churches to reach the mission field to make disciples of Jesus~~
3 ~~Christ for the transformation of the world. The Mission Vitality Center relates to and supports the work of the four~~
4 ~~Vision Teams: to empower and equip all those working with existing congregations, and to assist and support those~~
5 ~~starting new faith communities; to offer leadership development to lay and clergy leaders; to mobilize all of us to~~
6 ~~transform communities through missional opportunities and engagement; and to support communications and lead~~
7 ~~the conference in using new and emerging technologies as tools for ministry. The Mission Vitality Center will seek~~
8 ~~to build capacity at the district level to better serve local churches in their mission. The Mission Vitality Center will~~
9 ~~also support the Board of Ordained Ministry and its clergy wellness initiatives, the conference centers offering~~
10 ~~retreats and learning experiences, youth and young adult ministries, and registration services for such events. The~~
11 ~~Mission Vitality Center shall be accountable to, and funded by, the Annual Conference. There shall be a director or~~
12 ~~equivalent position to oversee the functions of the Mission Vitality Center, filled by appointment or otherwise at the~~
13 ~~Bishop's discretion.~~

14
15 ~~16~~15. There shall be an Administrative Services Center whose function is to manage the financial resources of the
16 conference, and to develop alternative sources of funding for the conference. The Administrative Services Center
17 will encourage collaboration and partnership among all program, administrative and financial entities of the
18 conference. The Administrative Services Center relates to and supports the work of the Finance Table and the
19 Commission on Equitable Compensation, the Board of Trustees, the Board of Pensions, the conference treasurer,
20 and the office of New Resource Development, as well as the other non-program agencies as needed. The
21 Administrative Services Center shall be accountable to the Finance Table and to the Annual Conference, and shall be
22 funded by the Annual Conference. There shall be a director or equivalent position to oversee the functions of the
23 Administrative Services Center, filled by appointment or otherwise at the Bishop's discretion.

24
25 ~~17~~16. There shall be an Assistant to the Episcopal Office who will provide assistance with the administrative tasks
26 of the Episcopal Office. This position may be filled, by appointment or otherwise, at the Bishop's discretion.

27 ~~17. There shall be Directors who assist and coordinate with the ministries of the Vision Teams as determined by the~~
28 ~~Personnel Committee in consultation with the Bishop. These positions may be filled, by appointment or otherwise,~~
29 ~~at the Bishop's discretion.~~

30 **MEMBERSHIP OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

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

32 **Lay Members Defined by the Book of Discipline**

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

44
45 (The method for selecting the youth, college and young adult representatives to Annual Conference will be as

46 follows: the conference youth organization will select one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and

47 seventeen (17) from each district; the conference young adult organization will select one young person between

48 the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district. In the absence of a college student organization, the

49 Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry will select the college student to serve as a Lay Member of the

50 Annual Conference. Each of the agencies is responsible for providing the names and contact information for these

51 persons to the conference secretary no later than January 15 each year.)

1 ***Lay Members Defined by Annual Conference***

2 d. An additional lay member assigned to each church that does not have a lay member as provided for in 18a and
3 18b above; and

4 e. Other members as defined by the Annual Conference to include: an additional representative of the executive
5 committees of the conference organizations of United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, youth, and young
6 adults; the president and one additional representative of the executive committees of the district organizations of
7 United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, youth, and young adults; the chancellor, the conference emmaus
8 lay director (if any), the conference scouting coordinator (if any), conference associate lay leaders (if any),
9 conference elected executive personnel (if any), the chairperson of any conference agency or standing committee
10 that reports directly to the Annual Conference; lay members of the Uniting Table and Finance Table; and one lay
11 member for each unchartered new church start elected by the district in which the new church start is located.

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

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

17
18 h. At least 10% of these additional lay members shall be age 30 or under at the time of election.

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

24 ***CONFERENCE PROCEDURES***

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

28
29 21. The Annual Conference shall make available English and Spanish editions of all official correspondence, including
30 but not limited to the contents of the Pre-Conference Report and the Conference Journal. The Annual Conference
31 shall also provide oral translation between Spanish and English, and support for hearing and vision impaired persons,
32 during the sessions of the Annual Conference.

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

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

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

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

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

45 27. Consent Agenda 1 consists of reports from conference agencies which are not for action, but are "For
46 Information Only." The conference acts only to receive these reports and print them in the journal. Consent Agenda
47 2 consists of action reports about which there is believed to be little or no dissent. The items included in Consent
48 Agenda 2 are determined by a task force composed of members of the Agenda and Worship Committee. Any
49 member of the Annual Conference may move the deletion of any of the items from Consent Agendas.

50 With a second, and a one-minute explanation by the maker of the motion, it will be voted on by the conference
51 without debate.

1 If 20% of the members vote that the item be removed, it will be removed and brought to the floor as a non-consent
2 item at a time to be determined by the Agenda and Worship Committee.

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

7
8 29. The preliminary report of the Committee on Nominations will be presented early in the agenda of the Annual
9 Conference proceedings, including the process for nominations from the floor. The final report of the Committee
10 on Nominations will be presented and acted upon at a later session of that Annual Conference.

11
12 30. Any report or resolution requiring action of the conference must be in the hands of the conference secretary
13 early enough to allow for printing and distribution to the conference twenty-four (24) hours before the report is
14 considered by the conference. Motions made from the floor must be presented in writing to the presiding officer
15 and the conference secretary at the time the motion is made.

16
17 31. The conference lay leader will chair the Committee on Resolutions and Courtesies, and will be responsible for
18 appointing additional persons to assist in preparation of the report.

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

21 33. The minutes shall be available online no later than sixty days after the closing of the Annual Conference session.
22

23 **OTHER**

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

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

31 36. Any minister of the Annual Conference who conducts the funeral or memorial service of a fellow minister or a
32 minister's spouse shall provide the conference secretary with a memorial for that person within one month, in
33 accordance with the Guidelines on Memoirs to be furnished by the conference secretary.
34
35
36
37

FINANCE TABLE (CF&A)

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

38 The Finance Table (CF&A) has the authority to adjust the budget implementation on the basis of changing economic
39 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

40
41 The Finance Table (CF&A) is recommending that the salary and benefits for the Río Texas Conference District
42 Superintendents for 2021 be set as follows:

1 **Compensation**
 2 Cash salary for 2021 is set at \$102,250 per annum.
 3 Clergy Retirement Security Plan, Comprehensive Protection Plan, Health Benefits, and utilities shall vary according to their
 4 actual cost.

5 **Expenses to be Provided by the Districts**
 6 Office space, office telephone (including long distance), postage, secretarial service, printing, office utilities and insurance
 7 on furniture and equipment if applicable, library and periodical expenses, entertainment related to the district, and other
 8 normal expenses related to the superintendency not paid by the Annual Conference.
 9 The district shall also provide a parsonage, parsonage utilities (not including personal long distance), parsonage
 10 maintenance and insurance on parsonage or an appropriate housing allowance.

REPORT III
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION POLICY ON MINIMUM PASTORAL SUPPORT
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

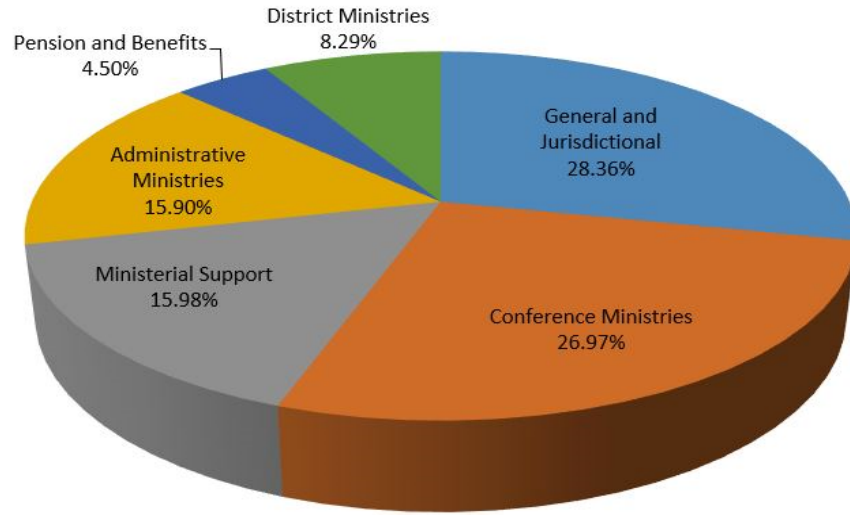
11
 12 **Minimum Pastoral Support Policies**
 13 The minimum salary levels for 2021 shall be:
 14 ■ For a Full or Probationary member \$42,300 per annum.
 15 ■ For an Associate member \$39,300 per annum.
 16 ■ For an Approved Local Pastor or member of another denomination \$36,100 per annum.
 17
 18 Plus \$75 for each year of service completed after 2nd year with a maximum of \$1,425
 19 Plus \$200 for 2nd church in charge and \$100 for each additional church in the charge

REPORT IV
2021 APPORTIONED FUNDS
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

Fund Name	2019 Approved	2020 Approved	2021 Proposed	2021 vs 2020 % Change	2021 vs 2020 \$ Change
A General and Jurisdictional Total	2,862,642	2,812,286	2,392,988	-14.91%	(419,298)
B Conference Ministries Total	2,248,818	2,375,323	2,276,005	-4.18%	(99,318)
C Ministerial Support Total	1,372,369	1,284,085	1,348,169	4.99%	64,084
D Administrative Ministries Total	1,340,624	1,345,769	1,341,910	-0.29%	(3,859)
E Pension and Benefits	1,011,000	400,000	380,000	-5.00%	(20,000)
F District Missions	700,000	700,000	700,000	0.00%	-
Grand Total	9,535,453	8,917,463	8,439,072	-5.36%	(478,391)

20

2021 APPORTIONMENTS



	2019 Approved	2020 Approved	2021 Proposed	% Change 2021 vs 2020	\$ Change 2021 vs 2020
A General and Jurisdictional					
1 GC: World Service	1,427,005	1,401,100	1,141,047	-18.56%	(260,053)
2 GC: Ministerial Educational Fund	481,976	473,227	357,378	-24.48%	(115,849)
3 GC: General Episcopal Fund	422,594	414,923	458,173	10.42%	43,250
4 GC: Black College Fund	192,256	188,766	165,155	-12.51%	(23,611)
5 GC: General Administration Fund	169,445	166,369	140,519	-15.54%	(25,850)
6 GC: Africa University	43,026	42,245	37,130	-12.11%	(5,115)
7 GC: Interdenominational Cooperation	37,694	37,010	4,940	-86.65%	(32,070)
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%	-
General and Jurisdictional Total	2,862,642	2,812,286	2,392,988	-14.91%	(419,298)
B Conference Ministries					
1 Staffing	990,887	980,573	946,505	-3.47%	(34,068)
2 Congregational Excellence	338,000	444,250	435,000	-2.08%	(9,250)
3 Clergy and Lay Leadership	432,931	424,500	412,500	-2.83%	(12,000)
4 Connectional Ministries	234,000	273,000	282,000	3.30%	9,000
5 Transforming Communities	35,000	35,000	35,000	0.00%	-
6 Mission Field Ministry Office Operations	118,000	118,000	115,000	-2.54%	(3,000)
7 Administration Team	-	-	-	-	-
8 Lydia Patterson Institute Capital Campaign	50,000	50,000	-	-100.00%	(50,000)
9 Contingency General	50,000	50,000	50,000	0.00%	-
Conference Ministries Total	2,248,818	2,375,323	2,276,005	-4.18%	(99,318)
C Ministerial Support					
1 District Superintendent/Cabinet Support	962,869	877,085	891,169	1.61%	14,084
2 Episcopal Support/Executive Fund	47,500	45,000	95,000	111.11%	50,000
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%	-
Ministerial Support Total	1,372,369	1,284,085	1,348,169	4.99%	64,084
D Administrative Ministries					
1 United Methodist Center Maintenance	200,000	270,000	289,000	7.04%	19,000
2 Conference Reserves	-	100,000	100,000	-	-
3 Commission on Archives & History	18,000	18,000	15,000	-16.67%	(3,000)
4 Auditing	112,000	112,000	112,000	0.00%	-
5 Journal	5,000	2,000	2,000	0.00%	-
6 Mount Wesley Conference Center	85,000	-	-	-	-
7 Administrative Ministries Staffing	838,861	762,006	743,147	-2.47%	(18,859)
8 Administrative Ministries Team Support	81,763	81,763	80,763	-1.22%	(1,000)
Administrative Ministries Total	1,340,624	1,345,769	1,341,910	-0.29%	(3,859)
E Pensions and Benefits	1,011,000	400,000	380,000	-5.00%	(20,000)
F District Ministries	700,000	700,000	700,000	0.00%	-
Grand Total	9,535,453	8,917,463	8,439,072	-5.36%	(478,391)

REPORT V
FINANCE TABLE (CF&A) OPERATIONS
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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

4 In keeping with the Disciplinary purpose, the Finance Table (CF&A) sees itself as an integral part of the mission and ministry
5 of the Conference.

6 We are working to improve communications with the other agencies of the Conference to ensure that our work is
7 supportive of the ministries and goals of the Uniting Table and the Mission Field Ministry Offices.

8 Receipts on all funds for 2019 by the Río Texas Conference were \$9,267,260.99 or 88.90% of the apportioned amount. The
9 Finance Table (CF&A) is proposing the budget for 2021. The overall apportioned budget for all funds totals \$8,439,072.

10 The Finance Table (CF&A) sees itself as joining with the local church in the work of the financial ministry of the Annual
11 Conference. We commend the 2021 budget to the Conference. It represents the uniqueness and depth of ministries and
12 missions provided by our church and economic realities of our Conference. The Finance Table (CF&A), along with the
13 Conference Treasurer, has been monitoring membership and economic trends within the Conference, the Global Church,
14 and society at large. We believe that the future health and vitality of our ministry will require that the amounts
15 apportioned to the local churches will need to be significantly reduced over the next few years. As the goals and direction
16 of the Conference become clearer, we will be working with the Bishop, the Uniting Table, and Mission Field Ministries to
17 ensure that the budget and apportionments accurately reflect those goals and support those ministries. At the same time,
18 we will continue to work with our Conference Treasurer, the Personnel Committee and other Conference leaders to
19 improve communications, systems and efficiency.

20
21
22 **Operating Policies of the Finance Table (CF&A):**

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

- 25 General and Jurisdictional
- 26 Conference Ministries (formerly Conference Benevolences)
- 27 Ministerial Support
- 28 Administrative Ministries (formerly Conference Administration)
- 29 Pension and Benefits
- 30 District Missions

31
32
33 The decimal formula shall be based on the two year average of local church operating expenses divided by two years
34 of conference-wide local church operating expenses times each apportioned fund. Operating expenses include only
35 these line items from the Local Church Report to the Annual Conference:

- 36 Line 41 – Pastor(s) Compensation
- 37 Line 42 – Utilities and Housing Paid to Pastor(s)
- 38 Line 43 – Accountable Reimbursement Paid to Pastor(s)
- 39 Line 44 – Non-Accountable Cash Allowances Paid to Pastor(s)
- 40 Line 45 – Staff & Diaconal Ministers Salary
- 41 Line 46 – Program Expenses
- 42 Line 47 – Current Operating Expenses other than Program

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

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

2 years of Local Church Operating Expenses	X	Each District Apportioned Fund
2 Years of District-Wide Local Church Operating Expenses		

- 3
4
5
6
7
8
9
- 10 2. At the beginning of the calendar year, the Finance Table (CF&A) shall determine which portions of the Conference
11 Ministries and Administrative Ministries are “fixed costs” (salaries, benefits, etc.) and shall thus be authorized to be
12 paid at 100% of the approved budget. On the basis of prior-year receipts to these funds, the Finance Table (CF&A)
13 shall then determine a percentage of the approved budget to be authorized for expenditures in the remaining items of
14 each budget, so that expenditures shall not exceed income.
- 15 a. Each church is expected to support all funds at 100% of the apportioned amount. (¶247.14 2016 *Book of*
16 *Discipline*)
- 17 b. The churches are requested to make payments thereon aggregately, with the understanding that the Conference
18 Treasurer will allocate such payments according to the appropriate percentage due the fund according to the
19 Conference Budget.
- 20 3. An Unrestricted Fund Balance Account will be maintained by the Annual Conference at a minimum level of 20% of
21 the current total of the Conference Funds. Any undesignated interest income will be transferred to the undesignated
22 fund balance at the end of the fiscal year.
- 23 4. All apportioned funds, pension and health benefits costs both receipts and disbursements, will be managed through the
24 office of the Conference Treasurer. All boards, agencies, committees, and commissions shall use the Conference
25 Treasurer as the fiscal agent.
- 26 5. The compensation (including housing and utilities) for District Superintendents shall be recommended to the Annual
27 Conference by the Finance Table (CF&A), using a guideline formula adopted by the Personnel Committee of 1.85
28 times the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). Calculate the cash portion as follows: 2021 CAC x 1.85 = DS
29 Plan Compensation. Then, (DS Plan Comp – utilities) / 1.25 = Cash Salary. Example: Where utilities are \$5,000 and
30 housing is 25% of Cash Salary; \$71,791 x 1.85 = \$132,813. Then, (\$132,813 – \$5,000) / 1.25 = \$102,250. The purpose
31 of the formula is to relate DS Compensation to Full Time Clergy Compensation. We recommend that the salary
32 computation should also be applied to other clergy appointed to the conference staff at Cabinet level.
- 33
34
- 35 6. All agencies receiving funds from the Conference budget shall affirm that funds will not be expended for uses not
36 consistent with ¶613.18-19 2016 *Book of Discipline*.
- 37 7. The amount of compensation designated as housing allowance for ordained staff members and district superintendents
38 of the Conference will be set by an annual resolution of the Conference Finance Table (CF&A) after consideration of
39 a statement of amounts to be used during the year.
- 40
- 41 8. The governing boards of United Methodist related entities must apply to the Finance Table (CF&A) to be granted the
42 privilege of soliciting and receiving funds from churches, individuals, and other sources (but not from conference-wide
43 offerings except as indicated in the list which follows) in keeping with ¶262 2016 *Book of Discipline*; no capital
44 campaigns have been approved for 2020; and the following, and only the following, conference-wide offerings are
45 approved for 2021:
- 46 Human Relations Day.....General Conference
47 UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing).....General Conference
48 Native American Awareness.....General Conference
49 Peace with Justice.....General Conference
50 World Communion.....General Conference
51 United Methodist Student Day.....General Conference

- 1 Harvest Sunday (see Transforming Communities Vision Team Report).....Annual Conference
- 2 9. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary of the Conference Finance Table (CF&A), the Chairperson of the
- 3 Audit Committee, the Chairperson of Equitable Compensation and the Conference Treasurer/Director of
- 4 Administrative Ministries constitute the executive committee of the Conference Finance Table (CF&A).
- 5 10. The Finance Table (CF&A) is authorized to appoint a Conference auditor.
- 6 11. A Conference Fund will not be permitted to carry over unobligated budget allocations from one conference year to
- 7 another unless specifically authorized by the Finance Table (CF&A). Agencies receiving funds from sources other than
- 8 apportioned funds may carry over such unspent funds into the next year. Any unobligated budget allocations not
- 9 authorized for carryover will be added to the undesignated Fund Balance of the Annual Conference.
- 10
- 11 12. Each year, the Conference Comptroller shall set a cutoff date for all apportionment payments to the Conference
- 12 Treasurer to be applied to the preceding year. The cutoff date will be communicated to the local churches no later than
- 13 December 1 each year.
- 14 13. Each Conference board, agency, or institution receiving or disbursing funds not managed by the Conference Treasurer
- 15 shall maintain adequate financial records and prepare and submit annual audit reports to the Conference Treasurer and
- 16 the Finance Table (CF&A). All treasurers shall be properly bonded.
- 17
- 18 14. The Conference fiscal year shall begin on January 1 each year, and end on December 31 each year.
- 19 15. The Conference Finance Table (CF&A) is responsible for designating depositories for Conference funds.
- 20
- 21 16. The Conference will include in each annual budget an appropriate line for each “shall” ministry as defined by *The*
- 22 *Book of Discipline*
- 23

REPORT VI
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION POLICIES
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

24

25 The Río Texas Conference Equitable Compensation Policy is as adopted in the Journal of the Special Session of the Southwest

26 Texas and Rio Grande Conferences, February 8, 2014, pages 81 through 110. The Called Special Session Journal is available

27 at <https://riotexas.org/annual-conference-journal-río-texas-conference>

28

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

29

30 The Commission recommends the following strategic process to provide assistance for pastoral leadership to new and existing

31 churches engaged in ministries with Hispanics/Latinos within the Río Texas Conference utilizing the Hispanic Ministry Fund.

32 The process involves various local, district and conference entities in order to provide the most strategic use of these limited

33 funds. The Commission shall be responsible for the following:

34 1. Collect and analyze data* pertaining to local churches engaged in or with potential to be in ministry with

35 Hispanics/Latinos in communities of growth, in collaboration with the Mission Vitality Center;

36

37 2. Identify and list possible local churches that could benefit from these funds, in collaboration with the Mission Vitality

38 Center;

39 3. Share the data and list of local churches with the Bishop and Cabinet, district strategy teams, and key conference

40 staff in order to discuss, negotiate, and prioritize potential local churches;

41 4. In consultation with the district strategy teams, invite local churches to apply to the Commission's Hispanic Ministry

42 Fund, review applications, and approve annual grants;

43

5. Require the approved local churches to incorporate and utilize appropriate conference programs and tools, such as coaches, mentors, Healthy Church Initiative, etc., and monitor and celebrate progress in its development and accomplishments of ministry with Hispanics/Latinos;
6. Review and approve additional grants to same churches and others annually.

* Data to be gathered and analyzed includes the following:

population growth (actual and projected)	profile of the area served or to be served
membership growth (trend)	average worship attendance (trend)
number of baptisms (trend)	number of professions of faith (trend)
number of years of existence	outreach programs
ethnicity of congregation (trend)	age profile of members
language(s) utilized by congregation	building size: sanctuary, educational bldg.
other key indicators	

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 2019 financial statements. Audits for the Río Texas Conference and Board of Pensions will be published in the Conference Journal later in 2020. Members of the Río Texas Audit Committee are as follows:

1	Jim Noble	Clergy
2	Zeda Alvarado	Laity
3	Drew Claes	Laity
4	Brad DeHaven	Clergy
5	Oscar Garza	Laity
6	John Winn	Laity
7	Jim Wynn	Laity

8

9 **BOARD OF PENSIONS**

10

REPORT I
PAST SERVICE RATE 2021
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

11 The Past Service Rate for 2020 will be **\$682** per year of annuity credit. This reflects an increase of \$10.00 or 1.5%
12 over the 2020 Past Service Rate.

13 In 2016, the Board of Pensions adopted a long-term PSR strategy based on increases of 70% of the reported St. Louis
14 Federal Reserve Cost of Living Index-Urban South Region to set the past service rate each year. The Board believes that
15 this policy provides for the honor, support, and appreciation of our retired clergy while maintaining a sustainable plan
16 to meet benefit liabilities.

17 Any change in the PSR also increases the Plan’s liabilities and must be funded in the year adopted if necessary per
18 the Plan asset level and Wespath funding requirements.

19

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

20

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

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

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

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

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

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments
36 received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"),
37 which includes all such payments from Wespath Benefits and Investments, during the years 2020 and 2021 by each
38 active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergy person who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors,
39 be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergy person; and that the pension
40 severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension, severance, or
41 disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from
42 Wespath Benefits and Investments “Wespath” and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity
43 arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, pension, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result
44

1 from any service a clergy person rendered to this Conference or that an active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergy
2 person of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conferences of the church, general agency of the
3 church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the church, or any other employer
4 that employed the clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the church, or its predecessors, and
5 that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired,
6 or disabled clergy person's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

7
8 NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergy person's gross income in any year for federal
9 income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations hereunder to the least
10 of (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the clergy person's employer or other appropriate
11 body of the church (such as this Conference in the preceding resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount expended
12 by the clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the house, including
13 furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

14
REPORT III
2020 COMPREHENSIVE FUNDING PLAN
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

15
16 The Comprehensive Funding Plan is under review by Wespeth Benefits and Investments and will be available at the
17 annual conference session and included in the 2020 Río Texas Conference Journal

REPORT IV
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

18
19
20 The Rio Texas Conference Board of Pensions' mission is to “care for those who serve” by providing for the honor,
21 support and appreciation of our clergy and lay participants. Our focus includes the administration of conference
22 benefit plans both in the present and decades into the future for all plan beneficiaries. We endeavor to be good
23 stewards of the resources we are entrusted with to implement denominational and Conference benefit policy in
24 collaboration with our ministry partner Wespeth Benefits and Investments.

25 For the first time in our history, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought an unprecedented time of challenge, suffering,
26 and economic calamity in the world and our nation. Amid the crisis, we have seen resilience in the church and our
27 communities as we continue to navigate and adjust to these uncertain times in ministry. The Board is adapting and
28 remains devoted to its mission in serving the Conference and participants. Since the early days of the pandemic in
29 March, Wespeth in collaboration with GCFA has been providing and pandemic guidance on COVID-19 legislation,
30 including the “CARES” Act – *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act* and the *FFCRA or Families First*
31 *Coronavirus Response Act*. This information can be found on the Conference website at
32 www.riotexas.org/covidhrtoolkit and www.wespeth.org. Prior to the pandemic, we awaited the outcome and
33 impact of denominational changes to the United Methodist Church and our Conference. Along with the
34 postponement of General Conference, the previously proposed pension legislation has been delayed for the next
35 General Conference session in 2021. At the start of 2020, the Pre-82 Plan, Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP), and Clergy
36 Retirement Security Plan (CRSP-DB) had no unfunded liabilities and we will continue to monitor market volatility to
37 maintain a long term sustainable asset plan to meet benefit liabilities for all beneficiaries.

38
39 ***HealthFlex October Credit and 2021 Update***

40 To assist churches with COVID-19 pandemic relief, churches with eligible full-time clergy and lay participants in Healthflex not in
41 a delinquent status will receive a one-time HealthFlex credit in October resulting in no HealthFlex balance due for the month of
42 October. This credit does not apply to any personal reimbursement accounts or pension plans.

43 To provide additional stability as a result of the apportionment phase-out and changes to the Healthflex Exchange multi Plan
44 model:

- 1 ▪ The 2021 CRSP-DB flat rate contribution of \$511 per month will remain the same as 2020.
- 2 ▪ The 2021 HealthFlex Premium Credit (PC) will remain at \$900 per month the same as 2020.
- 3 ▪ Effective January 1, 2021, we are pleased to announce the Rio Texas HealthFlex provider network will be the
- 4 **Blue Cross Blue Shield** (BCBS) national network. With this transition, will have a reduction in the 2021 medical
- 5 rates with an average decrease of 2%. These savings will be passed along to our plan participants in their 2021
- 6 plan selections. Remaining in the United Healthcare Network would have resulted in an increase on average
- 7 across all six plans of 4%.

8 After a difficult HealthFlex plan year 2018 with 23% higher claims, the plan stabilized in 2019 and we are monitoring
9 any COVID related impact to the plan in 2020 claims and renewal for 2022. HealthFlex plan participants continue to
10 utilize the various plan offerings in the Healthflex Exchange, selecting between six medical, three dental and vision
11 plan offerings and participation in personal reimbursement accounts have increased since the transition to
12 Exchange. This multi-plan model allows greater flexibility in choosing a plan combination that will better fit a
13 participant's needs.

15 I would like to thank all of our churches, clergy and lay members in adapting and moving ahead with perseverance
16 and hope in continuing to share the gospel. Our churches have remained committed in their contributions for
17 benefits despite many new trials and we will continue to in our mission to care for you.

18 Respectfully Submitted

19 Tony LoBasso, President

REPORT V
PENSION PLANS
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

20
21
22 **2021 PENSION PLAN CHURCH DIRECT BILLING**

23 Effective January 1, 2021, church direct invoicing by the Conference for clergy participants under appointment for
24 current active service will include:

- 25 ▪ Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) Defined Benefit required annual contribution of **\$6,132** for each
- 26 eligible full-time clergy invoiced monthly.
- 27 ▪ Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) Defined required contribution of **3%** of Plan Compensation for each
- 28 eligible full-time clergy invoiced monthly.
- 29 ▪ Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) required contribution **3%** Plan Compensation for each eligible full-time
- 30 clergy to a maximum of two times the 2021 denominational average compensation or DAC of \$74,199 in 2021
- 31 invoiced monthly.
- 32 ▪ United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP-PT) required Contribution of **9%** for each eligible part-
- 33 time clergy (3/4 time appointment or less) invoiced monthly.
- 34 ▪ United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) optional contributions as elected by clergy as a payroll
- 35 deduction invoiced monthly.
- 36 ▪ The Rio Grande Legacy Fund will continue to provide contributions to eligible legacy churches for full-time
- 37 clergy in the CRSP-Defined Benefit Plan, CRSP-Defined Contribution Plan, and the Comprehensive Protection
- 38 Plan (CPP).
- 39 ▪ The Rio Grande Legacy Fund will continue to provide a **9%** contributions to eligible part-time clergy appointed
- 40 to a legacy church in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan UMPIP-PT.

41 **PRE-82 PENSION PLAN**

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

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

9 In 2016, the Board of Pensions adopted a long-term PSR strategy based on increases of 70% of the reported St. Louis
10 Federal Reserve Cost of Living Index-Urban South Region to set the past service rate each year. The Board believes that
11 this policy provides for the honor, support, and appreciation to our retired clergy while maintaining a sustainable
12 plan to meet benefit liabilities. Any change in the PSR also increases the Plan's liabilities and must be funded in the
13 year adopted if necessary in accordance with the Plan asset level and funding requirements. As of December 31,
14 2019, no additional Pre-82 liabilities or Advance Contribution for 2021 to fund the Past Service Rate increase is due.

15 ***MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN (MPP)***

16 The Ministerial Pension Plan, also known as Supplement Three to the Clergy Security Retirement Plan (CRSP),
17 provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982
18 through 2006. The MPP is an Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b) retirement plan. The Conference is required to
19 fund any liability attributable to MPP annuities due to market fluctuations, mortality/demographic assumptions, and
20 Wespath Plan policies. As of the January 1, 2019, actuarial valuation for 2021, the MPP and CRSP annuities funded
21 ratio for the Rio Texas Conference is approximately 107.3%. No additional MPP contributions are required in 2020
22 and 2021 under Wespath's Corridor Funding methodology.

24 ***CLERGY SECURITY RETIREMENT PLAN (CRSP)***

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

28 ***DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC)***

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

35 ***DEFINED BENEFIT (DB)***

36 Provides a specific dollar amount at retirement regardless of market conditions or investment performance. The
37 amount is based on a formula that specifies a monthly retirement benefit to eligible clergy and 70% for eligible
38 contingent annuitants for the remainder of their lives. The CRSP-DB provides a monthly retirement benefit using
39 1.25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) at retirement multiplied by years of service from January
40 1, 2007, to December 31, 2013. The multiplier is reduced to 1% for years of service beginning January 1, 2014.

41 Both components are direct billed to each church for all eligible full-time clergy. The defined contribution (DC) billing
42 is based on 3% of Plan Compensation. The annual defined benefit (DB) direct billing in 2020 to churches for each
43 clergy appointed to full-time service is \$6,132. The annual defined benefit (DB) direct billing in 2021 to churches for
44 each clergy appointed to full-time service will remain at \$6,132.

45 The annual DB contribution to Wespath is based on the number of eligible full-time clergy, clergy on Medical leave
46 with CPP benefits on the actuarial valuation provided by Wespath. The contribution amount due in 2020 for the DB
47 component is \$1,618,824 and \$1,559,225 in 2021. Any clergy serving less than full-time not eligible for the CRSP DB
48 are eligible to participate in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan with a required church contribution of
49 9% of Plan Compensation.

1 **COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)**

2 The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) is a welfare benefit plan administered by Wespath Benefits and
3 Investments. The CPP includes long-term disability, death and other welfare benefits for eligible full-time clergy.
4 The CPP plan is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor contributions. The CPP
5 required direct billing to churches is 3% of Plan Compensation for eligible full-time clergy up to two times the 2020
6 denominational average compensation or DAC of \$72,648 and \$74,199 in 2021.

7
8 **UNITED METHODIST PERSONAL INVESTMENT PLAN (UMPIP) FOR LAY AND CLERGY**

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

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

20
REPORT VI
2021 HEALTHFLEX
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

21 **HEALTHFLEX BENEFITS**

22 The Rio Texas Conference participates in the HealthFlex Plan administered by Wespath Benefits and Investments
23 for eligible full-time clergy and Conference lay employees. The HealthFlex plan is also available to lay employees of
24 churches who have adopted a HealthFlex Salary-Paying Unit Sub-Adoption Agreement meeting the eligibility
25 requirements of the Plan. HealthFlex is an integrated, wellness-driven health program that supports healthier
26 lifestyles. The HealthFlex plan is designed to provide eligible participants with a comprehensive plan including
27 medical, prescription, and wellness benefits. HealthFlex uses incentives as part of its strategy to promote
28 engagement in healthy behaviors and wellness programs. The 2021 strategy continues the focus on rewards both
29 for measuring risks through Blueprint for Wellness Screening and Health Quotient (HQ), Diabetes Prevention
30 program and for taking action toward better health and well-being. Rewards emphasize participating in programs
31 that have shown to have a positive impact on health risk, including health coaching and the Virgin Pulse activity
32 program. In addition, to the HealthFlex wellness benefits, the Conference also provides additional holistic wellness
33 benefits for clergy and Conference lay employees including spiritual, mental, emotional and physical care
34 components funded by grants from Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas. Effective 2021 the HealthFlex
35 provider will be Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) National Network.

36
37
38 **ESTABLISHMENT OF A HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE FUND**

39 The Board of Pensions recognizes that affordable health care coverage is an essential component of an attractive
40 employee benefits package. In the current health care environment, it is evident that some clergy's health care
41 premiums make up a significant portion of their salaries. To assist with this, the Board of Pensions will establish an
42 endowment fund using the 2016 HealthFlex dividend to assist clergy whose salaries are near the minimum
43 threshold with providing healthcare for their families. This fund will provide grants to align health care cost for the
44 clergy with the 2020 current P+1 tier cost (up to \$6,000 in 2020). These grants will be coordinated through the
45 District Superintendents.

46 **2020 HEALTHFLEX PRIVATE EXCHANGE**

47 To align with the changing health care landscape and significant increases in healthcare costs, the Board of
48 Pensions adopted the HealthFlex Private Exchange multi-plan option effective January 1, 2019. The HealthFlex

1 Private Exchange multi-plan option gives participants a greater choice across several HealthFlex plans with varying
 2 plan designs and the flexibility to choose the coverage that best fits the participant’s health, financial and family
 3 needs. The multi-plan approach encourages greater accountability by participants for health care costs and
 4 utilization while retaining the valued HealthFlex Benefits and wellness opportunities that participants have come
 5 to expect from Wespath.

6 The current HealthFlex Private Exchange Multi-Plan offers six distinct plan choices for participants. Although
 7 HealthFlex has the discretion to modify the plan offerings in 2021, the 2020 plan design options include:
 8
 9
 10

11 **HRA**

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

- Health

12 Reimbursement Account

13 **HSA - Health Savings Account**

14 **2021 HEALTHFLEX EXCHANGE INDIVIDUAL PREMIUM CREDIT (PC)**

15 The 2021 HealthFlex Exchange design includes a non-taxable premium credit of \$900. The DC is a fixed dollar amount provided
 16 to each HealthFlex full-time clergy and Conference lay employee participant. Participants will use the allocated PC amount to
 17 select a health plan in the HealthFlex Exchange and pay for some or all premiums for the plan of their choice.

- 18
- 19 ■ The 2021 PC amount will be \$900 per month and direct invoiced.
 - 20 ■ The PC will appear as a “credit toward purchase” when choosing a HealthFlex plan from all available HealthFlex Exchange
 21 plan options.
 - 22 ■ Participants who choose plans costing less than their PC credit amount will “bank” the excess. The unspent PC balance
 23 will then be credited by HealthFlex to the participant’s Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) or Health Savings Account
 24 (HSA), depending on the health plan selected or be used to offset dependent premiums. The excess annual amount
 25 (unspent PC balance) is not credited in a lump sum; rather it is available on a prorated, monthly basis over the plan year.
 26 Internal Revenue Code (IRC) limits for annual HSA contributions will apply.

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

HEALTHFLEX DIRECT INVOICING FOR ALL FULL-TIME CLERGY

To ensure the Plan is efficient and sustainable for the benefit of all participants and churches with clergy appointed full-time, any church where a clergy has chosen to not participate in HealthFlex will continue to be invoiced the Premium Credit (PC) of \$900 per month through direct billing effective January 1, 2019 and will continue in 2021. The Board of Pensions believes that Health Benefits should not be a hindering factor on equipping a congregation with the excellent clergy it needs for ministry. The Board will establish a grant program with funds received from churches who have non HealthFlex participating clergy to help clergy with families' transition between churches. We recognize that this can be a financial burden for both the church and clergy and believe this assistance will help ease the transition. The program would, upon District Superintendent's approval, provide grants 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 when the sending and receiving church have adopted differing contributions for dependent coverage.

2021 CHURCH HEALTH BENEFITS DIRECT BILLING

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

- The HealthFlex 2021 Premium Credit (PC) of \$900 for each eligible full-time enrolled clergy or enrolled lay employee.
- The Rio Grande Legacy Fund will continue to provide contributions to eligible legacy churches for full-time clergy enrolled in the HealthFlex Plan (individual clergy premium).
- Additional contributions will be direct invoiced for benefits including any election above than the \$900 Premium Credit (PC), the cost of dependent coverage, Optional Term Life Insurance, Health Saving Account (HSA) personal contributions and the Flexible Benefits Plan funded by payroll deduction

2021 HEALTHFLEX INDIVIDUAL PREMIUM CREDIT

	Monthly Contribution	Annual Direct Bill
Active Clergy	\$ 900	\$ 10,800
Pre-65 Retiree or Spouse	\$ 900	\$ 10,800
Medical Leave with CPP (Max 24 Months)	\$ 900	\$ 10,800
Conference Lay Employees	\$ 900	\$ 10,800

Each eligible active full-time clergy will receive a monthly individual Premium Credit in the HealthFlex plan of \$900 (funded through their Rio Texas Conference church) and will choose from the six HealthFlex plan options.

Participants who choose a plan costing more than the PC 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 PC 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.

2021 HEALTHFLEX RATES – With Provider Network Transition to Blue Cross Blue Shield

MEDICAL PLANS	B1000	C2000	C3000	H1500	H2000	H3000
Participant	\$ 894	\$ 858	\$ 747	\$ 836	\$ 757	\$ 660
Participant + 1	\$ 1,699	\$ 1,631	\$ 1,420	\$ 1,588	\$ 1,439	\$ 1,254
Participant + Family	\$ 2,324	\$ 2,231	\$ 1,943	\$ 2,173	\$ 1,969	\$ 1,715

Dental Plans	HMO	Passive PPO 2000	Dental PPO
Participant	\$14	\$41	\$34
Participant + 1	\$26	\$82	\$67
Participant + Family	\$45	\$123	\$101
Vision Plan	Exam Core	Full Service	Premier
Participant	\$0	\$8.08	\$14.16
Participant + 1	\$0	\$13.06	\$22.94
Participant + Family	\$0	\$20.64	\$36.38 ¹ 2

3 **2021 DEFAULT PLANS**

4 The HealthFlex exchange is a passive enrollment. Participants who are currently enrolled in the HealthFlex exchange
5 for 2020 will automatically be enrolled in the same plan and coverages for 2021 if no elections are made during the
6 Annual Election Period. Full-time clergy and Conference lay employees who are new to the Conference will be
7 enrolled in the following default plans for all of 2021 if no elections are made. All participants are encouraged to
8 annually evaluate their current and anticipated health care needs and enroll in the plan choices that best match their
9 individual requirements.

10

2021 DEFAULT PLANS	
Medical	C3000
Dental	Dental PPO
Vision	Basic – Exam Core

11

12 **HEALTHFLEX FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS**

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

16

17 **ANCILLARY BENEFITS**

18 **Optional Term Life Insurance**

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

22 **Retiree Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)**

23 A Retiree Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) is provided by One Exchange for eligible retirees and funded by
24 apportionments. The HRA is based on the stipend amount received by eligible retirees before December 31, 2013. As
25 of January 1, 2018, there are 71 retirees eligible for an HRA. Eligible retirees must be enrolled in a Medicare
26 Supplement or Advantage plan through Via Benefits (Formerly One Exchange) to receive the HRA. In order to provide
27 sustainability of the HRA benefit and not increase conference benefit plan liabilities and apportionments, the HRA is
28 a fixed amount per eligible retiree and does not increase from year to year.

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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
2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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The 2019 financial statements of the Río Texas Conference are in the process of being audited. The 2019 audit will be included in the 2020 Río Texas Conference Journal

REPORT VIII
2021 PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS BUDGET
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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	2019 Approved	2019 Actual (Unaudited)	2020 Approved	2021 Preliminary	% Change 2020 vs. 2021
Pension & Benefits Apportionment	1,011,000	960,077	400,000	380,000	-5.00%
HealthFlex Plan Clergy					
Sources: Apportionment	607,392	607,392	-	-	
Direct Invoice	2,429,568	2,101,248	-	-	
Total Sources	3,036,960	2,708,640	-	-	
Uses: HealthFlex	3,036,960	2,562,606	-	-	
Excess/(Deficit)	-	146,034	-	-	
Pension Administration and Grants					
Sources: Apportionment	403,608	352,685	400,000	380,000	-5.00%
Uses:	-	-	-	-	
Office	31,667	29,991	40,000	38,000	-5.00%
Audit	29,700	22,002	30,294	28,500	-5.92%
Post Retiree HRA Actuarial Requirement	8,500	1,200	-	5,000	100.00%
D&O Fiduciary	20,000	24,788	25,000	26,250	5.00%
Legal Fees	35,000	9,967	27,000	27,000	0.00%
Interim Pastoral Support - Disability	24,095	5,469	24,095	22,000	-8.69%
Medical Leave/Sabbatical/Grants	58,113	11,232	58,113	47,000	-19.12%
Basic Life	12,759	12,807	13,014	12,250	-5.87%
Delinquent Direct Billing	80,000	25,865	80,000	75,000	-6.25%
Retiree HRA	103,774	102,745	102,484	99,000	-3.40%
Total Uses	403,608	246,066	400,000	380,000	-5.00%
Excess/(Deficit)	-	106,619	-	-	
Benefit Plan Direct Invoicing					
Sources: HealthFlex	2,240,412	2,067,808	5,239,000	4,782,000	-8.72%
CRSP - CPP, DC, DB	2,872,173	2,691,780	2,771,742	2,651,052	-4.35%
UMPIP / UMPIP-PT	952,549	916,061	971,600	920,000	-5.31%
Flex Plan/HSA	247,000	383,437	380,000	380,000	0.00%
Optional Life	49,000	43,037	47,000	43,000	-8.51%
Total Sources	6,361,133	6,102,123	9,409,342	8,776,052	-6.73%
Uses: HealthFlex	2,240,412	2,067,808	5,239,000	4,782,000	-8.72%
CRSP - CPP, DC, DB	2,257,308	2,112,619	2,771,742	2,671,145	-3.63%
UMPIP - PT, Pass Thru	952,549	915,128	971,600	920,000	-5.31%
Flex Plan- HSA	247,000	384,654	380,000	380,000	0.00%
Optional Life	49,000	60,297	47,000	43,000	-8.51%
Total Uses	5,746,268	5,540,506	9,409,342	8,796,145	-6.52%
Excess/(Deficit)	614,865	561,617	-	(20,093)	
Other Matters					
Sources: Investment Income					
Wespath -RGC Legacy	398,080	1,499,182	361,087	379,141	5.00%
Wespath- RTC Invest/Benefit Reserve	106,548	576,727	127,325	133,691	5.00%
Wespath - RTC Deposit Account	75,164	297,469	70,593	74,122	5.00%
	579,792	2,373,377	559,004	586,954	5.00%
Uses:					
RGC Legacy - Benefits	315,664	322,807	398,112	\$ 402,984	
2019 Clergy Medical Grant		26,676			
2020 Clergy Family Medical Grant			200,000		
2020 Clergy Transitional Medical Grant					
Pre-82 Past Service Rate (PSR)	665	665	672	682	
Adv. Contribution Past Service Rate	-	-	-	-	

1 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

2 **REPORT I**
3 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
4 **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

5 Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ,

6 I am pleased to report to you on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist
7 Church. In accordance with Section 2512 of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2016, the
8 Conference Board of Trustees has the responsibility to receive and hold in trust for the benefit of the Conference,
9 donations, personal property and real property. In addition, the Board has the power to invest, transfer or convey
10 the properties that it holds in trust. The Board takes its responsibility for the oversight of Conference assets very
11 seriously.

12 The assets held by the Board of Trustees include closed churches, unused parsonages and undeveloped land. The
13 Board works closely with the Conference staff and with recommendations from the Districts to oversee and manage
14 the property entrusted to it. In the event church property is no longer in use for a local church and the District believes
15 there is no future worship or missional use for the property, it may be sold.

16 The Trustees have 10 to 20 properties under its review and management at any given time. These are both urban
17 and rural and include structures with some value and others in material disrepair. The Conference Staff under the
18 direction of Kendall Waller and Tina Whitaker do an excellent job of managing the properties in transition. Many of
19 these properties have limited value, either due to location or condition, and take some time to sell. The intervening
20 time between the Trustees taking control of the property and a sale can be months or even years and the Conference
21 can incur substantial costs maintaining and securing property prior to sale. The Board of Trustees and Conference
22 staff work diligently to minimize those costs and to maximize the return to the Conference from the sale of real
23 property.

24 For the period May 2019 through April 2020, a total of \$525,661.46 was received directly related to the sale of real
25 property. In addition, the Board of Trustees had expenses related to both sold and unsold properties for the calendar
26 year 2019 in the amount of \$217,832.17 and for January through July 2020 the amount of 85,813.05.

27 During 2020, the following church closures have occurred:

- 28 ▪ Austwell - March 25, 2020 discontinued
- 29 ▪ Rock Island UMC – April 30, 2020 discontinued
- 30 ▪ Divine Grace – August 31, 2020 discontinued
- 31 ▪ Bishop – El Redentor abandoned August 13, 2020

32 In furtherance of its role, of the Board of Trustees has begun to review options with particular attention to urban
33 properties with potential economic value. The Trustees recognize that due to rising real estate values, a decision by
34 the Conference to sell property in certain urban locations may hinder the Conference’s ability to have a presence in
35 that location in the future. One example is the former Parker Lane United Methodist Church location in Austin. The
36 Conference has worked closely with the Capital District to structure an innovative long-term lease of the Parker Lane
37 property. The Conference currently has an option agreement in place with Foundation Communities, a major provider
38 of affordable housing in the Austin area. Upon closing, the agreement will result in a major new affordable housing
39 addition, a material financial return to the Conference and provide the Capital District with permanent offices and
40 multiuse space in the new structure at no material cost to the District. The Board of Trustees is committed to
41 continuing to identify innovative options for the use of available real estate.

42 The Board of Trustees also continues to provide oversight over the Light on the Hill, formerly Mount Wesley in
43 Kerrville, Texas in association with Kerrville First United Methodist. Under the leadership and vision of Kerrville FUMC,
44 Light on the Hill has transformed into a vital community resource for the hill country with much needed food
45 assistance and a variety of other community-based programs.

46 Yours in Christ,

47 Kevin Reed

48 President, Board of Trustees

49 Rio Texas Conference, United Methodist Church

REPORT II
BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S FUND
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

1 The Board of Trustees comes to the Annual Conference with one action item. The Board is currently authorized to
2 withhold 20% of each property sale, up to a maximum of 250,000 for the purpose of maintaining and securing
3 property held by the Board. The Board is requesting that this be changed to increase the maximum withhold from
4 \$250,000 to \$400,000.00 effective January 1, 2019. The purpose of this request is to allow the Trustees to have
5 sufficient funds to adequately manage the properties under its control. Past experience has revealed the increasing
6 cost of maintaining and securing property in the control of the Trustees. We believe that this change will enable us
7 to better manage the properties entrusted to us and is prudent planning as we anticipate our future needs.

8
9 The Board of Trustees is composed of an excellent group of pastors and lay leaders from a variety of backgrounds
10 and from all over the Conference. We gather with one goal, to be good stewards of the assets of the Conference as
11 it works to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

12 Yours in Christ,

13 Kevin Reed

14 President, Board of Trustees

15 Rio Texas Conference, United Methodist Church

CABINET REPORT

REPORT I
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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19 Over the past year, the Cabinet has enjoyed the continuation of our work as a consistent team, with no changes of
20 personnel from last year. District superintendents carried the 2019 Annual Conference theme, "Walking Together,"
21 into the charge conference season, as local churches navigated the space following General Conference 2019. The
22 bishop, superintendents, and directors alike worked actively to help leaders manage anxiety and focus on the local
23 mission of the church in the midst of denominational discernment and decision-making. Also, over the course of the
24 year, the Cabinet was grateful for generous contributions by churches across the conference to the capital campaign
25 for Lydia Patterson Institute.

26 Since the spring of this year, the COVID-19 pandemic has marked the lives of our ministries and our people in a
27 profound and extraordinary way. Lay and clergy leaders learned new technological skills for celebrating worship,
28 maintaining relationships, and making new connections. Congregations stretched their understanding of purpose and
29 identity, boldly claiming that while the building was closed, the church's ministry continued. Many found new
30 participants and new vitality, no longer bound by geography. Others expanded their commitment to serving people
31 hardest hit by the economic downturn.

32 Many laity and clergy from across the conference have also struggled to respond in faith and courage to the unrest
33 that resulted from the killings of unarmed Black people, including Ahmaud Arbury, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor.
34 We encourage all Rio Texas United Methodists to find ways to engage in conversation, education, and action to
35 address long-standing racial injustice in our communities and our church. We seek to respond faithfully to this crisis
36 in light of the suffering and giftedness of Black Americans; the life of our majority Hispanic population and other
37 people of color within conference bounds; and our current conference reality, five years into our life together as Rio
38 Texas.

39 The Cabinet looks with anticipation and hope toward the future God is holding before the church. We serve with
40 deep gratitude for the people of the Rio Texas Conference and for their creativity and faithfulness.

41 Respectfully submitted,

42 Laura Merrill

43 Assistant to the Bishop and Dean of the Cabinet

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REPORT II
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

- 1 ▪ Transfer of Star and Center City UMCs to Central Texas Conference – West District Superintendent Andy Smith
2 reports that the congregations of Star UMC and Center City UMC have requested to transfer from the Rio Texas
3 Annual Conference (RTC) to the Central Texas Annual Conference (CTC) under the provisions of ¶260 of the
4 2016 Book of Discipline.
5
6 ▪ The two churches are located in Mills County, on the extreme eastern end of the RTC West District. Parts of
7 Mills County, including one church, are within the CTC. Both congregations state that they are oriented toward
8 communities in the CTC and are located much closer to the CTC West District office in Stephenville (72 miles)
9 than to the RTC West District office in San Angelo (140 miles). Both congregations have met the disciplinary
10 requirements of a two-thirds charge conference vote, held on February 16, 2020, and individual congregational
11 meetings held on November 17, 2019.
12 All votes to transfer have been approved unanimously by all members present. ¶260 also requires that each of
13 the two annual conferences approve the transfer by a two-thirds majority. If both vote to approve, the transfer
14 would become effective on January 1, 2021.
15
16 ▪ Discontinuation of Austwell UMC – On March 25, 2020, the Cabinet approved this discontinuation, effective
17 March 8, 2020.
18 ▪ Discontinuation of Rock Island UMC – On April 30, 2020, the Cabinet voted to approve the discontinuation of
19 this congregation, effective on that date.
20 ▪ Discontinuation of Divine Grace UMC in San Antonio – On May 19, 2020, Cabinet approved this congregation’s
21 vote to discontinue, effective August 31, 2020.
22 ▪ El Redentor UMC, Bishop – The Cabinet voted to declare this church abandoned, effective August 13, 2020,
23 given that the congregation no longer gathers for worship or ministry activities.

24 We give thanks to God for the faithful servants in these places and the legacy these churches have shared with the
25 world.

26 Respectfully submitted,

27 Laura Merrill

28 Assistant to the Bishop and Dean of the Cabinet

ADVANCE GIVING 2019 AND THE FIVE-STAR PROGRAM
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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33 The Rio Texas Conference Advance program is modeled on The Advance of the General Board of Global Ministries. It
34 is an accountable, designated, “second-mile” giving arm of the annual conference that ensures 100% of each gift
35 reaches its intended mission or ministry. You, the donor, decide which program or ministry to support through the
36 Rio Texas Advance. The Conference Treasurer’s Office receives and processes your gifts and forwards them to the
37 project. The project receives 100% of every gift given through the Rio Texas Advance.

38 “Five Star” is the designation given to Rio Texas Conference congregations that participate in the Advance program
39 by doing the following things:

- 40 - paying 100% of their apportionments
41 - contributing toward UMCOR Sunday (formerly called One Great Hour of Sharing)
42 - contributing in each of the following FIVE mission categories
43 A. one Rio Texas district or conference Advance project
44 B. one national Advance project somewhere else in the U.S.
45 C. one international Advance project
46 D. one UMCOR project
47 E. support for a Global Ministries missionary

1

2 In 2019, 139 Rio Texas Conference churches achieved Five Star mission giving status. They are:

3	Capital District	8	Austin: St. John's	13	Cedar Park: First
4	Austin: Bethany	9	Austin: St. Luke	14	Leander
5	Austin: Crestivew	10	Austin: Tarrytown	15	Manchaca
6	Austin: Northwest Hills	11	Austin: Wesley	16	Waco: Latin American
7	Austin: Oak Hill	12	Austin: Westlake		

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18	Coastal Bend District	25	CC: Wesley	32	Palacios
19	Bruni	26	Freer	33	Pawnee
20	CC: El Buen Pastor	27	George West	34	Pettus
21	CC: First	28	Goliad: Fannin Street	35	Portland: First
22	CC: Island in the Son	29	Goliad: First	36	Refugio
23	CC: St. Paul	30	Hebbronville: First	37	Skidmore
24	CC: St. Peter's by the Sea	31	Lolita	38	Three Rivers

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40	Crossroads District	53	Ganado: First	66	Nixon
41	Cuero: First	54	Gonzales: First	67	Port Arthur: Getsemani
42	Altair: Wesley Chapel	55	Gonzales: Henson Chapel	68	Runge
43	Belmont	56	Hallettsville: First	69	Schulenburg
44	Bloomington: First	57	Hope	70	Seguin: First
45	Cedar Creek	58	Industry	71	Shiner: First
46	Columbus: First	59	Kingsbury	72	Shiner: Johnson's Chapel
47	Columbus: St. Paul	60	Lockhart: First	73	Smithville: First
48	Dewville	61	Louise	74	Victoria: First
49	El Campo: First	62	Luling: William Taylor	75	Victoria: Webster Chapel
50	Evan's Chapel	63	Lytton Springs	76	Weimar: First
51	Fentress	64	Manor	77	Winchester
52	Freyburg	65	Mossy Grove	78	Yoakum: First

79

80	El Valle District	83	La Feria	86	Mission: First
81	Edcouch: First	84	McAllen: First	87	Weslaco: La Santisima Trinidad
82	Edinburg: First	85	Mercedes: First	88	

89

90	Hill Country District	97	Hondo	104	Sabinal: First
91	Bandera	98	Lakehills	105	San Marcos: El Buen Pastor
92	Boerne	99	Marble Falls	106	San Marcos: Jackson Chapel
93	BD: Highland Lakes	100	Montell	107	Uvalde: First
94	Buda	101	New Braunfels: First	108	Walnut
95	Center Point	102	New Fountain	109	Wimberley
96	Fredericksburg	103	North Shore		

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111	Las Misiones District	115	Floresville	119	La Vernia
112	Bracken	116	Floresville: El Mesias	120	Laredo: La Trinidad
113	Bulverde	117	Helotes Hills	121	Pleasanton: First
114	Devine: First	118	Jourdanton	122	Sant: Chapel Hill

1	Sant: Colonial Hills	7	Sant: Oak Meadow	13	Sant: St. John's
2	Sant: El Mesias	8	Sant: Oxford	14	Sant: St. Mark's
3	Sant: Ernest T. Dixon	9	Sant: Pollard Memorial	15	Sant: St. Matthew's
4	Sant: Epworth	10	Sant: Resurrection	16	Sant: Trinity
5	Sant: Jacob's Chapel	11	Sant: Sanford Chapel	17	Sant: Westlawn
6	Sant: La Trinidad	12	Sant: St. Andrew's	18	Somerset
19					
20	West District	25	Goldthwaite	30	Sang: Wesley Trinity
21	Art	26	London	31	Sonora
22	Barksdale	27	Mason: First	32	Sterling City: First
23	Brackettville	28	Miles	33	Veribest
24	Center City	29	Rankin		

34

35 We are grateful to each of these congregations for their generous mission giving in 2019.

36

37 As of March 2020, the following Rio Texas district and conference projects are approved to receive Advance
 38 contributions -- and local churches will receive Five Star credit for their gifts -- through December 31, 2020. The
 39 projects are listed in the online catalog under the "Admin Services" tab on the conference website.

40 Capital District

- 41 Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT)
- 42 Texas Wesley Foundation of Austin
- 43 Mobility Worldwide (PET Project of Austin)
- 44 Montopolis Friendship Community Center
- 45 Caritas of Austin
- 46 Austin Region Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON)
- 47 Care Communities – Care Team Program
- 48 Austin Habitat for Humanity

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50 Coastal Bend District

- 51 Corpus Christi Metro Ministries, Inc.
- 52 Mission of Mercy Texas Mobile Medical Program
- 53 Wesley Community Center – Corpus Christi
- 54 Wesley Community Center – Robstown
- 55 First Light Learning Center

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57 Crossroads District

- 58 Cathedral Oaks Worship and Retreat Center
- 59 Crossroads District Missions
- 60 Lighthouse 2911
- 61 Gonzales Youth Center
- 62 Golden Age Home Assisted Living

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1 El Valle District
2 United Methodist Campus Ministry of the Rio Grande Valley
3 Women Together Foundation
4 Hand Crank Transportation Rio Grande Valley
5 Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley
6 Colonia Ministries
7 El Valle District Border Refugee/Immigration Ministries
8 El Valle District Special Mission Outreach
9 El Valle Ramp Project

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11 Hill Country District
12 Habitat for Humanity Kerr County
13 The Helping Center of Marble Falls Area, Inc.
14 Barnabas Connection
15 Good Samaritan Center
16 Mission: Border Hope
17 Kerr County Christian Assistance Food Ministry
18 United Campus Ministry, San Marcos
19

20 Las Misiones District
21 San Antonio Food Bank
22 Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program
23 San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Inc. (SAMM)
24 Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio
25 PET Project of San Antonio
26 Help for Families (formerly Hispanic Religion Partnership)
27 Magdalena House
28 San Antonio Region JFON
29 San Antonio United Methodist Campus Ministry
30 Christian Assistance Ministry
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32 West District
33 Steady Steps Children's Weekday Ministry
34 Daily Bread
35 H.O.P.E. Outreach Center
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37 Rio Texas Conference
38 Kingdom Kamp
39 Mission Service Project
40 Academy for Spiritual Formation Scholarship
41 Methodist Border Friendship Commission
42 Higher Education Scholarships
43 U.M. Army
44 Project Transformation
45 Russia/Eurasia Initiative
46 Rio Texas Conference Disaster Response Fund

1 Mt. Wesley Conference Center

2 All district and conference Advance projects must re-apply for listing every quadrennium. By January 1, 2021, the
3 new Rio Texas Advance catalog for the 2021-2024 quadrennium will be online on the conference website, and
4 approved projects will be ready to receive contributions from generous congregations across the annual conference.

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6 Sandy Wilder,
7 Conference Secretary of Global Ministries
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RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE HARVEST SUNDAY 2020
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

The Harvest Sunday Initiative Group recommends the following for approval by the 2020 Annual Conference:
That, Sunday, November 1, 2020, 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.”

The Bible is clear. Galatians 6:2, NRSV says, “*Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law
of Christ.*” Jesus says it this way, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” (Matthew 19:19b). United Methodist
Church Website <https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/giving-opportunities>

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, Las Misiones, and West Districts.
- 1/3 of totals collected will be returned to participating districts. Funds would be distributed, in consultation
with district mission committees. Projects that seek ministry with, and, address root causes of poverty, would
be of priority.
- 1/3 of totals collected, will be equally allocated among 5 Global Ministry 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 by The Transforming Communities Vision Team, will
coordinate promotion and publicity for the 2020 Harvest Sunday offering.

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RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE RURAL INITIATIVE 2020 – 2024
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

The Rio Texas Conference Transforming Communities Vision Team (TCVT), working through the process of seeking
the *SHALOM* and the transformation of congregations and communities, recommends the following for approval by
the 2020 Annual Conference:

- Recognizing that 67% to 75% of the 83 Texas counties comprising the Rio Texas Conference are considered to
be rural or frontier by various state classification systems;
- Recognizing that the gifts and challenges of rural and frontier communities, congregations, and United
Methodist leadership serving in rural and frontier contexts are in many respects qualitatively as well as
quantitatively unique;
- Recognizing that the vitality and wholistic well-being of the Rio Texas Conference are inextricably connected to
the vitality and wholistic well-being of every member of the body of Christ and the communities it serves;

Therefore, the Rio Texas Conference, under the guidance of the Transforming Communities Vision Team, will
inaugurate a Rural Initiative for the coming quadrennium. The purpose of the initiative is deeper discovery of the
rural and frontier experience within the Rio Texas Conference and the development of strategic responses for the

1 sake of a shared mission within the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, which is to make disciples
2 of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
3 *Affirmed February 2020 and Submitted by the*
4 *Rio Texas Conference Transforming Communities Vision Team*

5
6 **BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY**
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

7 Bishop, sisters and brothers of the Rio Texas Annual Conference greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus
8 Christ. Since last we met The Board of Ordained Ministry has been hard at work on behalf of the conference,
9 discerning, developing and equipping our clergy leaders. This year our work has added challenges of dealing with
10 our new realities in the midst of covid-19 and the crisis we are enduring. However, despite this, the Board of
11 Ordained Ministry has created guidelines for handing our work in this time as well as guidelines for our District
12 Committees on Ministry. We thank God for the grace and guidance to be able to continue our work.

13
14 As always, it is our aim to credential people who have demonstrated a strong capacity for our 5 qualities of a
15 missional leader: Ethnic and Cultural Proficiency, A heart for evangelism, Faith in their calling from God, Ability to
16 develop and equip missional leaders, and Catalytic capacity. In order to better hit this target, we reorganized our
17 ordination interview process this year around our stated goals of credentialing clergy that represent the highest
18 standards of our 5 missional qualities of effective leaders. We found the new process to be both a blessing and a
19 wonderful time of intentional spiritual discernment. We press on into the work that is ahead of us and we covet
20 your prayers in the work we do on behalf of the annual conference.

21
22 This year we are proud to present the following candidates for commissioning as provisional Elders: Aaron M. Carter,
23 Thomas A. Johnson and, Patrick J. Melton

24 We are proud to present the following for commissioning as Deacons:

25 William C. Johnson, Rebecca B. McNitzky and Victoria L. Schwarz

26 We are proud to present the following for full membership and ordination:

27 Deacon: Lori M. Balensiefen

28 Elders: Forrest M. Deviney, Reese A. Henry, III, Janet K. Larson, Michele M. Lott and Susan K. Rang

29 Blessings,

30 Rev. Adam Knight, Chairperson

31
32 **COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY**

REPORT I
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

33 This year, the Commission on Archives and History is submitting an application for the Jackson Ranch Church (JRC)
34 and Cemetery; and the Eli Jackson Cemetery (EJC) to become a United Methodist Historic Site with the General
35 Commission on Archives and History. To initiate the application process the Commission will be presenting its
36 resolution at this year's annual conference. Both sites have deep roots that contribute to the rich history of
37 Methodism and American history in South Texas.

38 Founders of the Jackson Ranch, Nathaniel Jackson and Matilda Hicks along with their adult children were an
39 interracial family that fled the racism of the South to find freedom in Mexico. Stopping just short of the Mexican
40 border, the family settled in Hidalgo County in 1857. It is now believed that the Jackson Ranch was part of the
41 Underground Railroad that assisted escaped slaves in search of their freedom.

42 At his ranch, Nathaniel Jackson built an adobe chapel that was the predecessor of the JRC. In 1874, Rev. A.H.
43 Sutherland formally organized the JRC's congregation. Juan de la Viña, owner of the neighboring El Capote Ranch,
44 became one of the first Methodist missionaries of Mexican descent for the JRC and MECS. His two sons later founded
45 El Buen Pastor in Edinburg, which remains active today. In 1884, Nathaniel Jackson's son, Martin, donated one-fifth
46 of an acre of the Jackson Ranch to the MECS and built a wooden church for regular worship. JRC and its members
47 were the catalysts for several churches still active today. These include El Divino Redentor UMC in McAllen (1910),

1 El Mesias UMC in Mission (1912), and La Trinidad UMC in Pharr (1913). The JRC has made a long lasting and significant
2 contribution to these and other Spanish-speaking Methodist churches in deep South Texas.

3 The EJC was established as the first of two family cemeteries after Nathaniel Jackson's death in 1865. The EJC, as
4 well as the cemetery on the JRC's grounds, are the final resting place for multicultural people, most prominently
5 Mexican- Americans and African Americans. These cemeteries reflect the border's rich history.

6
7 The Texas Historical Commission has recognized both locations as historic sites. We hope to continue in the
8 preservation of the Methodist history present at the Jackson Ranch Church and Cemetery and the Eli Jackson
9 Cemetery for generations to come with a United Methodist historic site designation from the General Commission
10 on Archive and History.

11 The conference archive continues to accept donated historical documents related to Methodist history. Items that
12 are being received are church membership records that include baptism, marriage and death certificates. Local
13 church records are very sought after especially those once belonging to the Rio Grande Conference.

14 Regular research requests are being conducted weekly by the conference archivist for church historians, retired
15 clergy, and lay persons interested in the Methodist history of South Texas. These research requests have contributed
16 to the local church and pastoral files in the conference archive to provide more historical information for future
17 research.

18
19 Do you have historical documents you think the conference archives should have? Visit our website
20 www.riotexas.org/archives to see a list of items the archives will accept.

21 Submitted by,

22 Bonnie Amaro, Conference Archivist

REPORT II FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

Jackson Ranch Church and Cemetery and the Eli Jackson Cemetery

23
24
25 **Whereas:** In 1874, an interracial couple Nathaniel Jackson and Matilda Hicks, along with their adult
26 children fled the racism in the South to find freedom. They stopped at the Rio Grande River
27 in Hidalgo County where they established the Jackson Ranch.

28 **Whereas:** The Jackson Ranch was 5,535 acres purchased at a cost of 36¢ from E.D. Smith of Hidalgo,
29 Texas. The Ranch is located five miles east of Hidalgo with a Rio Grande River frontage of 0.7 miles and
30 extending north 13 miles between the present cities of Pharr, San Juan and Edinburg, Texas.

31 **Whereas:** The Jackson Ranch became a paradigm of Christian hospitality. There, Nathaniel developed a
32 culture of complete acceptance of the stranger. The Jackson Ranch welcomed former slaves, Mexican
33 natives, Anglo immigrants and all who came seeking freedom and belonging.

34 **Whereas:** The Jackson Ranch is now believed to have been a part of the Underground Railroad.

35 **Whereas:** In 1874, Rev. A.H. Sutherland formally organized the Jackson Ranch Church congregation on the
36 El Capote Ranch.

37 **Whereas:** The owner of the neighboring El Capote Ranch, Juan Manuel de la Viña, became one of the first
38 Methodist missionaries of Mexican descent for the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

39 **Whereas:** In, 1913 de la Viña's son's, Juan and Plutarco, founded El Buen Pastor Methodist Church in
40 Edinburg.

41 **Whereas:** In 1884, Martin Jackson donated one-fifth of an acre of the Jackson Ranch to the MECS and
42 built a wooden church for regular worship. This congregation was the first Spanish speaking, congregation
43 in Hidalgo county. This was recognized by the State of Texas with an Historical Marker in 1982.

44 **Whereas:** The wooden church became known as the Jackson Ranch Church which was the catalyst to
45 establishing several MECS churches still active today, including El Divino Redentor UMC in McAllen (1910),
46 El Mesias UMC in Mission (1912), and La Trinidad UMC in Pharr (1913). Thus, making a long lasting and
47 significant contribution to establishing these and other Spanish speaking Methodist churches in deep
48 South Texas.

1 **Whereas:** The Eli Jackson Cemetery located on the Jackson Ranch grounds was established as the first of
2 two family cemeteries after Nathaniel Jackson’s death in 1865. The cemetery is the final resting place for
3 multicultural people, most prominently Mexican Americans and African Americans. In these cemeteries
4 rest the remains of many persons who were buried without charge and were denied other resting
5 places because of race or creed or poverty. These cemeteries reflect the border’s rich cultural history.

6
7 **Whereas:** The upper west section of the Eli Jackson Cemetery is distinguished by a unique wooden
8 cross near a tree. The cross is believed to have been carved in a military style dissimilar to other hand
9 carved wooden crosses in the cemetery.

10 Documentation of graves before 1896 does not exist, but possibly are the final resting place of soldiers.

11 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the Jackson Ranch Church and Cemetery and the Eli Jackson Cemetery be
12 recognized for its significant place in the history of the Methodist Movement in the Rio Grande Valley as
13 well as its significant place in the history of the development of interracial and intercultural ministry in
14 the United Methodist Church. Both sites deserve to be recognized by the General Commission on Archives
15 and History and designated as United Methodist Historic Sites.

16 Submitted by:

17 Vallilea Blair, Chair of the Commission on Archives and History
18
19

20 **OFFICE OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES**
21 **ANNUAL CONFERENCE YEAR 2020**
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

22 The Office of Connectional Ministries has continued to expand in its resource capacities for the Rio Texas Conference
23 and United Methodist connection over the last several years. As Director, I have found it important to continue to
24 listen, discern, and build relationships within our annual conference as well as with our ecumenical partners and
25 neighbors. In addition to strategically planning small and large scale events that support, educate and provides
26 important and timely resources for our clergy, laity, local congregations and their mission fields, in 2018 this office
27 acquired the supervisory oversight of the Rio Texas Disaster/Recovery Team. As we come to the three-year
28 anniversary of Hurricane Harvey, and the close of this project, our conference celebrates the excellent work of this
29 team and its partners. You will learn more of the work, dedication and celebrations in this team’s pre-annual
30 conference report as well as the video and magazine prepared for the AC 2020 called session scheduled for October
31 3, 2020.

32 **Clergy Convocation** – Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (CDC and local government recommendations i.e. social
33 distancing and reduced number of those who could gather) this year’s in-person Convocation with guest speaker
34 Rev. Susan Beaumont has been rescheduled for March 2021. Although postponing was a disappointment, the
35 restrictions provided an opportunity to gather and support one another in new and creative ways through “Clergy
36 Conversations”, reflection, prayer and resources by utilizing a wide-range of technology i.e. Facebook Live, Webinars
37 and Zoom Conferencing. Attendees left the conversations feeling heard, supported, encouraged and more hopeful
38 during this difficult times.

39 **Annual Conference (AC) Meeting** – As with the Clergy Convocation, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (CDC and local
40 government recommendations i.e. social distancing and reduced number of those who could gather and decisions
41 made by both the Rio Texas Conference and the City of Corpus Christi) the in-person AC Conference scheduled for
42 June 10-13 was cancelled in its traditional format. After much discernment in moving forward, essential components
43 of the Business of the Annual Conference (BAC) were either conducted via the use of technology i.e. the Clergy
44 Session or will be conducted at a special called session of the AC scheduled for October 3, 2020.

45 The format of the October 3rd meeting has gone through several transitions as conference leadership continues to
46 monitor the course of the pandemic and the recommendations offered by state and local government as well as the
47 CDC.

48 At the time of this writing, the current format of the October 3rd gathering will be conducted virtually out of the Rio
49 Texas Conference Office. Those individuals determined necessary to report and/or conduct business in person will
50 be asked to follow all the safety protocol as established by the local government and our Rio Texas policies. A letter
51 will be sent to conference delegates via the Bishop’s office by September 3, 2020, outlining the essential business to
52 be conducted as well as an opportunity for worship, reporting and celebration. In addition, registration will open
53 following the release of this letter as well as instructions important to the accessing the meeting.

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Nominations – The Rio Texas Annual Conference is deeply committed to excellence and diversity in leadership. Therefore the goal of the application-based Leadership Pool introduced early in 2020, is to build a pool of qualified, spiritually grounded, committed leaders who through the conference’s nomination process will be matched with all leadership needs of the annual conference. As a note, although this is a quadrennial election year, per procedural guidelines presented in the UMC Book of Discipline, quadrennial nominations have been postponed until General Conference is able to meet and a special 2021 AC special called session is announced. Therefore, annual conference committee and team members have been asked to stay on in their positions if available to do so, until quadrennial voting can take place. In the meantime, the leadership pool nomination process, available on the conference website will remain open. Further questions on this process can be addressed to the Office of Connectional Ministries Rio Texas Conference.

Uniting Table – Please see individual report in the Pre-Conference Journal.
Submitted By Rev. Diana K. Phillips,
Rio Texas Conference Director of Connectional Ministries

RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Disaster Response Committee continues to support the massive recovery effort remaining from Hurricane Harvey as well as flooding in the Rio Grande Valley but is committed to responding to new disasters that occur in the Conference. The past year has been relatively quiet but there was a major flood, for the second consecutive year, in the Rio Grande Valley and a small tornado in San Angelo.

When disaster hits, Early Response Teams (ERT) are called to help with clean up. All ERT members are certified by UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and must complete a day long training. This year 70 were trained bringing the total to 707. Many of these team members have received additional special training. These include: 78 chain saw operators, 43 skid steer operators, 83 site assessors, 45 team leaders, 12 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). The center serves as a collection site for all kits, but the main inventory is cleaning kits along with a small number of hygiene kits. In a turnaround from previous years, UMCOR shipped cleaning kits to the Kerrville facility because they were overstocked and we had space following shipments made to the valley flooding mentioned above. 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 for information about volunteer opportunities.

The Rio Grande Valley experienced major flooding in June 2018 and 2019. Through a \$500,000 grant from UMCOR, the Rio Texas Conference focused recovery efforts on mitigation for survivors of repeated flooding in colonias. Many homes have been flooded multiple times in the past ten years. Through the support of Roland Pecina, construction project manager, and Stephanie Villareal Gonzalez, disaster case manager, 57 survivors have been assisted, with ten survivors receiving commitments of financial support resulting in complete rebuilds of new homes that are raised above potential flood zones.

Through partnerships with AmeriCorps NCCC, Nomads RV Group, Mennonite Disaster Services, FUMC McAllen, the El Valle District and other volunteer groups significant rebuild progress has been made on nine of the ten homes. The Rio Texas Conference was also recognized as "Sponsor of the Round" by AmeriCorps due to the leadership and

1 mentoring provided by Roland Pecina and the RTC staff. The impact of the Corona virus has severely impacted
2 volunteer efforts and will impact the results of this grant scheduled to close in August 2020.

3 The Highland Lakes area of Burnet and Llano Counties experienced major flooding in October 2018. UMCOR made
4 a \$100,000 grant to the Rio Texas Conference which allowed us to provide Case management services and financial
5 support for repairs to damaged homes along the Llano and Colorado Rivers. This grant ended in January of 2020,
6 impacting 63 survivors.

7
8 Hurricane Harvey recovery has been far and away the center piece of the Disaster Response Ministry since it struck
9 in August 2017. Thanks to nearly five million dollars from UMCOR and participation in the FEMA funded Disaster
10 Case Management Program (DCMP), the Conference has worked with over 1000 families living in 14 impacted
11 counties in the Crossroads and Coastal Bend Districts. We are very proud and grateful for the locally hired case
12 management and construction staff who have played a key role in serving and assisting so many hurricane
13 survivors. As of April 1, 2020, the Conference has completed approximately 270 construction projects valued at
14 \$5.6M that have included home repairs and replacements (mobile home, RV and complete rebuilds). It is
15 noteworthy that Rio Texas Conference case managers have leveraged funding for repairs and home replacements
16 from other funders for their clients in addition to the support provided by Rio Texas. Repairs and home replacements
17 would not be possible if it were not for funds made available through Unmet Needs Tables sponsored by local long
18 term recovery groups.

19
20 To date, the Rio Texas Conference has provided approximately \$4.6 Million dollars of financial assistance to meet
21 the needs of Hurricane Harvey survivors case managed by Rio Texas, The Society of St Vincent De Paul, Victoria
22 County Long Term Recovery Group, Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group, Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social
23 Services and BCFS. Funds available at the tables are provided by gifts made to the Disaster Response Fund by
24 individuals, churches, and UM Conferences. In addition, major gifts from UMCOR have been supplemented by grants
25 to the Conference by the American Red Cross, Rebuild Texas, Bonneville Inc., and Kronkosky Foundation. Rio Texas
26 case management and construction services will end May 31 with complete close out of the program by August
27 2020.

28
29 All of this work would not be possible without you and your churches. To learn more go to
30 www.riotexasresponse.org to reach out to your District Disaster Response coordinator, or contact us through
31 the conference office!

32
33 **MISSIONARIES AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT 2019**
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

34
35 The Rio Texas Conference is well-represented by people responding to God's call to serve in mission. The conference
36 is also well-represented in missionary support:

37 in 2019, congregations gave \$45,885.10 to support mission personnel who are bringing the Good News across the
38 country and around the world.

39 Currently, there are six active deaconesses from and serving in the Rio Texas Conference. They are

40 Kristen Bowdre, Youth Justice Performance & Evaluation Coordinator, Southwest Key Programs, Austin

41 Tara Carnesi; Direct Care, Sunnyside Children's Home. San Benito

42 Sonia Cruz; Coordinator, Rethink Mercy, Westlawn UMC, San Antonio

43 Cindy Johnson; Consultant for Discernment, Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner,

44 National Office of United Methodist Women

45 Julie Smith; Children's and Outreach Director, First UMC, Bastrop

46 Diana Woods; Site Manager, Community Partner Program, Buda UMC

47 Deaconesses and Home Missioners are laywomen and laymen who are called by God to be in a lifetime relationship
48 in The United Methodist Church in full-time ministries of love, justice, and service. After commissioning, each person
49 finds his or her own place of employment.

1 The Office of Deaconess has been part of our tradition as a church since 1888. The Office of Home Missioner was
2 established at the 2004 General Conference. Currently, the Deaconess and Home Missioner program is administered
3 by the National Office of United Methodist Women.

4 Many Rio Texas congregations support one of the nearly 300 Global Ministries missionaries serving in over 60
5 countries. One of those 300 missionaries is from the Rio Texas Conference: Rev. Anna Troy, serving as Director of
6 Open Heart Ministries in Clarksburg, WV (<http://openheartwv.weebly.com/>).

7 We anticipate hosting missionary Emily Everett during her itineration in the annual conference in late November
8 2020, and we hope to host other missionaries when their itineraries are finalized.

9 If you feel called to become a missionary yourself, please explore the various categories of short-term and long-term
10 adult and young adult mission service opportunities that are described on the Global Ministries web site
11 (<https://www.umcmision.org/serve-with-us/missionaries>)

12 Sandy Wilder

13 Conference Secretary for Global Ministries

14 **UMCOR SUNDAY 2019**

FOR INFORMATION

15
16
17 UMCOR Sunday (formerly called One Great Hour of Sharing) is one of the six recognized church-wide Special Sundays
18 with offerings of the United Methodist Church. Participation in the UMCOR Sunday offering is one of two basic
19 requirements for Rio Texas Conference congregations wanting to achieve Five Star church status. (The other
20 requirement is 100% payment of apportionments.)

21
22 In 2019, the total UMCOR Sunday offering from Rio Texas churches was \$53,000.87, a decrease of \$14,594.66 from
23 the amount collected in 2018.

24 Capital District – 19 churches; \$11,635.75

25 Coastal Bend District – 28 churches; \$7,820.76

26 Crossroads District – 45 churches; \$10,550.30

27 El Valle District – 12 churches; \$3,583.26

28 Hill Country District – 26 churches; \$7,622.42

29 Las Misiones District – 35 churches; \$7,972.32

30 West District – 16 churches; \$3,816.06

31 Special thanks to First UMC Gonzales for giving the largest single congregational offering: \$4,686.

32 The Methodist Committee on Relief (now UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief) was founded in 1940s
33 to respond to suffering after the onset of World War II.

34 For 80 years it has been the global humanitarian aid and development organization of The United Methodist Church.

35
36 All UMCOR Sunday receipts help support the small but impactful UMCOR staff who are specialists in disaster
37 response and recovery. Funds also ensure adequate training for emergency response coordinators, construction
38 volunteers, case managers who assist victims of disasters, chain saw gangs, and sheetrock installers. UMCOR's broad
39 scope of work includes disaster response, refugee ministries, hunger and poverty programs, and sustainable global
40 development projects.

41
42 Because we in Rio Texas join our church's offerings with those of United Methodist congregations around the world,
43 UMCOR remains strong in its day-to-day operations. When needs are immediate, UMCOR can respond quickly and
44 efficiently with signs of extravagant grace and expert assistance.

45
46 Thanks to all the congregations that supported this vital offering in 2019 and made it possible for the United
47 Methodist Church to reach out in caring to our neighbors in need.

48 Sandy Wilder

49 Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

1 **TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES VISION TEAM / OFFICE OF MISSION, SERVICE, AND**
2 **JUSTICE MINISTRIES**
 FOR INFORMATION ONLY

3 Since 2015, the Transforming Communities Vision Team has gathered twice annually striving to remember and
4 rehearse the vision of the church’s opportunity to transform communities. The vision team’s charge is to support
5 and learn from the ministries of mission, service, and justice within the Rio Texas Conference and as expressed
6 through the UMC’s 2016 Book of Discipline ministry portfolios of Global Ministries and Church & Society –
7 paragraphs 629, 633, 654, 656, and 657 and outlined per Rule 5 RTC Standing Rules.

8
9 The vision team fosters relationships and dialogue with various entities reflecting the realms and ministries of
10 mission such as Methodist Healthcare Ministries, Justice for Our Neighbors, Texas Impact, and Methodist Federation
11 for Social Action.

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

- 14
15 ▪ Processing of Mission Personnel and Itineration
16 ▪ Conference Advance and the Five-Star Program
17 ▪ Immigration / Migration Responses and Border Ministries
18 ▪ Community Development through the Transformational Communities of Praxis Program
19 ▪ Conference Disaster Response Committee
20 ▪ Conference Volunteers-In-Mission Development Team
21 ▪ Rio Texas Conference Harvest Sunday

22 Specific reports within the portfolio of the Transforming Communities Vision Team and the Conference Secretary for
23 Global Ministries that will be provided in the 2020 Pre-Conference Report Journal are:

- 24 ▪ Missionaries and Mission Support
25 ▪ Harvest Sunday Offering – 2021 Resolution and 2019 Offering Report
26 ▪ UMCOR Sunday 2019
27 ▪ Advance Giving 2018 and the Five-Star Program
28 ▪ Rio Texas Conference RURAL INITIATIVE 2020 – 2024 Resolution

29
30 **CONNECTING TO THE MISSION FIELD**

31 The conference 2019 statistical report reflects indicators of mission, service and justice ministries flowing from the
32 local church. Below is reflection of these ministries conference-wide over the life of the Rio Texas Conference’s five-
33 year history.

34 Self-reported local church activity data reveal significant increase in the number of persons served by community
35 ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy [Line 23] over the past five years from 677,004 in to 2015 to 986,992 in
36 2019. This possibly reflects the increased needs discovered in communities served through these critical ministries.
37 To understand this specifically, the type of ministries and needs addressed would need to be qualified.

38
39 Regarding the number of persons from congregations serving in mission / community ministries [Line 22], we show
40 an increase of 11,027 persons involved over five years. In 2017, 42,059 persons were involved, which is an increase
41 of 16,801 persons from the prior year. Though not fully substantiated, it is believed that this dramatic spike in
42 involvement could be due to volunteer response in various forms to Hurricane Harvey.

43
44 Increasingly, we are aware of the importance of being in ministry “with” the community versus carrying out ministry
45 “to” the community and the importance of fostering ministry out of mutual relationships to transform communities
46 and congregations respectively.

Year	20.a Number of UMVIM teams sent from this local church	20.b Number of persons sent out on UMVIM teams from this local church	21 Total Number of community ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy offered by church	21.a Of the ministries counted in Line 21, how many focused on global/regional health?	21.b Of the ministries counted in Line 21, how many focused on engaging in ministry with the poor/socially marginalized?	22 Number of persons from your congregation serving in mission/community ministries	23 Number of persons served by community ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy
2015	82	1,112	n/a	n/a	n/a	18,714	677,004
2016	101	1,217	n/a	n/a	n/a	25,258	660,583
2017	182	1,514	5,726	1,721	3,770	42,059	849,230
2018	122	1,144	2,044	731	1,638	28,267	902,994
2019	122	1,203	2,372	695	2,714	29,741	986,992

1 **TRANSFORMATIONAL COMMUNITIES OF PRAXIS**

2 Through continued funding from Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc., the Transformational
3 Communities of Praxis [TCOP] program, now in year 4, has trained ten church / community teams to engage in new
4 methods and approaches for missional outreach leading to the development of community and congregation. During
5 2020, three more teams are being trained. TCOP is based on discovering, connecting, and building upon the gifts and
6 assets that flow out of the relationships the church builds with its community neighbors – residents, organizations,
7 and institutions; all working towards mutual transformation. For an overview of the program, go to
8 www.tcopraxis.org.

9

Church Community	Location	District
2017		
Parker Lane UMC	Austin	Capital
First UMC / Mission: Border Hope	Eagle Pass	Hill Country
Pollard Memorial UMC	San Antonio	Las Misiones
First UMC / Hope Outreach	Brackettville	West
2018		
First UMC	Portland	Coastal
District Ministry Center	McAllen	El Valle
University UMC	San Antonio	Las Misiones
First UMC	Poteet	Las Misiones
2019		
Bethel UMC - San Antonio	San Antonio	Las Misiones
Gruene UMC	Gruene	Hill Country
2020		
Trinity UMC / El Nuevo Amanecer Mission	San Antonio	Las Misiones
Henson Chapel UMC	Gonzales	Crossroads
Evans Chapel UMC	Gonzales	Crossroads

1 **Strategic learnings and early outcomes** of TCOP garnered from interviews with 2017 and 2018 cohort participants
2 indicated three early outcomes: 1.) changes within individuals, 2.) changes within congregations or partner
3 ministries, and 3.) changes within the congregations' ministry context.

4
5 Regarding changes within individuals, several clergy reported changes in their own leadership that included an
6 openness to partnerships with organizations outside the church, a mindset shift from seeing people-in-need as
7 objects of mission work to seeing people as partners in mission, a new and deeper awareness of their ministry
8 context, and a shift from a command-and-control style of leadership to a leader-as-facilitator style that releases gifts
9 of congregants and community members and nurtures call. Several teams reported that new leaders have emerged
10 as a result of TCOP participation. Most teams shared stories of connecting with new individuals and families in the
11 community and providing concrete support. Story examples include: providing assistance with deferred yard
12 maintenance and home painting, removal of head lice that was infesting a family and impacting the children's
13 attendance at school, and hosting regularly scheduled times for the community to submit prayer requests. Most
14 teams reported seeing an increase in the engagement of citizens in the well-being of their community. In one case,
15 a person who had been the object of the church's charity was invited to join the mission team as a paid outreach
16 person and now is the paid leader of a new project that grew out of TCOP participation called the Free Store.

17
18
19 Regarding changes within congregations or partner ministries, in several examples, the methods, practices and
20 approaches of TCOP are being shared with others beyond the team that participated in the Learning Sessions. There
21 are early efforts to equip congregants to be more relational, and less transactional, with neighbors of the church. An
22 asset-based, relational approach is being shared with non-UMC churches, government, schools and nonprofits. In
23 the large church setting, TCOP has been a catalyst for connecting the dots across ministries within the congregation,
24 expanding existing ministries, and rethinking participation in community ministries that provide relief without a
25 commitment to also address root causes. One church reported that the congregation had added members as a direct
26 result of TCOP and the ways in which they have shifted from a needs-based mission approach to an assets-based
27 approach in engaging with the community.

28
29 Regarding changes within the congregations' ministry context, every team reported a growing network of
30 partnerships, an important driver of community well-being, that formed as a result of TCOP. The network of
31 partners vary depending on context but include schools, police, health institutions, other churches, and social service
32 agencies. Teams reported that their church is increasingly seen as a resource to the community. And, as the church
33 is being called upon to be a partner in responding to local issues and concerns, the church is becoming more deeply
34 imbedded in its community. Teams are seeing the behavior of some of their community partners change in positive
35 and life-giving ways. For example, one small town reports that the police no longer issue citations to homeowners
36 for blighted properties as their first response. Instead, they look to the church and its growing network of community
37 partners to offer the homeowner assistance and a more restorative solution. In another town, a truant officer is
38 connecting families to the church and its network of community partners to address some of the underlying
39 household issues that prevent a child's attendance at school.

40
41 In summary, the key strategic learnings and outcomes are: identification of new leaders, new leadership skills and
42 mindset shift for current leaders, existing transactional ministries are making efforts to become more relational,
43 increased awareness of the church's ministry context that includes not just issues but also includes untapped
44 community strengths, assets and resources, awareness of common ground (and a new common language) from
45 which to build local partnerships for the well-being of the community.

46
47 **Highlighted outcomes from Year 3** describes the findings from an end-of-year (2019) qualitative evaluation with
48 TCOP Teams. The qualitative method used is based on the Most Significant Change story process. Members of the
49 TCOP Design Team facilitated the interviews and analyzed the data. This same method was used in 2018 and results
50 were noted across three domains: changes within individuals, changes within congregations, and changes within
51 the community. The results of the 2018 evaluation led to the development of the Theory of Change. This Theory of
52 Change is useful to for understanding the results of the 2019 evaluation. Much like 2018 and through the stories
53 shared by the TCOP Teams in 2019, there continues to be evidence of the following outcomes: 1.) leadership
54 capacity, 2.) relationships and collaborations, 3.) mindset shifts, and 4.) holistic care of neighbors.

1 Regarding leadership capacity, Bethel UMC - San Antonio (2019 Cohort) members reported growth in their own
2 leadership abilities as a result of the TCOP core training. As they took their new skills and knowledge back to their
3 church, they identified new leaders from within the congregation (approximately 20) that had yet to be engaged
4 with their church outside of Sunday morning worship. By the end of the year, these new individuals were
5 participating in community outreach initiatives, and even starting a new one.

7 Regarding relationships and collaborations, First UMC - Poteet (2018 Cohort) reports a growing relationship with the
8 City of Poteet. Monthly meetings have moved from church-sites to publicly owned spaces. The Mayor has
9 participated in the meetings and one Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) training. This has prompted the
10 Mayor's interest in hosting a city-wide ABCD initiative in collaboration with the local TCOP Team. The city's new
11 communications coordinator is actively building upon the assets and resources that the TCOP Team has been
12 discovering and connecting by highlighting these in regular city-wide communications. Finally, several members of
13 the growing TCOP initiative in Poteet have been asked to serve by the school superintendent on a school district
14 committee.

15 Regarding mindset shifts, Gruene UMC - Gruene (2019 Cohort) reports a growing understanding of the difference
16 between "doing ministry for" and "doing ministry with." They made a small change to an existing outreach ministry
17 that has led to participants helping to deliver and shape the ministry in ways that are building community and
18 creating a deeper sense of ownership in the ministry among the participants.

20 The fourth outcome that the TCOP initiative expects to see is holistic care of neighbors. Evidence of this outcome is
21 strongest in stories shared by TCOP Teams that were part of the first cohort. It is perhaps because the first three
22 outcomes (listed above) need to be in place before this fourth one is realized. First UMC - Eagle Pass (2017 Cohort)
23 reports that in 2019 they were able to build upon their application of the principles and practices of TCOP during
24 2017-18. Using the assets they discovered, the gifts of the people in their community, and the relationships that
25 they had nurtured, they built a holistic system of support and care for the asylum seekers coming to and through
26 their community.

27 The TCOP Design Team expects to see evidence of the Impacts from the Theory of Change diagram (below)
28 approximately 5-10 years after a team begins the TCOP core training. The stories shared in this year's evaluation
29 show evidence that the first cohort is experiencing a more connected and cohesive community. "Connected" refers
30 to social connections among residents, collaborating connections among institutions, and access to services that
31 promote well-being. "Community Cohesion" refers to the social ties and community commitments that bind people
32 together. The community feels a sense of interdependence and solidarity.

34 Regarding connected and cohesive communities, First UMC - Eagle Pass (2017 Cohort) cited as an example of holistic
35 care of neighbors (above) was also a result of the cohesive community that is emerging in Eagle Pass as a result of
36 responding to the rapidly growing need to care for the sojourning neighbors among them. This community used its
37 strong social ties, its commitments to each other, and its shared commitment to a common goal to care for the
38 sojourner and build the system of support mentioned above. Another example is First UMC - Brackettville (2017
39 Cohort) that shares stories of a growing neighborliness in the community. It is a neighborliness that grows out of
40 the profound change in the quality of relationships in the community. The change in the quality of the relationships
41 has been shifting alongside the growing sense of ownership the community has for a "third space" called Hope
42 Center that is at the heart of the TCOP Team's work. The fact that the most significant change being recognized by
43 this team is described as neighborliness is congruent with descriptions of a cohesive community.

45 **Looking ahead to more impact**, this year's evaluation illuminates a readiness among several of the teams to bring
46 more intentionality to: 1.) more of the community in decision-making and 2.) creating a shared vision and plan for
47 collective community action. In late 2019, the TCOP Design Team began to develop a new offering that will be used
48 to support these teams in 2020 as they journey toward deeper community transformation. At the same time, the
49 TCOP Design Team will continue to develop new TCOP Teams, coach existing teams, and offer customized on-site
50 support as needed. In concluding year 3, the TCOP program elements are in place, tested and refined. There is much
51 excitement to move into the next phase of TCOP, supporting the TCOP Teams for greater impact in their
52 communities.

1 **Kinney County Coalition Initiative Emerges**

2 Kinney County, Texas is a border county with 3,800 residents. Brackettville, the county seat town has 1,740 residents.
3 Over the past six years or so, Hope Outreach Center, a community extension ministry of First UMC Brackettville has
4 served as a connector of various social services to the needs of residents.

5
6 Prior to the birth of Hope Outreach, the church connected and worked with residents on improving and weatherizing
7 their homes. It was through those interactions that the church began to hear their neighbors' and new-found friends'
8 concerns. Over time, understanding the socio-economic, health, education, and employment concerns of the
9 community, it has become increasingly apparent and pressing to work towards adequate responses.

10 In 2017, a team from FUMC / Hope Outreach became part of the initial learning cohort in the conference's
11 community development program – *Transformational Communities of Praxis* www.tcopraxis.org. The deeper
12 community development work is now in motion. Through the convening of the church, community residents, local
13 government officials, and people of faith, residents are coming together to envision the transformational
14 development of Kinney County.

15 In November 2019, about 30 residents came together to envision some actions they could take over time to
16 strengthen their community as well as reflecting on what the holistic well-being of the community might look like
17 [*Shalom – Jeremiah 29:7*]. The gathering was also a means of measuring the will of the community to embrace the
18 development of a county-wide coalition to embrace the long-term sustainability of the vision.

19
20
21
22 Now in 2020, the Kinney County Coalition began gathering in January to garner the skill-set and mind-set of
23 organizing and mobilizing the community for sustainable and measurable change. The coalition is conducting one to
24 one listening conversations with 10% of the county's residents. The data gathered will determine the priorities,
25 projects, immediate and long-term goals, and resident interests and commitments in participating and collaborating
26 in seeking the Shalom of Kinney County.

27 **IMMIGRATION RESPONSE AND BORDER MINISTRIES – 450 Miles of Border**

28 2019 was a pivotal year for immigration response and border ministries within the Rio Texas Conference. Global
29 migration and various push factors is an ever-present reality. Our mission context calls us to ministries of
30 presence and relationships along 450 miles of the U.S. / Mexico border, and not solely as U.S. Methodist, but bi-
31 nationally working with the Methodist Church of Mexico.

32
33 Migrants seeking asylum has been a growing reality in our midst since the arrival of unaccompanied minors in
34 2014 and our hospitality responses to Cubanos in Nuevo Laredo in 2017. During 2019, our humanitarian response
35 and systems of support have grown sharper as the flow of migration increases. Ministries on the border are in
36 conversation and in coordination with one another and with the ministry responses in San Antonio, the point of
37 departure for migrants travelling to unite with family members in various parts of the country, where they will
38 stay awaiting their asylum petition court date.

39
40 As the *Remain in Mexico* migrant response policy, also known as Migrant Protection Protocols [MPP], has now
41 become fully enacted, this requires those seeking asylum to be in a holding pattern in makeshift camps on the
42 Mexican side of the border. As this has resulted in low numbers of asylum seekers crossing into the U.S., the
43 response and support systems that have evolved and strengthen throughout this year responding to and
44 receiving migrants arriving in the U.S. is now finding ways to be supportive to response ministries on the border
45 in Mexico providing food, clothing, and medical support there.

46
47 Now, COVID-19 poses another level of concern. U.S. persons helping in Mexican border migrant camps such as
48 in Matamoros are now unable to cross over daily or weekly as doing so is considered to be non-essential.

49
50 **Border Convocation...Continuing the Conversation**

51 September 20 & 21, 2019, approximately 115 persons participated in this pivotal event designed as time and space
52 for practitioners and learners involved in offering migrant humanitarian response and asylum seeker and
53 immigration advocacy to connect and share concerns and practices.

1 Practitioners involved in direct responses to arriving migrants provided updates to what is happening at points
2 of the 450 miles of border in our dual mission field – Acuña / Del Rio, Piedras Negras / Eagle Pass, Nuevo Laredo
3 / Laredo, Reynosa / McAllen, and Matamoros / Brownsville. The legal challenges were presented by the Justice
4 for Our Neighbors community, particularly the impacts of the Remain in Mexico policy on the asylum-seeking
5 community. Church and Society mobilized the gathering community to on-the-spot writing of letters to be
6 presented to legislators in Washington, D.C. expressing concerns for current policies impacting asylum-seekers
7 seeking refuge from harsh and violent circumstances faced in their countries of origin.

8
9
10
11 The points of the border stories shared reflected how the roll out of the Remain in Mexico policy implementation
12 took effect earlier in Brownsville, McAllen, and Laredo and later in Eagle Pass and Del Rio throughout 2019. The
13 reports of response in the lower Rio Grande border points reflected ministry responding to migrant community
14 needs in Matamoros and Nuevo Laredo, whereas in Eagle Pass and Del Rio, migrant / asylum seekers were still
15 coming across having been processed by Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). Therefore, crossing numbers in the lower
16 Rio Grande valley sector were dropping while the numbers in the Eagle Pass / Del Rio area were increasing.

17
18 In late March, a large influx of migrants / asylum seekers began arriving steadily to San Antonio, many coming from
19 various countries other than Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala as the norm. This moved the City of San Antonio
20 to establish the Migrant Resource Center to process the high increase of arriving sojourners. The resource center
21 coordinated connections and travel fares for those processed by CBP while the Interfaith Welcome Coalition
22 continued to offer hospitality and travel orientation to persons released by ICE from the Dilley, Pearsall, and Karnes
23 detention centers. Travis Park provided overnight sheltering for persons needing more time to coordinate travel to
24 their sponsoring destinations within the U.S. A well-coordinated threefold response emerged within two square
25 blocks in downtown San Antonio.

26
27 During 2019, the Interfaith Welcome Coalition distributed 25,577 travelling backpacks. Over eight months, 22,053
28 persons slept at Travis Park Church. The Migrant Resource Center through coordinated city resources facilitated
29 83,336 meals served and 2,536 medical assessments. Likewise, countless resources have been expended through
30 our hospitality points in Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Laredo, McAllen, and Brownsville.

31 The gathering diversely reflected the presence and input of various Rio Texas Conference leaders, direct response
32 practitioners through the Methodist Border Friendship Commission reflecting leaders from the Rio Texas Conference
33 and the Eastern Conference of the Methodist Church of Mexico, the Justice for Our Neighbors community,
34 representatives from neighboring UMC conferences, and various agencies - Texas Methodist Foundation, Methodist
35 Healthcare Ministries, Interfaith Welcome Coalition, City of San Antonio, Texas Impact, Texas American Civil Liberties
36 Union, General Board of Global Ministries / UMCOR Global Migration, General Board of Church & Society, and
37 National JFON.

38
39 Since the Border Convocation, the conversation has continued via monthly webinars and border update sessions
40 conducted via ZOOM on the 3rd Tuesday monthly at 10:45 am Central. Go to
41 <https://riotexas.org/immigrationresponse> for summary of the Border Convocation presentations and monthly
42 webinar recordings.

43 **Next Steps**

44 In December the *Texas Border Collaboration Network* was born out the Interfaith Welcome Coalition, Texas Impact,
45 Rio Texas Conference border ministry leaders, Justice for Our Neighbors, and various ecumenical and community
46 partners engaged in border responses coming together in conversation to envision a network that coalesces the
47 efforts of ministries and organizations on both sides of the border from El Paso / Juarez to Brownsville / Matamoros
48 supporting migrant / asylum seeker communities. The newly formed network seeks to coordinate efforts bi-
49 nationally in the areas of direct services, legal support, hospitality connections, and advocacy for the migrant /
50 asylum seeking community. Immediate goals are to develop a database of organizations connected to coordinate
51 support responses.

1 **METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME**
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

2 Greetings from Methodist Children's Home (MCH) and the more than 5,000 children, youth and families we serve
3 across Texas and New Mexico. I am honored to report MCH continues to be in compliance with and exceed best
4 practice standards for childcare established by the states of Texas and New Mexico and the Council on Accreditation
5 (COA, an international accrediting organization of child welfare, behavioral health and community-based social
6 services).

7 I invite each member of the annual conference to visit our website at MCH.org. There you can explore in more detail
8 the services we offer. You can also download stories, identify resources to help educate your congregation on our
9 ministry, view a transparent listing of our financial resources and services delivered, find out how you can refer a
10 child for placement, or learn more about a call to join our ministry as a home parent, foster parent or in another
11 capacity.

12 This summer will mark the end of my first year as president of this wonderful ministry. I reflect often on the amazing
13 opportunity given to me when I was named the 11th president of MCH in July 2019. At that time, I received the
14 privilege of leading an agency that was already strong in its governance, financial practices, outcome measurements,
15 and overall transparency and accountability. Based on my experiences overseeing the MCH fundraising efforts for
16 the past 17 years before becoming president, I know how important these things are for benefactors and supporting
17 churches as they evaluate potential beneficiaries of their financial support.

18
19 As you read this report, our hope is that you will celebrate the proven ways MCH has positively influenced lives this
20 past year. We also ask you to join with us in thinking about how we can continue to expand the impact of our ministry
21 throughout Texas and New Mexico. I am grateful for the many prayers, gifts and actions that brought about these
22 great accomplishments for those in our care.

23 These areas of strength speak to the current health of the organization and also provide MCH with the foundation
24 to immediately begin exploring ways to increase the effectiveness and reach of services and programs that can make
25 a difference in the lives of children, youth and families. I see the task of leading this effort as a personal calling and
26 a responsibility of this ministry based on the level of faithful support we receive from our supporters. I commit to
27 you that this endeavor will receive my best effort and involve many diverse voices, all of which will be committed to
28 reaching the high standards of our legacy and mission.

29 This year, we launched a new strategic plan that is appropriately named, "Building on a Strong Foundation." I look
30 forward to how this plan will affirm, challenge and move us forward. I know that it is possible because of the great
31 work that has occurred at MCH since 1890 and because of the promise God offers to equip MCH to do more for
32 those we serve in Texas and New Mexico.

33
34 Guided by our core values of Christian Principles, Relationships, Responsibility, Growth, Service, and Hope, MCH
35 provides the care, programs and talented individuals needed to positively impact the lives of children, youth and
36 families. This is happening every day in residential programs as well as through 13 MCH Family Outreach offices,
37 including San Antonio and Corpus Christi.

38
39 Here are some of the things you helped MCH accomplish for God's glory and those we serve:

- 40
- 41 ▪ Completed construction of the fourth and fifth new homes on our Waco campus as part of the Building Hope
42 campaign. The Nancy R. Bowen and B.R. & Helen Greathouse homes are new state-of-the-art homes designed
43 with the unique needs of the children we serve today in mind coupled with our trauma-informed research and
44 modern efficiencies. Additionally, we have completed funding that will build the sixth, seventh, eighth, and
45 ninth homes.
 - 46 ▪ Served 205 children and youth through our campus programs in Waco; 5,684 children and their families
47 through MCH Family Outreach programs; and 174 young adults through Transition Services.
 - 48
 - 49 ▪ Students participated in multiple mission trips, including U.M. ARMY, leadership camps and other community
50 service projects.
 - 51 ▪ Achieved designations of the Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar and a four-star charity rating from
52 Charity Navigator. Less than 1 percent of nonprofits listed on Guidestar have achieved the Gold level. These

1 designations recognize our commitment to excellence and efforts to conduct our work with the utmost
2 integrity and transparency.
3 ■ Graduated 25 seniors from high school and supported 85 MCH alumni pursuing higher education at
4 community colleges, trade schools or four-year institutions. At the writing of this report, we are preparing for
5 seven MCH Alumni to graduate with a degree or certificate from an institute of higher learning in the spring of
6 2020.

7 Our achievements in the past and those yet to come are directly related to the men and women who give their time,
8 talents and resources to bless our children. The following from the Rio Texas Annual Conference serve on the MCH
9 Board of Directors:

- 10 Mr. Bill Bingham, Austin
- 11 Mrs. Candy Mallonee, San Antonio
- 12 Mr. Mario Olivarez, Corpus Christi

13 Thank you in advance for your ongoing prayers, gifts and actions that empower MCH to find effective and innovative
14 ways to fulfill our mission to offer hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community. I
15 am excited for what is next for MCH and trust that the future for our ministry is bright. May God continue to bless
16 MCH and the ministries of the Rio Texas Annual Conference.

17
18 Trey Oakley
19 President/CEO
20

METHODIST HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES OF SOUTH TEXAS, INC.
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

21
22 The following are individuals elected as members of the Board of Directors for the 2020-2021 Board year (June to
23 June). These names are submitted for election by the Annual Conference:

Mindi Alterman
Rev. James Amerson
Karen A. Angelini
Douglas W. Becker
Bonnie K. Berry
Raymond Chacon, M.D.
Sam G. Dawson
Lavonne Garrison
Susan Hellums
John E. Hornbeak
Joe E. Johnston, M.D.
Alan C. Kramer
Ashley Landers
Michael J. Lane, M.D.
Barbara J. Lyons
Lott McIlhenny
Sam O’Krent
Kerwin L. Overby
Michael F. Porter, Jr.
Jim Rice
Thomas E. Sanders
John Stoll, M.D.
Rev. Virgilio Vázquez-Garza

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Ex Officio Members with Vote:

- Bishop of the Rio Texas Conference: Bishop Robert Schnase
- Assistant to the Episcopal Office: Rev. Laura Merrill
- District Superintendent of Las Misiones District: Rev. Greg Hackett
- Two Persons Representing Transformation Communities Vision Team:
 - Rev. Javier Leyva
 - Rev. Cynthia Engstrom
- Change of Agent: From Kevin Moriarty to Jaime Wesolowski
- Submitted by Methodist Healthcare Ministries

AFRICA UNIVERSITY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Africa University’s story was one of resourcefulness, steadfast investment and ministry growth in 2019. Thank you, Bishop Robert Schnase, the Cabinet and the many gifted lay and clergy leaders at the local church level for all that you do to affirm the United Methodist connection and global mission. The gracious support of the Rio Texas Conference resulted in an 87.52 percent investment of the asking to the Africa University Fund apportionment in 2019. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and gifts. They are seeds of hope and abundance sown close to home, in sub-Saharan Africa and around the world.

The generosity of the Rio Texas Conference enables Africa University to educate and nurture leaders who think for themselves, are contextually relevant and have a passion to serve. Since opening in 1992, Africa University has equipped more than 9,000 graduates who lead and serve across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. These young people are creative and responsive in serving the needs of their communities.

Institutional Update:

- Africa University has an annual enrollment of more than 2,800 students, with 25-30 African nations represented in the student body each year.
- The university’s three colleges operate as centers for teaching, research, innovation, community engagement and enterprise development. Africa University leads as the only university in Zimbabwe accredited to offer online degree programs.
- Students, faculty and alumni contribute ground-breaking solutions to Africa’s current challenges with interventions that include graduate programs in migrant and refugee protection, articulated by refugee students, as well as doctoral level training for military chaplains in Africa.
- Infrastructure improvements include increasing the use of solar energy on the university’s main campus with the support of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. A residence hall for women and a new wing of the student union building will be the first solar-powered facilities on the campus. Both buildings are gifts to Africa University from the Dallas, Texas-based Highland Park United Methodist Church.

Africa University affirms its commitment to The United Methodist Church, the Cross and Flame, and the denomination’s global mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Through its faithfulness, the Rio Texas Conference invites and encourages new partners to join in the mission and change the world. Thanks to your stewardship of God’s blessings, Africa University has gone beyond what some thought was possible. “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” Luke 18:27 NKJV

Submitted by:
James H. Salley
Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Africa University Development Office

1 **CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

2 Since our founding in 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated more than 10,000
3 students, shaping thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders who are dedicated to transforming the world in the
4 name of Jesus Christ.

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

13
14 This year, Candler has continued to strengthen our deep commitment to alleviating student debt and promoting
15 financial literacy. In 2018-2019, we awarded \$6.3 million in financial aid, with 100 percent of master of divinity (MDiv)
16 students receiving support and financial coaching.

17 In fall 2019, we announced a major expansion of our financial aid program to include full-tuition scholarships for all
18 MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church, and new merit
19 scholarships covering 75% of tuition for qualifying MDiv students who identify as pan-Wesleyan, and those pursuing
20 chaplaincy through Candler's new chaplaincy concentration. In addition, all incoming students in the master of
21 divinity, master of theological studies, and master of religious leadership programs will receive awards covering at
22 least 50% of tuition.

23
24 This year also saw the launch of two pilot "formation communities," off-campus student housing that focuses on
25 intentional living and spiritual formation. Students from multiple degree programs applied to take part in these pilot
26 groups. At the start of the year, the housemates created a "rule of life" to guide their days together, emphasizing
27 prayer, fellowship, and celebration. A house chaplain—a Candler faculty member or church leader—supports them
28 and shares in the journey. The ten students who took part this year describe feeling a richer sense of community and
29 deeper connections to God and one another in the midst of their busy lives. It is clear that this fulfills a need for our
30 seminarians, and we eagerly anticipate the program's growth in the coming years.

31
32 Candler's student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of
33 470 from 12 countries and 38 states, with 40 percent people of color (U.S.) and a median age of 27 among MDivs.
34 Students represent 42 denominations, with 45% of all students and 50% of MDivs coming from the Methodist family.

35
36 We offer six single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international
37 development, law, public health, and social work. Our Doctor of Ministry degree is 90 percent online, so students can
38 remain in their places of ministry while completing their degrees.

39
40 Candler draws strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. Our ability to fulfill
41 our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world depends upon
42 your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of
43 our denomination. We invite you to visit us in person or online at candler.emory.edu.

44 Jan Love

45 Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

46

DUKE UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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Dean L. Gregory Jones, Dean of the Divinity School and Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Distinguished Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry, had his term as dean extended for a full five years through 2023.

The Duke Endowment awarded Duke Divinity School a \$12 million grant in support of DDS's three core priorities and traditions: Thriving communities enlivened by healthy congregations and gifted pastors, embodied wisdom through rigorous intellectual vitality, and creative institutions that inspire imaginative and transformative leadership including the Thriving Communities Fellowship program, which will provide 52 new full-tuition scholarships over the next four years.

Duke Divinity School launched the Duke Divinity: Black Pastoral Leadership Collaboration which will draw on original research in Black church traditions and historical examples of effective Black church leadership to train and build networks of effective leaders for the Black church of today and the future. The collaboration will be led by the Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, research professor of theology and Black church studies and director of the Office of Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School.

In 2019, Duke Divinity School welcomed 215 new students from 33 different states and seven other countries, including Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Zimbabwe. The Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) and Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.C.P.) degree programs received record enrollments of 35 students and 22 students respectively. The Master of Theology (Th.M., 14 students), Doctor of Ministry (D.Min., 20 students), and Doctor of Theology (Th.D., 4 students) all had strong enrollment. The D.Min. program was named the top online program by TheBestSchools.org. Duke Divinity's new Certificate in Theology and Health Care will enroll 8 students, all of whom are fellows with the Theology, Medicine, and Culture (T.M.C.) Initiative at the school. The M.T.S. program also includes 8 students who are T.M.C. fellows, for a record year of 16 total fellows. The M.Div. degree program gained 110 new students, with minority students comprising more than 32 percent of the incoming M.Div. class, and Black students comprising 18 percent of the incoming M.Div. class. Female students made up 44 percent of incoming M.Div. students, while males were 56 percent. There were 24 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 42 percent affiliated with The United Methodist Church.

Two new faculty members, Brent Strawn and Brett McCarty, joined the DDS faculty in July 2019. Strawn, Professor of Old Testament, is an ordained elder in the North Georgia Conference. Strawn has a secondary appointment as a Professor of Law at Duke University School of Law. Prior to joining the Duke faculty, Strawn taught at Candler School of Theology at Emory University for eighteen years.

McCarty, Assistant Research Professor of Theological Ethics, is a theological ethicist whose work centers on questions of faithful action within health care. He is associate director of the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative at Duke Divinity School, and he holds a joint appointment in the School of Medicine's Department of Population Health Sciences.

Randy Maddox, William Kellon Quick Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies, general editor of the Wesley Works Editorial Project, and elder in the Dakotas Conference, retires at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year.

United Methodist faculty member Brittany Wilson received tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor.

Tito Madrazo joined the administrative leadership of the Divinity School as Senior Strategist for the Hispanic House of Studies. He will also serve as a consulting faculty member.

The Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative is currently in its fifth year of providing high quality theological education to current and aspiring Hispanic-Latino/a ministers. 21 students from multiple denominations are taking courses with us this year.

The Duke Endowment has also awarded Duke Divinity School a grant of \$5.5 million over five years to cultivate meaning and purpose across diverse professional schools at Duke. The Lilly Endowment has also awarded grants to Duke Divinity School to coordinate initiatives on "Thriving in Ministry" and "Thriving Congregations" across the United States.

Duke Divinity School has a partnership with Huntingdon College and Virginia Wesleyan University to create streamlined admissions process and private campus events in order to better equip students from those institutions with a calling to serve the church. In an effort to expand access for quality theological formation to students, pastors, and lay leaders in the Nashville Episcopal Area, DDS is also partnering with the Turner Center at Martin Methodist College to offer theological training for innovative and entrepreneurial ministries.

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LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Lydia Patterson Institute, better known as “La Lydia”, is an institution that has encountered and survived numerous challenges throughout its 107 years of its existence. In 1913, the school was established in part by Methodist ministers and missionaries fleeing from a Mexican revolution and answering their call to ministry on the US-Mexico border. Since its origin, the school has suffered the effects of two world wars, the great depression, numerous peso devaluations, and presently, the violence and drug wars on the border. La Lydia has survived and flourished in the midst of all.

On August 3, 2019, our faith was challenged when an outsider traveled more than 600 miles to El Paso to eradicate Mexicans in the worst massacre in modern history. El Paso is a city with a population of more than 80% Hispanics. That is not to mention the number of Mexicans that cross daily from our sister city of Juarez, Mexico. In the shooting, we lost the father of three of our former students.

For generations, Lydia Patterson has been committed to teach English to non-English speaking students predominately of Hispanic background. Obviously, the incident caused panic and stress in El Paso and Lydia Patterson was no exception. We were to start school the Monday following, and parents were apprehensive and scared. For the first time in the history of La Lydia, we were forced to hire security to patrol our campus. It was heartbreaking, but students and parents were assured that the evil actions of a demented racist would not define us. We reminded them that the power of prayer and the hand of God would not forsake us.

In a positive note, Lydia Patterson moves forward with its commitment to provide a quality education to its students and provide opportunities otherwise nonexistent. My appreciation goes out to the colleges and universities of the United Methodist Church for continuing our ministry by providing scholarships so that 100% of our students attend college.

As the church struggles with certain identities, Lydia Patterson remains faithful to all in its principles and journey to change lives regardless of color, national origin, economic positions, and any other God given preferences. We aim to be the bridge that unites all Methodists in ministry as mandated by our God and make disciples of every one of its students for the transformation of the world.

We appeal to every church in your conference and this jurisdiction to remain faithful to the ministry of Lydia Patterson, and continue to partner with us in doing the work of God at its best. Every day, the lives of young men and women are being changed. Perhaps in one of our classrooms is sitting that one person who will make the difference in our world.

In Christ,
Socorro de Anda, President

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the Rio Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church:
- Seven (7) students affiliated with the Rio Texas Annual Conference are enrolled at Perkins and all are in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program.
 - Three (3) students from the Rio Texas Conference received funding from the PACE (Perkins Annual Conference Endowment) grant, with the average overall financial aid award per student totaling \$7,530.

Continued Enrollment Increase

Overall enrollment for 2019-20 at Perkins School of Theology reflects a 6.6% increase from 2018-19. The Office of Enrollment Management also reported three consecutive years of significant growth in *new student totals*—with 2019 reflecting a more than doubled increase over 2016—contrasting with the trend of decline in schools of theology nationally.

1 Enrollment at Perkins for the 2019-20 academic year totaled 343 students, including 27 enrolled in the Ph.D. program.
2 Fall 2019 statistics reflect the following: 63.3% of the entire student population are United Methodist and 37% are
3 ethnic minority students. Master's degree programs comprise approximately 46% male and 54% female students.
4 The Doctor of Pastoral Music (D.P.M.) program includes students from southern Asia taking classes in Dallas.

5
6 The hybrid Houston-Galveston Extension Program, in its third year of providing a combination of online and
7 residential classes leading to the M.Div. and M.A.M. degrees, totaled 94 students during the 2019-20 academic year.

8 9 **2019-20 Highlights**

- 10 ■ “Reboot: The Congregation as Youth Worker,” an initiative of Perkins School of Theology designed to equip
11 entire congregations to serve in ministry with youth, held its first retreat in September 2019 with
12 representatives of the 18 diverse congregations selected to form its initial (starter) cohort. They include two
13 African Methodist Episcopal churches, three Baptist churches, two Presbyterian (PC USA) churches, an
14 Episcopal church, and 10 United Methodist churches of varying ethnic backgrounds—including First United
15 Methodist Church of Mont Belview, Texas (Texas Annual Conference)—all without a full-time, paid youth
16 worker and within a 300-mile radius of Dallas. The initiative co-directed by the Rev. Bart Patton, Director of
17 Youth and Young Adult Ministry Education and Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison, Associate Dean, Office of External
18 Programs, is funded by a five-year, \$1 million grant awarded to Perkins School of Theology in late 2018 by the
19 Lilly Endowment Inc.
- 20
21 ■ The Certification in Spiritual Direction Program at Perkins, launched in 2010, welcomed its largest cohort to-
22 date in August 2019. The 26th cohort, with 17 members, includes clergy and laity from across the U.S. During
23 the three-year, noncredit continuing education course, participants are trained in the art of accompanying and
24 guiding others in their spiritual journeys.
- 25 ■ In 2019, Perkins opened its new Baptist House of Studies (BHS) which fosters community for ministerial
26 students, faculty and staff who identify with the Baptist and Free Church traditions. The BHS is a spiritual,
27 rather than a physical, house that especially supports and encourages students as they pursue their academic
28 and ecclesial training in an ecumenical and university-based seminary. In October of 2019, BHS hosted Amanda
29 Tyler, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, for two events on the Perkins
30 campus. And in March 2020, BHS—with the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty—co-sponsored the
31 Walter B. and Kay W. Shurden Lectures on Religious Liberty and Separation of Church and State with keynote
32 speaker and national interfaith leader Eboo Patel.
- 33
34 ■ More than 200 theologians, artists, musicians, scholars and community members gathered for a two-day
35 conference Sept. 20-21, 2019, entitled “*The Art of Resilience – Latinx Public Witness in Troubled Times.*” The
36 sold-out event, sponsored by The Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions at
37 Perkins, [Ignite/Arts Dallas: A Center for People, Purpose, Place at SMU Meadows School of the Arts](#) and the
38 SMU Meadows Division of Theatre, gave participants the opportunity to interact with outstanding Latinx
39 scholars, local artists, and religious and community leaders to reflect deeply on race, gender and immigration
40 as matters of moral and faith concerns. As part of the program, the Meadows School of the Arts hosted an art
41 exhibit and a performance by New York Latina playwright Jessica Carmona of her original work, “Elvira: The
42 Immigration Play.
43 ” Special music performed during the weekend was composed by Ars Lubilorum, a Latin-American collective of
44 composers—including Marcell Silva Steuernagel, director of Perkins’ Master of Sacred Music Program—who
45 research the intersection of Christian liturgical traditions and new music.
- 46
47 ■ “*Hong Kong Protests: A Messianic Movement?*,” a panel discussion focused on the 2019 Hong Kong student
48 protests, drew participants from across SMU and the Dallas area on Oct. 22, 2019. Sponsored by SMU Perkins
49 School of Theology, the Tower Center's Sun & Star Program on Japan and East Asia and SMU's Center for Faith
50 and Learning and the Embrey Human Rights Program, the event—one of the first of its kind in the U.S. to
51 examine the protests—featured Dr. Lap Yan Kung, professor of Theology, The Divinity School, The Chinese
52 University of Hong Kong as the keynote speaker. A panel discussion—which examined the religious and secular
53 issues underlying the protests and the implications for religious communities in Hong Kong and around the
54 world—followed. The panel moderator was Dr. Sze-kar Wan, Professor of New Testament at Perkins, who
55 organized the event.

- 1 ▪ The globe came to Perkins during the 2019 Fall Convocation, held Nov. 12. *“Mission Quest: Finding Your Place*
2 *in God’s World,”* featured travel guide and activist Rick Steves, who headlined an opening event with 1,200
3 participants at SMU’s McFarlin Auditorium. Sharing the stage with Steves during the two-day event, also held
4 at Highland Park United Methodist Church, were the Rev. Dr. Samira Izadi Page, a native of Iran who leads a
5 ministry to refugees in Dallas, and the Reverend Dr. Célestin Musekura, a Rwandan and founder of African
6 Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries (ALARM). In addition to hearing speakers from three continents,
7 attendees heard praise music in 17 different languages and human stories of hope and struggle from around
8 the world.
- 9 ▪ The 2019 Advent Worship Service, held Dec. 5, marked three milestones: the 60th anniversary of Perkins’
10 Master of Sacred Music (MSM) program, the 80th anniversary of the Seminary Singers, and the 60th
11 anniversary of the Advent service itself. Advent was first celebrated in Perkins Chapel in 1959, a tradition
12 continued every year since. Three guest choirs from Dallas-area churches, led by alumni of the M.S.M.
13 program, performed an anthem, and all three choirs performed Jane Marshall’s *“Song of Simeon.”* Worship
14 followed the classic *“Lessons and Carols”* format, plus a reading by Dr. Ted Campbell, Professor of Church
15 History, of one of Martin Luther’s sermons.
- 16
- 17 ▪ Thanks to a partnership initiated with Cliff College in the U.K. and the Methodist Church of Great Britain, a
18 Perkins intern was placed in England for the 2019-20 academic year. Third-year student Cori Clevenger—
19 whose home church is First UMC in Liberty, Texas—interned in a three-point charge of Methodist churches in
20 the Midlands area. Her internship is part of a pilot program that organizers hope will become ongoing.
21 Internships give M.Div. students at Perkins an opportunity to integrate coursework of Bible, theology and ethics
22 with ministry practice in the real world. Now, Perkins students have the chance to do this in another culture,
23 broadening their understanding of Christian expressions from those found in the U.S.
- 24
- 25 ▪ Two new Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed during 2019-20, including the first with an
26 international school of theology, as part of the ongoing initiative to deepen relationships between Perkins and
27 undergraduate colleges, universities and international seminaries. A formal agreement was reached with
28 Project Transformation National, which sponsors a summer intensive for undergraduate college students who
29 lead summer day camp programs for children and youth at urban United Methodist churches across the U.S.
30 and who also explore vocations in ministry and service. In addition, the agreement with Bishop Han Theological
31 School (BHTS) in Mindanao, Philippines, will promote collaboration and intercultural activities among theology
32 faculty and students from the two institutions. Previous MOUs have been formalized with historically United
33 Methodist institutions including Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana; Southwestern University in
34 Georgetown, Texas; McMurry University in Abilene, Texas; Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas; Huston-
35 Tillotson University in Austin, Texas; Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas; Texas Wesleyan
36 University in Fort Worth, Texas; Wylie College in Marshall, Texas; and Presbyterian-related Austin College in
37 Sherman, Texas.
- 38 ▪ The Bolin Family 2020 Perkins Scholarship Luncheon was held Wednesday, February 5, 2020, with New York
39 Times columnist and best-selling author, David Brooks as guest speaker. The luncheon, inaugurated in
40 2010, serves as a major fundraiser for student scholarships. This year’s luncheon, which highlighted the 2019-
41 20 Perkins Scholars, netted approximately \$75,000 for new scholarships.
- 42
- 43 ▪ **A two-day conference, *“In the Face of Barbarism:” Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Culture, Humanity and the***
44 ***Importance of Ordinary Life,”* was held Feb. 13-14, 2020, and included noted lecturers** Victoria Barnett,
45 Michael DeJonge, and Natalie Carnes. Supported by the Robinson Fund at Perkins, which encourages work at
46 the intersection of theology and the arts, the event focused on the importance of everyday life in Bonhoeffer’s
47 theology and ethics. The conference concluded with a one-person play on the legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer as
48 adapted and performed by Al Staggs.
- 49 ▪ Dr. Theodore Walker, Associate Professor of Ethics and Society at Perkins, discovered a lost manuscript—
50 written 77 years ago—by Ernest E. Just, with an important message for modern readers. The unpublished book
51 presents a cell biology-rooted theory of the origin and evolution of ethical behaviors. Dr. Walker and his team
52 are now in the process of editing the manuscript to submit for publication.
- 53 ▪ Dr. Evelyn Parker, Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology, was in South Africa as a 2019-
54 2020 U.S. Fulbright Scholar. Based at the Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice and the
55 Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Western Cape in Cape Town, she worked on a project
56 titled *“Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing and Intervening in Teen Dating Violence in South Africa.”*
57

1 **Rankings**

2 The University's reputation is strong and growing. SMU is ranked No. 64 among national universities by *U.S. News &*
3 *World Report*. We are pleased that presidents, provosts and chief admissions officers at the nation's universities are
4 beginning to recognize our strengths, as evidenced by two consecutive years of rising expert opinion scores within
5 the *U.S. News* rankings.

- 6
- 7 ▪ The Cox School of Business full-time M.B.A. ranks No. 43, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2020 Best
8 Business Schools, up from 48th in the previous year's rankings; the SMU Cox Executive M.B.A. ranks No. 23 in
9 the nation.
 - 10 ▪ Dedman School of Law was ranked No. 52 nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*.
 - 11
 - 12 ▪ The Center for World University Rankings 2019 placed SMU at No. 315 out of 20,000 universities worldwide,
13 No. 133 nationally and No. 27 for alumni employment, placing the institution in the top 1.6% worldwide.
14 Universities are ranked for their quality of education, alumni employment, quality of faculty and research
15 performance.
 - 16 ▪ SMU ranked No. 16 in a *Forbes* list of top Southern colleges and universities.
 - 17 ▪ College Factual rankings (published by *USA Today*), highly focused on outcomes, including graduation rates,
18 high salaries for graduates and low student loan default rates, ranked SMU at No. 3 among Best Texas Colleges;
19 No. 92 among Best Nationwide Colleges; and No. 1 in its list of "Highest Paid Music Graduates" in 2019.
 - 20
 - 21
 - 22 ▪ *The Princeton Review* ranks SMU Guildhall No. 2 for the best graduate game-design program.

23

24 **Funding**

25 In FY 2019, SMU received \$31.8 million in external funding for research conducted in the United States and
26 worldwide, representing a \$5.2 million increase over the previous year. Current funding agencies include National
27 Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Defense and Toyota Foundation.

28 Regarding private fundraising, SMU finished FY 2019 strong, thanks to the generosity of our entire donor family who
29 made more than \$118 million in gifts, making it a record year for giving. That generosity includes exceeding our
30 second-year *Pony Power* goal by \$2 million with \$52 million in gifts received to fund our most pressing current needs.

31

32

33 **2019 Highlights**

34 ***Significant Gifts and Grants***

35 **\$100 Million Gift Establishes New Graduate School**

36 In 2019 SMU celebrated the largest gift in its history – an unprecedented investment of \$100 million from the Moody
37 Foundation to create the eighth named school at SMU: the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies. This
38 new school supports the University's graduate programs in education, engineering, the arts, humanities, sciences and
39 social studies, as well as faculty research and interdisciplinary programs across the University. It will enable SMU to
40 graduate higher numbers of doctoral students and strengthen collaborations with other universities, major
41 corporations and other entities in producing high-impact research projects.

42

43 **Visionary Impact With Miller Family \$50 Million Gift**

44 Carolyn and David Miller '72, '73 made the largest single gift by an alumnus and his family in SMU's 108-year history.
45 The Millers' latest \$50 million commitment will support the Edwin L. Cox School of Business' strategic plan to
46 modernize its curriculum; offer more and broader scholarships to attract the world's best business students;
47 collaborate across the SMU campus on new interdisciplinary programs and enhance the school's facilities. It also
48 aspires for the school to extend community outreach to develop corporate partnerships and expand inclusivity.

49
50
51

1 **Owen Arts Center Renovation Kickoff Inspires a New Challenge and Additional Gifts**

2 Last fall, as the Meadows School of the Arts celebrated the 50th anniversary of its naming, we kicked off the
3 renovation of Owen Arts Center, a \$34 million initiative to improve academic spaces in the north wing for visual arts,
4 art history and creative computation, while creating welcoming and accessible entrances to the building. During the
5 celebration, we announced a new \$1.8 million challenge gift from Indianapolis philanthropist and former Meadows
6 School parent G. Marlyne Sexton. This latest gift brings her total commitment to OAC to \$5 million and creates an
7 incentive for others to join in and help the Meadows School reach the remaining \$4 million needed to revitalize the
8 arts hub.

9 A \$5 million gift from Dallas art collectors and patrons Nancy C. and Richard R. Rogers extends their long-standing
10 support of artists by establishing a vibrant hub for the visual arts at SMU. The new Nancy C. and Richard R. Rogers
11 Center for Visual Arts in the Owen Arts Center will provide a physical space that expands academic and artistic
12 opportunities for students and faculty to propel them to the forefront of their fields. It is part of a \$34 million initiative
13 to modernize the 250,000-square-foot building's north wing. Gifts to the project are supported by a grant from The
14 Meadows Foundation.

15
16 **Game Changer Opens on the Boulevard**

17 Last year, we celebrated the dedication of the Indoor Performance Center, featuring Armstrong Fieldhouse, which
18 marked a new era in athletics preparation and training for SMU Mustangs. The technologically equipped, multiuse
19 facility also offers a significant expansion of possibilities for campus and community participation. Many generous
20 donors made the Indoor Performance Center possible. In addition to Liz Armstrong '82 and Bill Armstrong '82, donors
21 of more than \$1 million are Gary T. Crum '69 and Sylvie P. Crum; Paul B. Loyd, Jr. '68 and Penny R. Loyd; David B.
22 Miller '72, '73 and Carolyn L. Miller and the David B. Miller Family Foundation; and Garry A. Weber '58. There were
23 also 17 donors of \$100,000 and higher, with eight making gifts of \$1 million each and nine making six-figure
24 commitments.

25 **New Home For Digital Explorers**

26 SMU took a giant leap forward in the rapidly shifting digital frontier with the groundbreaking of the Gerald J. Ford
27 Hall for Research and Innovation at the corner of McFarlin Boulevard and Airline Road. SMU Trustee Gerald J.
28 Ford '66, '69, his wife, Kelli O. Ford, and the Gerald J. Ford Family Foundation provided a \$15 million lead gift to help
29 fund construction of the building. The new 50,000-square-foot interdisciplinary research hub will serve as home to
30 SMU's AT&T Center for Virtualization, the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute, high-performance computing
31 and data science, the new Visualization Lab and the Guildhall, the Hart eCenter's top-ranked digital game-design
32 program.

33
34 **High Tech, High Impact from Bobby B. Lyle**

35 Dallas entrepreneur, industry leader and educator Bobby B. Lyle '67 built on the farsighted generosity that named
36 the Lyle School of Engineering 11 years ago by designating \$10 million to power a new strategic vision for the school.
37 The future-focused model will combine innovation, agility and swift responses to shifts in technological capabilities
38 with enduring institutional support. His investment will support the school's Future Fund by establishing endowments
39 for Accelerating Emerging Research and Accelerating High Tech Business Innovations. The fund also will support two
40 additional strategic portfolios: Transforming the Engineering Education Experience and Transformative Technology
41 for Social Good.

42 **Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

43 Prominent Dallas business leaders Linda Wertheimer Hart '65 and Milledge (Mitch) A. Hart, III are among SMU's most
44 generous donors, and they made another major investment. The Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Technology,
45 Innovation and Entrepreneurship merges the wisdom of the Cox School of Business with the knowledge of the Lyle
46 School of Engineering to develop the tools entrepreneurs need to bring their concepts to life. In addition, Mrs. Hart
47 honored her husband on his 85th birthday with the Milledge A. Hart, III Scholarship Fund for Veterans of the U.S.
48 Marine Corps.

49 **Program Highlights**

50 **Elizabeth Loba named Provost**

51

1 Elizabeth Loba, appointed as SMU's provost and vice president for academic affairs in December, will join the
2 University on July 6, 2020. As chief academic officer for SMU, she will be responsible for the overall quality of teaching,
3 scholarship and research and all aspects of academic life, ranging from admissions and faculty development to
4 supervision of SMU's eight schools, library system, and international programs. Loba, a biomedical engineer, is
5 currently vice chancellor for strategic partnerships and dean and Ketchum Professor of the College of Engineering at
6 the University of Missouri. She brings to SMU a distinguished academic record and broad university leadership
7 experience.

8 **Academic Deans Reappointed**

9 The academic deans leading SMU's Lyle School of Engineering, Dedman School of Law and Dedman College of
10 Humanities and Sciences have been reappointed to serve in their positions for an additional five years: Marc
11 Christensen, dean of the Lyle School and Lyle Professor of Engineering Innovation, who has served as dean since 2013;
12 Jennifer Collins, Judge James Noel Dean and professor of law at Dedman Law, who has served as dean since 2014;
13 and Thomas DiPiero, dean of Dedman College and professor in the departments of English and World Languages and
14 Literatures, who has served as dean since 2014.

15 16 **Meadows School of the Arts celebrates 50th Anniversary**

17 Meadows School kicked off a yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of its naming, staging three premieres by
18 internationally recognized choreographers at its 26th annual benefit concert, "Meadows at the Winspear." The
19 concert featured the critically acclaimed Meadows Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Paul
20 Phillips, and the students of the Meadows Dance Ensemble. It also honored community leader The Meadows
21 Foundation, which has supported SMU and Dallas for more than five decades. It was in 1969 that SMU's School of
22 the Arts was renamed Meadows School of the Arts in honor of Algur H. Meadows.

23 24 **Gift Expands Dedman Law's Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation**

25 The Tsai Center for Law, Science and Innovation, launched in 2015 in Dedman Law, received an additional \$2 million
26 gift to expand its profile as a leader in multidisciplinary research and scholarly debate surrounding new technologies.
27 The academic center brings together experts from the legal, scientific and business communities to explore the
28 complex challenges presented by the evolving innovation ecosystem. Current research projects supported by the Tsai
29 Center include studies of fingerprint technology and tax implications of artificial intelligence, as well as a digital tool
30 for keeping track of litigation involving government watch lists.

31 The Tsai Center also has funded new courses, including one in which law students create web-based legal apps for
32 Texas legal-aid organizations.

33 34 **\$1.5 Million NSF Grant Helps Fund Minecraft**

35 SMU's Lyle School, Guildhall and the Simmons School of Education and Human Development will
36 use a \$1,521,615 grant from the National Science Foundation to research teaching computer science and
37 computational thinking through the popular video game Minecraft. Research will span the fields of game design,
38 human-computer interaction, machine learning, curriculum design and education assessment by integrating STEM+C
39 (computing) curriculum directly into Minecraft. The game and infrastructure produced through the research will serve
40 as a vital computing resource for middle and high school educators. The grant was awarded to Corey Clark, deputy
41 director of research at SMU Guildhall and an assistant professor of Computer Science at Lyle School; Eric Larson,
42 associate professor in Computer Science at Lyle School; and Leanne Ketterlin Geller, professor and Texas Instrument
43 Endowed Chair in Education at Simmons School.

44 45 **Professor Brings People Together for Conversations on Tough Topics**

46 Jill DeTemple, associate professor of religious studies in Dedman College, has developed a discussion tool – reflective
47 structured dialogue – that she is using in her own classrooms and sharing with professors at SMU and nationwide.
48 The idea is to take topics that drive people apart – gun rights, abortion, the death penalty, the existence of God – and
49 reframe the conversation around personal experiences. At its core is curiosity about another person's life and values.

1 **SMU Scientists Identify New Texas Dinosaur**

2 SMU postdoctoral fellow Kate Andrzejewski, along with University paleontologists Dale Winkler and Louis Jacobs,
3 have identified *Convolosaurus marri* from fossils collected at Proctor Lake, southwest of Fort Worth.
4 Remnants of several dinosaurs were first found at the Comanche County lake site in 1985, and most of the fossils had
5 been stored for years in the Shuler Museum of Paleontology at SMU. But it wasn't until Andrzejewski, Winkler and
6 Jacobs examined the fossils more recently that the new dinosaur was identified. *Convolosaurus marri* is on view at
7 the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in the T. Boone Pickens Life Then and Now Hall as "Proctor Lake
8 Ornithopod." The newly identified dinosaur was named in honor of Ray H. Marr '51, an SMU alumnus who is president
9 of Marr Oil & Gas LTD and a strong supporter of SMU students.

10

11 **SMU Study Finds Possible New Way to Treat Virus "Cousin" of HIV**

12 A study led by SMU suggests that oleandrin – a drug derived from the Nerium oleander plant – could prevent the
13 HTLV-1 virus from spreading by targeting a stage of the reproduction process that is not currently targeted by existing
14 drugs. That is significant because there is currently no cure or treatment for the virus – a lesser-known "cousin" of
15 HIV that affects an estimated 10 to 15 million people worldwide. "Our research findings suggest that oleandrin could
16 possibly limit the transmission and spread of HTLV-1 by targeting a unique stage in the retroviral life cycle," said
17 Robert Harrod, associate professor and director of graduate studies in SMU's Department of Biological Sciences.
18 Harrod is a co-author of the study, published in the *Journal of Antivirals & Antiretrovirals*.

19

20 **DART Station Renamed SMU/Mockingbird Station**

21 Dallas Area Rapid Transit's (DART) Mockingbird Station was renamed SMU/Mockingbird Station after the DART Board
22 approved a naming-rights agreement with SMU, making it easier for visitors to find the campus and cementing the
23 rail station's role as a gateway to the University. Opened in 1997, Mockingbird Station quickly became an important
24 transportation resource for SMU students, faculty, staff and visitors. The Mustang Express shuttle service connects
25 the DART station to the University campus a short distance away.

26

27 We are excited about the impact our University and its programs continue to have on the world around us, and we
28 are grateful to continue our work through the Perkins School of Theology in the education and training of all branches
29 of the Wesleyan Tradition. We request your continued prayers and support.

30

31 Warm regards,

32 R. Gerald Turner, President

33

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

34 Southwestern University celebrated a number of notable achievements this past year. For the third year in a row, a
35 record-breaking number of students applied for admission, and in August, we welcomed 444 first-year and 56 transfer
36 students, the second largest class in our institution's history. We implemented the Residential Experience Initiative,
37 in which university staff bring resources directly to the students, thereby raising the intellectual climate of the
38 residence halls. And the university celebrated the grand opening of the new Fondren-Jones Science Center—our
39 commitment in stone to interdisciplinary collaboration, learning, and research. With an unprecedented commitment
40 to inquiry- and discovery-based learning, Southwestern continues to craft distinctive programming that focuses on
41 the life of the mind.

42 Our 2019 accolades include *Forbes* ranking Southwestern the #1 small private nonprofit liberal arts and sciences
43 college in Texas and #1 in that category in the Grateful Graduates Index (#86 nationally). *U.S. News and World Report*
44 and *Washington Monthly* both rank Southwestern as the top national liberal arts college in Texas. The University's
45 Center for Career & Professional Development ranks #6 in the nation and #1 in Texas, according to *The Princeton*
46 *Review*, which also ranked Southwestern third in the nation and first in Texas among its Impact Schools for the second
47 year in a row.

1 In academics, for the 19th consecutive year, the King Creativity Fund supported significant, innovative, and visionary
2 student projects across the disciplines. Thirty-one students participated in 13 different SCOPE research projects as
3 part of a student–faculty collaborative summer program. Southwestern added one new major, financial economics,
4 and one new minor, early modern studies, in fall 2019. These additions bring the total number of majors and minors
5 offered to 37 and 41, respectively.

6 Among our internationally recognized scholar–teachers, three faculty and one coach published books. Dr. Erika
7 Berroth (German) was honored with the Outstanding German Educator Award, her field’s most prestigious form of
8 recognition. Dr. Lois Ferrari (music) was awarded second place for the 2019 American Prize in community orchestra
9 conducting for her work with the Austin Civic Orchestra. Dr. Barbara Anthony (computer science) was awarded a
10 \$5,000 grant from the National Science Foundation–supported Center for Parallel and Distributed Computing
11 Curriculum Development and Educational Resources. Jethro Hernández Berrones (history) was one of the 11% of
12 applicants awarded a prestigious summer stipend by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Katherine
13 Grooms received a competitive National Institutes of Health (NIH) two-year grant for her research titled “Drinking
14 Water and Infant Health: Evidence from Contaminant Levels in California.”

15
16 Among student achievements, 31 students were inducted into Southwestern’s chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa honor
17 society. Caroline Haywood ’18, Camille Martin ’19, Teresa Cropper ’20, and Laura Rativa ’20 developed and
18 implemented get-out-the-vote programming that helped boost Southwestern’s voting rate 33% since 2014. Madeline
19 Carrola ’19 won the Mid-South Sociological Association’s Undergraduate Paper Competition for her capstone project,
20 “Performing the *Handmaid’s Tale*: The Use of Dystopian Literature at Political Protests.” Five environmental studies
21 and feminist studies students, along with Dr. Joshua Long (environmental studies), published an article in the *Journal*
22 *of Education, Citizenship, and Social Justice* titled “Intersectional Sustainability and Student Activism: A Framework
23 for Achieving Social Sustainability on University Campuses.” Eight biology and molecular ecology students presented
24 their research at the annual Texas Academy of Science meeting. Computer science major Sara Boyd ’20 was selected
25 as a finalist for the Computing Research Association’s (CRA) Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award for 2020.

26
27 In athletics, Southwestern finished second for the SCAC President’s Trophy and garnered 112 All-Conference honors,
28 including 46 First Team selections, 30 Second Team selections, 8 Third Team selections, and 28 Honorable Mention
29 selections. Seven different teams advanced in the SCAC Tournament to the championship, two teams won SCAC
30 Championships, and one team won the SCAC regular season title. Two teams and one player earned NCAA
31 Tournament berths. Southwestern coaches earned four SCAC Coach of the Year awards, and seven Pirates earned
32 SCAC Player of the Year awards. In 2018–2019, Southwestern was home to four All-Americans and 12 All-Region
33 selections. Five programs entered the national rankings, with one team breaking into the top 10.

34
35 In 2019, Southwestern hosted renowned political strategists Donna Brazile and Mary Matalin as guest speakers at
36 the biennial Roy and Margaret Shilling Lecture. The University’s biennial Brown Symposium featured experts on the
37 Anthropocene, including Andrew Revkin, strategic adviser for environmental and science journalism at the National
38 Geographic Society; Carol Adams, author of *The Sexual Politics of Meat*; Dr. Robert Bullard, the father of
39 environmental justice; and Dr. Christopher Carter, a theology professor specializing in environmental ethics. The 20th
40 annual Research and Creative Works Symposium took place on April 10, 2019, and featured more than 230 student
41 presenters mentored by 43 faculty and staff from across the University. Southwestern celebrated its 175th
42 Commencement Convocation in May 2019, with Dr. Tim Boone, professor and chair of the Urology Department and
43 codirector of the Institute for Academic Medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital, as the keynote speaker. Throughout
44 fall 2019, the President’s Thinking Symposium on Living, Learning, and Leading hosted eight guests from various fields.

45 46 **In Conclusion**

47 I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to visit Southwestern and experience, in person, our
48 vibrant intellectual community.

49 Respectfully yours,

50 Dale T. Knobel, Interim President

1 **SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**
2 *FOR INFORMATION ONLY*

3 Saint Paul School of Theology, a seminary of the United Methodist Church, is committed to the formation of people
4 for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution with campuses in Kansas and Oklahoma. During the 2019-
5 2020 academic year, the seminary enrollment in master and doctoral degree programs increased by 11%.

6 Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2019-2020 academic year with the addition of Dr. Casey Sigmon in her new
7 role as Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship, and Director of Contextual Education. Dr. Sigmon has also made
8 innovative changes to the weekly worship service as Chapel Coordinator. Saint Paul also welcomed Dr. Anne Walker
9 as the new Executive Director of the Oklahoma Campus.

10 With the addition of Dr. Walker to Saint Paul came a new webinar offering titled, "Explore Calling: A Guide to Helping
11 Others Answer the Call." Offered complimentary, the webinar provides a resource for anyone looking to nurture a
12 culture of call in their congregation; including meeting one-on-one with congregations looking to reach out to their
13 community. Dr. Walker also launched the Vision OK Advisory Committee to serve the purpose of gaining support for
14 and assisting in the development of the Oklahoma Campus. Similarly new this year, Dr. Melissa Pearce along with Dr.
15 Walker hosted Listening Sessions to learn more about the challenges pastoral leaders face and dream together about
16 how theological education might meet the changing demands of their ministry.

17 This March, Saint Paul marked its 60th anniversary with a celebration featuring keynote speaker Past President Dr.
18 Lovett H. Weems, Jr. honoring 60+ years of theological education. Students, alumni, faculty, and the entire Saint Paul
19 community came together for dinner, reminiscing and looking towards the future. During the celebration, Rev. Dr.
20 Lois V. Glory-Neal was recognized as the 2020 Distinguished Graduate Award winner. In 1989, Rev. Dr. Glory-Neal of
21 the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference became the first Native American woman to be ordained elder. She
22 became the first Native American district superintendent in 1992. Saint Paul also presented Ms. Sally Firestone with
23 the Board Lifetime Achievement award for her years of service.

24
25 Saint Paul's staff and faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society. Dr. Anne Walker worked
26 along with co-writer Dori Grinenko Baker on *Tru Colors*, a guide for assisting young adults in exploring ministry as a
27 career. *Tru Colors*, from Discipleship Ministry, was published in March 2020. Dr. Casey Sigmon wrote the sermon
28 "The Fruit of Self-Control" in the published book, *Preaching to Teach: Inspire People to Think and Act*. Additionally,
29 as part of the 2019 Lectionary Commentaries on the website workingpreacher.org, Dr. Sigmon and Dr. Israel
30 Kamudzandu contributed commentaries. In addition, Dr. Sigmon recently published "Homiletical Possibilities and
31 Challenges in Colossians" in *The Review & Expositor* journal from November 2019.

32
33 In September 2019, Saint Paul Board of Trustees added four new members to their ranks: alumna Rev. Jennifer
34 Ahrens-Sims of St. Stephen's UMC, Mrs. Dana Aldridge of SS&C Technologies, Mrs. Linda Shipman with Dairy Farmers
35 of America Inc., and alumnus Rev. David Wiggs with Boston Avenue UMC. In addition, earlier in the year faculty
36 emeritus Rev. Dr. Tex Sample became Board Chair. Saint Paul is financially sound and is operating with a balanced
37 budget. The changes made throughout the past few years have established a solid financial foundation for years of
38 sustainability. With the Board's assistance, the seminary continues to focus on its mission and works to continuously
39 enhance and evaluate the strategic plans in place to guide us into the future.

40 Saint Paul held several events and forums this year beginning with hosting an Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
41 Wednesday Wake-up where Overland Park business members and community leaders started their day on the Kansas
42 Campus with coffee, networking, and learning more about the seminary's mission. In November, Saint Paul was the
43 host location for the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity (MORE²) Faith and Democracy Prayer
44 Breakfast. MORE² and Church of the Resurrection are partnering with Saint Paul in the recently launched Doctor of
45 Ministry focus, "Spiritual Leadership in Unsettled Times." Throughout the year, students on both campuses
46 participated in educational forums with discussions on a myriad of topics such as, "Sustaining Pastoral Leadership
47 Through Personal Wellness", "Transgender Day of Remembrance", and "The Enneagram and Your Spiritual Growth."
48 Saint Paul was blessed to have many alumni return to lead worship in the weekly chapel services. Rev. Shannon
49 Hancock, alumna and Director of Admissions, brought the message on the Kansas Campus during the MLK Jr Worship
50 Celebration while alumnus Rev. Bryan Lampkins preached on the Oklahoma Campus. This past January, Saint Paul
51 was proud to host the United Methodist Theological Field Educators Meeting on the Kansas Campus. This year's
52 theme was "Vicissitude: Navigating Call and Mission as Contextual Educators in 2020. In April, the Evangelical Society

1 hosted a lecture featuring Dr. Kimberly Alexander, author of *Pentecostal Healing: Models of Theology and Practice*
2 and co-author of *Women in Leadership: A Pentecostal Perspective* and *What Women Want: Pentecostal Women*
3 *Ministers Speak for Themselves*.

4 Honoring Saint Paul's longstanding commitment to praxis learning and ministry, part of the 2019-2020 curriculum
5 included practicums which are workshop-style seminars that teach ministry skills. For Spring 2020 FOCUS Week,
6 Alumnus Rev. Dr. Emanuel Cleaver III, Senior Pastor of St. James UMC, taught the course Urban Church in the 21st
7 century which explores the Urban Church and its context in relation to ministerial practices and theological
8 understandings.

9 For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 265 individual students with a total
10 registration of 650 classes; offering a total of 53 courses located in Leawood, KS; Hays, KS; Oklahoma City, OK;
11 Columbia, MO; and Springfield, MO. Saint Paul is in the second year of offering a hybrid (online and on-campus)
12 schedule for six courses during the Winter term. Plans to increase the number of hybrid course offerings are in
13 development. Saint Paul launched a part-time, accelerated pilot COS satellite program (PML) in Columbia, MO in
14 2018 and added a second track in 2019. Comprised of nine courses in practical theology, this COS option is designed
15 specifically for part-time local pastors or certified lay ministers entering ministry following completion of the Missouri
16 Conference Licensing School. The PML satellite program is a collaborative program of Saint Paul Course of Study
17 Regional School with the Missouri Conference. Since September 2018, COS has offered six courses and enrolled 30
18 individual students in the PML satellite program.

19
20 Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be in ministry in the name of Jesus Christ and to help others respond to
21 God's call. We are a seminary that offers classes and experiences to folks from many denominations and faith walks.
22 Our work as faculty and staff is to provide excellence in theological and practical education for ALL persons called and
23 capable to attend. Remember: "Where two or more are gathered" Christ is there with us.
24 President Neil Blair, Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students thank you for your interest, prayers, and
25 support.

26
27
28 **TEXAS UNITED METHODIST COLLEGE ASSOCIATION**
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

29 During this time of significant change in our church, the Texas United Methodist College Association continues on its
30 more than seventy-year course of serving the scholarship needs of Methodist students who wish to attend one of
31 our Methodist institutions of higher learning in Texas. We continue to believe that the support of our churches and
32 conferences is essential in continuing the Wesleyan tradition of education. It is an education well suited to the
33 challenges and changes in modern life.

34
35 The TUMCA funds granted to Southwestern University, Southern Methodist University, McMurry University, and
36 Texas Wesleyan University are restricted to scholarships for deserving students from United Methodist congregations
37 in Texas. During the fall of their academic year, students representing all five of the Texas United Methodist
38 Conferences have received TUMCA scholarships this academic year (2019-2020). They join thousands of others who
39 have been helped through the years by the support of our United Methodist family. As always, funds cannot be used
40 for endowment or capital projects. All support goes to fund scholarships at our Texas United Methodist colleges.

41 TUMCA scholars, both past and present, receive both intellectual and spiritual development that prepares them to
42 address the important issues of both church and society. We believe that those who become clergy, laity, teachers
43 and societal leaders will help chart the course of our church.

44 We are both proud and humbled by our partnership that reflects the great commission and helps create disciples of
45 Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

46 We thank God for the ministry we share with the Rio Texas Conference. Together, in service to future generations,
47 we keep open the doors of learning to many students that make up our diverse church family. We appreciate this
48 opportunity to serve.

49 Respectfully,

50 Dr. Darrell M. Loyless, President

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UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY *FOR INFORMATION ONLY*

For nearly 150 years, United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH, has been preparing faithful, fruitful leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Students

In the Fall 2019 semester, United equipped **459** women and men for leadership in the Church, including **272 masters' students** and **187 doctoral students**. An ecumenical community of many denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from **11 countries, 42 states, and 37 denominations**, with the student body comprised of **49% African American, 42% Caucasian, and 10% ethnic/racial minorities**.ⁱ The Seminary prepared **165 Course of Study students** and served **36 students** through the Hispanic Christian Academy, a 3-year Spanish online course of ministry program for Hispanic/Latino lay pastors and leaders.ⁱⁱ Altogether, approximately 660 students followed God's call through United Theological Seminary.

Alumni/ae

United graduates are making an impact in their communities as they spread the Good News.

- **88%** of alumni/ae are currently employed in or retired from ministryⁱⁱⁱ
- **70%** serve in local parishes^{iv}
- **Rev. Dr. Brad Kalajainen** (DMin '99) received the 2019 Effective Ministry Award for his transformative leadership of Cornerstone UMC in Grand Rapids, MI.
- **Rev. Dr. James Bushfield** (MDiv '79, DMin '92) received the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award for his leadership and ministry in the Indiana Conference of The UMC.
- **Rev. Dr. Sandra Coley** (DMin '14) received the Outstanding Doctor of Ministry Award for her advocacy of organ donation among African American communities.

New at United

United introduced a 36-hour Master of Arts (MA) degree, designed for those who wish to earn a degree while completing the requirements for Advanced Course of Study in pursuit of ordination in The United Methodist Church. The MA program is available fully online, on-campus or in a combination.

United continues to offer innovative learning through its Live Interactive Virtual Education (LIVE) environment introduced in 2018. In the first year, 59 students participated in LIVE courses, connecting with classmates on campus in Dayton, OH, and across the country by attending classes in real-time via simultaneous webcast.

Becoming Debt-Free

United remains committed to becoming debt-free by the seminary's 150th anniversary on October 11, 2021. Thanks to the support of generous donors, United has received more than \$2.5 million toward its goal of raising \$4 million to "burn the mortgage." Becoming debt-free as an institution will enable United to focus on generating income for scholarships that lighten the load of student debt for seminarians.

In Romans 10:14, St. Paul writes: "How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?" For 150 years, United has been preparing faithful and fruitful Christian preachers and leaders who proclaim the Good News of God's unconditional love which has come to us in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

Dr. Kent Millard,
President

TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION *FOR INFORMATION ONLY*

Relationships are at the center of TMF's ministry. Whether we are gathering resources through philanthropy and investments or stewarding resources through loans, grants, leadership ministry, or Holy Conversations discernment, we believe the relationships we form are transformational for all involved – and lead to purposeful change. During

1 2019, TMF continued to build relationships with former Heartspring constituents, United Methodist Development
2 Fund constituents, and new clergy and lay leaders participating in our Courageous Leadership Imperative initiative.
3 We are committed to building new partnerships, collaborations, and connections to support our goal of helping
4 congregations unite their leadership and financial resources into a purposeful plan for living out God’s unique call for
5 them to serve their communities

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

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

12 **Within the Rio Texas Conference:**

- 13 ▪ Loans to churches in the Rio Texas Conference totaled \$52.5 million at the end of 2019.
- 14 ▪ Churches and agencies, not including individuals, within the Rio Texas Conference had \$49.8 million invested in
15 the Methodist Loan Fund.

16 **Throughout Texas and New Mexico:**

- 17 ▪ As of December 31, 2019, **total assets** under management by TMF were \$672.9 million.
18
- 19 ▪ **Methodist Loan Fund investments** ended the year at \$340.1 million, and our loan portfolio at \$317.7 million.
20
- 21 ▪ TMF’s **Undesignated Endowment** ended the year at \$58.1 million.
- 22 ▪ Our **Leadership Ministry Endowment** was \$9.1 million at the close of 2019.
- 23 ▪ Highlighting a significant year of **financial support for TMF** was a gift of \$6 million from the Estate of Lemuel
24 Richard Keller: \$500,000 of the estate gift was directed to TMF’s Leadership Ministry Endowment, a portion
25 fully funded Launch 2.0, a joint clergy and laity learning forum in Little Rock, AR, and the balance was directed
26 to TMF’s Undesignated Endowment. Additionally, TMF received a \$250,000 challenge grant to endow the John
27 Thornburg Innovation Fund. The fund was created to help launch new ministries emerging from the hearts and
28 minds of clergy participating in TMF’s Leadership Ministry. As of 12/31/19, TMF had received \$225K in gifts and
29 pledges towards the challenge grant.
30
- 31 ▪ During 2019, the TMF **Grants Ministry** awarded \$1.4 million in support of 28 churches and not-for-profits. Of that
32 total, an estimated \$704,000 came from restricted endowments, and \$725,000 from TMF operations. We awarded
33 approximately \$125,000 to churches and non-profits providing relief to those impacted by Tropical Storm Imelda,
34 immigration and fires. The Grants Committee of the TMF Board of Directors determines distribution decisions for the
35 discretionary funds. In 2019, grant funds were distributed as follows: 48% to outreach ministries and evangelism
36 targeting systemic change; 37% to ministries which systemically benefit families living in poverty; 15% for
37 scholarships.
38
- 39 ▪ TMF continued its work with individuals and families to support their philanthropic goals. In 2019, TMF
40 received \$4.2 million in gifts (endowments, donor-advised funds, charitable gift annuities, and trusts) to
41 support ministries and causes.
- 42 ▪ TMF distributed approximately \$2.4 million from 405 **permanent endowments** during 2019.
- 43 ▪ During 2019, TMF’s **Leadership Ministry** hosted 14 peer-learning groups and a large innovation gathering,
44 involving nearly 300 clergy and lay leaders from across Texas and New Mexico as well as drawing from the
45 other conferences of the South Central Jurisdiction and beyond. TMF remains deeply committed to
46 creating space for leaders to discover, explore, question and learn with peers so that they might expand
47 their capacity to lead in this time of deep change. Among those groups were two new cohorts launched
48 through the Courageous Leadership Imperative (CLI). CLI seeks to gather courageous leaders from
49 throughout the SCJ for the sake of networking these courageous leaders, strengthening their leadership,
50 and building on their capacity for courage, resilience, adaptive leadership, learning agility and innovation.
51 CLI also hosted Launch 2.0 in Little Rock which offered teams of leaders, lay and clergy, the space and
52 tools to take an idea from the brainstorm stage to an actual prototype which had form and plans for initial
53 steps to implementation.
- 54 ▪ Throughout this year of change in the denomination, the TMF **Area Representative** team maintained
55 focus on their central purpose: empowering congregations to claim and live into their distinctive, God-

1 appointed missions. The eight representatives traveled Texas and New Mexico, making over 2500 visits.
2 The team does the work of both improvement and innovation. The improvement work includes financial
3 best practices, developing year-round stewardship plans, and end-of-life generosity planning. The
4 innovation work centers on the question, “God, what difference are you calling us to make in the coming
5 season of the church’s life?” They explore that question with clergy and lay leaders, both in informal
6 conversation, and in contracted services called Holy Conversations (6-9 months with a team of 7-9) and
7 Holy Excavations (one-day workshop with 20-25 people).

8 **TMF Board members**

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

- 11 ▪ Rev. Taylor Fuerst, Clergy, 3-year term (Austin)
- 12 ▪ Rev. Laura Merrill, Clergy, 3-year term (San Antonio)

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

- 14 ▪ Mr. Jim Hornbuckle, Layperson, serving through Annual Conference 2020 (San Antonio)
- 15 ▪ Rev. Scott Heare, Clergy, currently serving through 2021 (Austin)
- 16 ▪ Mrs. Amy Thomas, Layperson, currently serving through 2021 (Austin)
- 17 ▪ Rev. Dr. Daniel Flores, Clergy, currently serving through 2022 (Fort Worth)
- 18 ▪ Rev. Thelma Flores, Clergy, currently serving through 2022 (Fort Worth)

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

- 21 ▪ Mr. James A. Cox, Jr., Emeritus (Austin)
- 22 ▪ Mr. Henry Joyner, Senior Member (Austin)
- 23 ▪ Mrs. Teresa Keese, Layperson, TMF Chair Elect (Brady)
- 24 ▪ Bishop Robert Schnase, Advisory (San Antonio)
- 25 ▪ Mr. Robert C. Scott, Emeritus (San Antonio)
- 26 ▪ Mr. Robert B. Sunderland, Emeritus (San Antonio)

27 Respectfully Submitted,

28 Tom Locke, President
