

Rio Texas Annual Conference 2023 Pre-Conference Report



June 8-10
American Bank Center • Corpus Christi, Texas

STANDING RULES

REPORT I CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT *FOR INFORMATION ONLY*

- 1 No changes are being proposed to the Standing Rules.
2 Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you.
3 Barbara Mobley, Chairperson Edgar Avitia
4 Mike Cave, Vice-Chairperson Elva Garza
5 Bertha Castañeda, Secretary Eddie Pinchback
6

REPORT II RÍO TEXAS CONFERENCE STANDING RULES *FOR CONFERENCE ACTION*

- 7 The **Mission** of the Río Texas Conference: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the
8 transformation of the world. The **Vision** of the Río Texas Conference: Uniting Peoples, Vitalizing
9 Congregations, Developing Leaders, Transforming Communities.
10

STRUCTURE AND AGENCIES

Uniting Table

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

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

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

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

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

43 e. The Constitutions for United Methodist Women (§ 647) and United Methodist Men (§ 648)
44 are included in

1 the 2016 Book of Discipline. United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men are
2 independent organizations which nominate and elect their own leaders. Each of these
3 organizations is represented by the president and/or another designated person on various
4 agencies of the Annual Conference, including the Uniting Table. United Methodist Women
5 relates to the national organization of United Methodist Women. United Methodist Men relates
6 to the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

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9 **Uniting Peoples Vision Team**

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

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

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

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

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

55 e. There shall be a Committee on Disability Concerns (the committee) whose function is
56 defined in ¶ 653 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be

1 the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Disability
2 Concerns, plus all the other members of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. Membership shall
3 include persons with physical disabilities and persons with mental disabilities. The committee
4 relates to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Uniting
5 Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting
6 Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.

7

8 **Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team**

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

28

29 a. There shall be a Board of Discipleship (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 630 of the
30 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by
31 the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Discipleship, plus all the other
32 members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The board relates to the General
33 Board of Discipleship, and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The board is
34 accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and
35 is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

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

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

53 d. There shall be a Committee on Parish and Community Development (the committee)
54 whose function is defined in ¶ 633.5 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the
55 committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific
56 responsibility is Parish and Community Development, plus all the other members of the

1 Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee relates to the General Board of Global
2 Ministries and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee is accountable to
3 the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded
4 through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

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

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

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

29 h. There shall be a Council on Older Adult Ministries (the council) whose function is defined in
30 ¶ 651 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the council shall be the two persons
31 elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Older Adult Ministries, plus
32 all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The council relates to the
33 General Board of Discipleship, and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The council
34 is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference,
35 and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

36

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

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

54 k. There shall be a Young Adult Ministry Council (the council) whose function is defined in
55 ¶ 650 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, and which will fulfill all references in the Book of
56 Discipline to the Council on Young Adult Ministries. The council will provide voice and support

1 for all young adults in the conference. The council will be a group of diverse young adults
2 called to ministry and service as modeled by Jesus Christ. The council is represented by the
3 president and/or another designated person on various agencies of the Annual Conference,
4 including the Uniting Table. The council relates to the General Board of Discipleship's
5 Division on Ministries with Young People. The council is accountable to the Annual
6 Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the
7 budget.

8 **Developing Leaders Vision Team**

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

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

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

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

46

47 **Transforming Communities Vision Team**

48 5. There shall be a Transforming Communities Vision Team whose function is to equip, educate
49 and support congregations around the areas of mission and The Advance, specific ethnic
50 concerns, and justice issues. The membership of the Transforming Communities Vision Team
51 shall be: two persons whose specific responsibility is Church and Society, two persons whose
52 specific responsibility is Global Ministries, two persons whose specific responsibility is Native
53 American Ministries, two persons whose specific responsibility is The Advance Program, two
54 persons whose specific responsibility is the Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, the Secretary
55 of Global Ministries, and a chairperson; all nominated by the Committee on Nominations and
56 elected by the Annual Conference. The Peace with Justice Coordinator shall also be a member.

1 The entire Vision Team has the full responsibility for each of the areas of focus represented by its
2 members. The Transforming Communities Vision Team relates to the General Board of Church
3 and Society, the General Board of Global Ministries, and to the Uniting Table. The Transforming
4 Communities Vision Team is accountable to, and funded by, the Annual Conference.

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

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

24 c. There shall be a Committee on Native American Ministries (the committee) whose function
25 is defined in ¶ 654 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be
26 the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Native
27 American Ministries, plus all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision
28 Team. The committee relates to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee
29 is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual
30 Conference, and is funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the
31 budget.

32 d. There shall be a Committee on The Advance (the committee) whose function is defined in
33 ¶ 656 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two
34 persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is The Advance, plus
35 all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee relates
36 to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the
37 Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through
38 the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.

39 e. There shall be a Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (the committee)
40 whose function is defined in ¶ 657 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the
41 committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific
42 responsibility is Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, plus all the other members of the
43 Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee relates to the Transforming
44 Communities Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Transforming Communities
45 Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Transforming
46 Communities Vision Team portion of the budget

47 **Administrative Agencies**

48 6. There shall be Administrative Agencies whose functions are to provide ongoing administrative
49 support to the conference. Each of these functions will be carried out by a separate and
50 independent agency whose members are nominated by the Committee on Nominations and
51 elected by the Annual Conference, unless otherwise specified by the Book of Discipline. Each of
52 these agencies is directly accountable to the Annual Conference, reports to the Annual
53 Conference, and is funded through the budget of the Annual Conference, unless otherwise
54 specified by the Book of Discipline. Each of these agencies shall have one representative on the
55 Uniting Table for support of the missional emphases of the Uniting Table and Vision Teams.

- 1 a. There shall be a Finance Table whose function is defined in ¶¶ 611-628 of the 2016 Book
2 of Discipline, and which will fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Council on
3 Finance and Administration. The Finance Table will also fulfill all references in the Book of
4 Discipline to the Commission on Equitable Compensation, whose function is defined in ¶ 625
5 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be sixteen (16) members of the Finance Table.
6 The Finance Table relates to the General Council on Finance and Administration. There shall
7 also be a Personnel Committee to carry out those functions of the Finance Table in ¶ 613.13
8 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be four (4) members of the Personnel Committee
9 plus a representative of the Finance Table and a district superintendent.
- 10 b. There shall be a Board of Trustees whose function is defined in ¶ 2512 of the 2016 Book of
11 Discipline. There shall be twelve (12) members of the Board of Trustees, who will be elected
12 in four classes of three members each. The first Board of Trustees will have three persons
13 elected by the Southwest Texas Conference whose terms end in June 2015, three persons
14 elected by the Río Grande Conference whose terms end in June 2016, three persons elected
15 by the Río Grande Conference whose terms end in June 2017, and three persons elected by
16 the Southwest Texas Conference whose terms end in June 2018. The members of the Board
17 of Trustees are also members of the Board of Directors of the United Methodist Río Texas
18 Conference Board of Trustees corporation, and their election shall be consistent with the
19 Certificate of Formation and the Bylaws of that corporation.
- 20
- 21 c. There shall be a Committee on Standing Rules whose function is to oversee the rules of
22 the Annual Conference, as permitted in ¶ 604.1 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be
23 six (6) members of the Committee on Standing Rules.
- 24 d. There shall be an Agenda and Worship Committee whose function is defined in ¶ 605.2 of
25 the 2016 Book of Discipline. The members of the Agenda and Worship Committee shall be
26 the Bishop and the Assistant to the Episcopal Office; the seven district superintendents; the
27 presidents of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, the Young Adult Ministry
28 Council, and the Youth Ministries Council; the conference lay leader; the conference treasurer;
29 the conference secretary; the chairperson of the Uniting Table; and a Worship Team
30 Coordinator recruited by the committee.
- 31 e. There shall be a Committee on the Episcopacy whose function is defined in ¶ 637 of the
32 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be twelve (12) members of the Committee on the
33 Episcopacy.
- 34 f. There shall be an Episcopal Residence Committee whose function is defined in ¶ 638 of the
35 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be six (6) members of the Episcopal Residence
36 Committee.
- 37 g. There shall be a Board of Pensions whose function is defined in ¶ 639 of the 2016 Book of
38 Discipline. There shall be sixteen (16) members of the Board of Pensions who will serve
39 eight-year staggered terms, with four members being elected every other year. The first
40 Board of Pensions will have four persons whose terms end in June 2016, four persons whose
41 terms end in June 2018, four persons whose terms end in June 2020, and four persons
42 whose terms end in June 2022 in order to establish the staggered terms. The 2014
43 conferences will each elect two persons for each class to make up the first Board of
44 Pensions. The members of the Board of Pensions are also members of the Board of
45 Directors of the United Methodist Río Texas Conference Board of Pensions corporation, and
46 their election shall be consistent with the Certificate of Formation and the Bylaws of that
47 corporation. The Board of Pensions relates to the General Board of Pensions and Health
48 Benefits.
- 49
- 50 h. There shall be a Commission on Archives and History whose function is defined in ¶ 641 of
51 the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be eight (8) members of the Commission on Archives
52 and History. The Commission on Archives and History relates to the General Commission on
53 Archives and History.
- 54 i. There shall be a Committee on Nominations (the committee) whose function is to identify
55 nominees for each elected leadership position for which the Book of Discipline does not
56 specify another method of nomination. The members of the committee shall be the Bishop

1 and the Assistant to the Episcopal Office; the seven district superintendents; one person from
2 each parent conference representing United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, the
3 Young Adult Ministry Council, and the Youth Ministries Council; the conference lay leader; and
4 six (6) at large members nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the
5 Annual Conference to ensure equal representation on the committee from each of the parent
6 conferences. At least through 2024 the Committee on Nominations will consist of an equal
7 number of members from each of the parent conferences.
8
9

10 7. There shall be an Administrative Review Committee (the committee) whose function and
11 membership are defined in ¶ 636 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be three (3)
12 members of the committee and two (2) alternates, nominated by the Bishop and elected by the
13 clergy session of the Annual Conference. The committee is accountable to the clergy session of
14 the Annual Conference.
15

16 **Applying to All Agencies**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

50 **Conference Staff and Resources**

51 15. There shall be an Administrative Services Center whose function is to manage the financial
52 resources of the conference, and to develop alternative sources of funding for the conference.
53 The Administrative Services Center will encourage collaboration and partnership among all
54 program, administrative and financial entities of the conference. The Administrative Services
55 Center relates to and supports the work of the Finance Table and the Commission on Equitable
56 Compensation, the Board of Trustees, the Board of Pensions, the conference treasurer, and the

1 office of New Resource Development, as well as the other non-program agencies as needed.
2 The Administrative Services Center shall be accountable to the Finance Table and to the Annual
3 Conference, and shall be funded by the Annual Conference. There shall be a director or
4 equivalent position to oversee the functions of the Administrative Services Center, filled by
5 appointment or otherwise at the Bishop's discretion.

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

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

12 **MEMBERSHIP OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

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

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

15 a. A professing member elected by each charge, as provided for in ¶ 602.4 of the 2016 Book
16 of Discipline;

17 b. An additional lay member assigned to each charge for each additional clergy member who
18 is appointed to the charge as provided for in ¶ 602.4 of the 2016 Book of Discipline;

19 c. Diaconal ministers, active deaconesses, home missionaries under episcopal appointment
20 within the bounds of the Annual Conference, the conference president of United Methodist
21 Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district
22 lay leaders, the conference director of lay servant ministries, conference secretary of global
23 ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult
24 organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the Annual
25 Conference college student organization, one young person between the ages of twelve (12)
26 and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30)
27 from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the Annual
28 Conference, as provided in ¶ 602.4 and ¶ 32 of the 2016 Book of Discipline;

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

39 **Lay Members Defined by Annual Conference**

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

42 e. Other members as defined by the Annual Conference to include: an additional
43 representative of the executive committees of the conference organizations of United
44 Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, youth, and young adults; the president and one
45 additional representative of the executive committees of the district organizations of United
46 Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, youth, and young adults; the chancellor, the
47 conference emmaus lay director (if any), the conference scouting coordinator (if any),
48 conference associate lay leaders (if any), conference elected executive personnel (if any), the
49 chairperson of any conference agency or standing committee that reports directly to the
50 Annual Conference; lay members of the Uniting Table and Finance Table; and one lay
51 member for each unchartered new church start elected by the district in which the new church
52 start is located.
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- f. Additional lay members required to equalize lay and clergy membership shall be assigned to each district based upon district membership. The conference secretary shall notify each district superintendent of the number of additional lay members to be elected no later than sixty (60) days following Annual Conference. Each district will determine the method of election.
- g. Through 2024 the additional lay members elected shall include members of both parent conferences.
- h. At least 10% of these additional lay members shall be age 30 or under at the time of election.

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

CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27. Consent Agenda 1 consists of reports from conference agencies which are not for action, but are “For Information Only.” The conference acts only to receive these reports and print them in the journal. Consent Agenda 2 consists of action reports about which there is believed to be little or no dissent. The items included in Consent Agenda 2 are determined by a task force composed of members of the Agenda and Worship Committee. Any member of the Annual Conference may move the deletion of any of the items from Consent Agendas. With a second, and a one-minute explanation by the maker of the motion, it will be voted on by the conference without debate. If 20% of the members vote that the item be removed, it will be removed and brought to the floor as a non-consent item at a time to be determined by the Agenda and Worship Committee.

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

1
2 29. The preliminary report of the Committee on Nominations will be presented early in the agenda
3 of the Annual Conference proceedings, including the process for nominations from the floor. The
4 final report of the Committee on Nominations will be presented and acted upon at a later session
5 of that Annual Conference.

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

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

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

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

17 **OTHER**

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

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

25
26 36. Any minister of the Annual Conference who conducts the funeral or memorial service of a
27 fellow minister or a minister's spouse shall provide the conference secretary with a memorial for
28 that person within one month, in accordance with the Guidelines on Memoirs to be furnished by
29 the conference secretary.

30
FINANCE TABLE (CF&A)

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

FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

31
32 The Finance Table (CF&A) has the authority to adjust the budget implementation on the basis of changing
33 economic conditions and unforeseen circumstances as authorized in ¶¶613.5 – 613.11 and ¶¶616 – 618
34 2016 *Book of Discipline*. The Finance Table (CF&A) is authorized to grant amounts from the Conference
35 Contingency Fund or Reserves to meet any individual emergency or unanticipated need.

36
REPORT II
SUPPORT FOR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

37 The Finance Table (CF&A) is recommending that the salary and benefits for the Rio Texas Conference District
38 Superintendents for 2023 be set as follows:

39
40 **Compensation**

41 Cash salary for 2024 is set at \$102,250 per annum.

1 Clergy Retirement Security Plan, Comprehensive Protection Plan, Health Benefits, and utilities shall vary
 2 according to their actual cost.
 3

4 **Expenses to be Provided by the Districts**

5 Office space, office telephone (including long distance), postage, secretarial service, printing, office utilities
 6 and insurance on furniture and equipment if applicable, library and periodical expenses, entertainment
 7 related to the district, and other normal expenses related to the superintendency not paid by the Annual
 8 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.
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REPORT III
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION POLICY ON MINIMUM PASTORAL SUPPORT
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

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Minimum Pastoral Support Policies

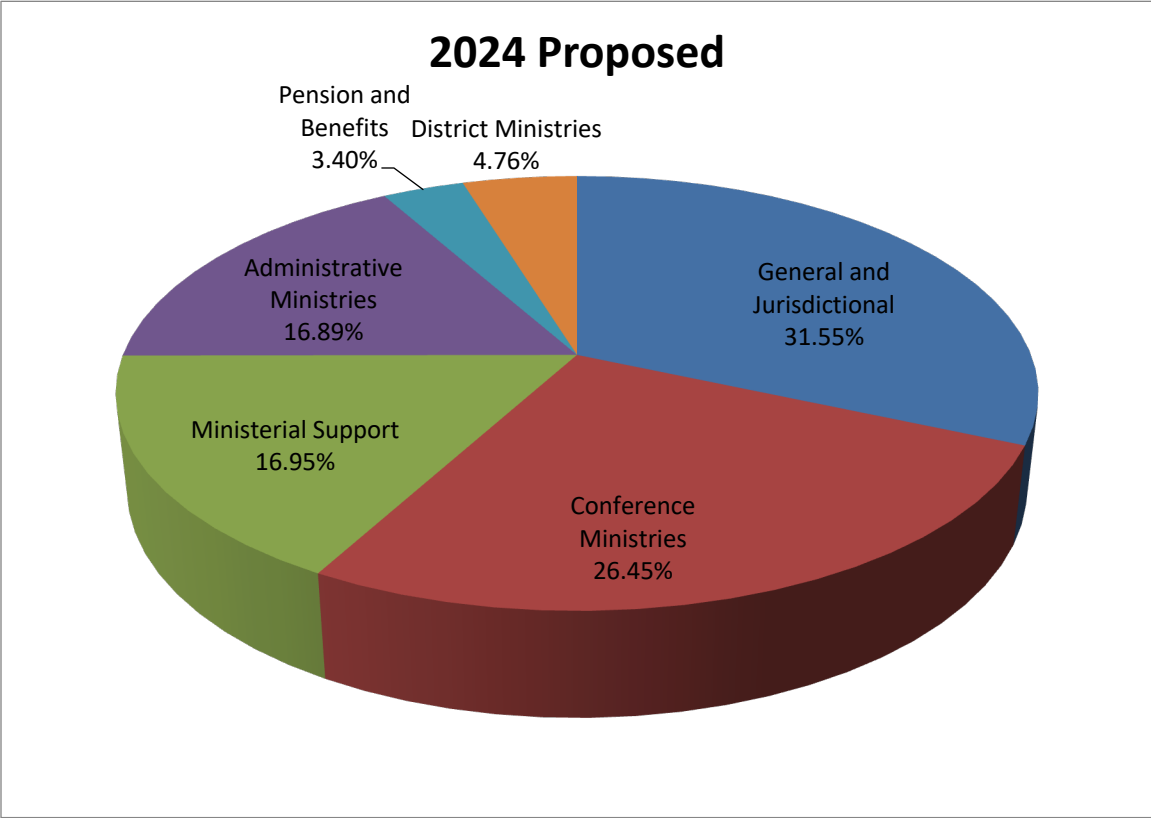
The minimum salary levels for 2024 shall be:

1. For a Full or Provisional member \$45,750 per annum.
 2. For an Associate member \$42,550 per annum.
 3. For an Approved Local Pastor or member of another denomination \$39,020 per annum.
- Plus \$75 for each year of service completed after 2nd year with a maximum of \$1,425
 - Plus \$200 for 2nd church in charge and \$100 for each additional church in the charge

REPORT IV
2024 APPORTIONED FUNDS
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

Fund Name	2022 Approved	2023 Approved	2024 Proposed	2024 vs 2023 % Change	2024 vs 2022 \$ Change
A General and Jurisdictional Total	2,321,198	2,321,198	2,321,199	0.00%	-
B Conference Ministries Total	2,279,698	2,316,243	1,946,258	-15.97%	(369,985)
C Ministerial Support Total	1,283,601	1,304,835	1,247,251	-4.41%	(57,584)
D Administrative Ministries Total	1,315,886	1,294,857	1,242,989	-4.01%	(51,868)
E Pension and Benefits	345,000	345,000	250,000	-27.54%	(95,000)
F District Missions	700,000	700,000	350,000	-50.00%	(350,000)
Grand Total	8,245,384	8,282,133	7,357,697	-11.16%	(924,436)

2024 APPORTIONED FUNDS



2024 APPORTIONED FUNDS

	2022 Approved	2023 Approved	2024 Proposed	% Change 2024 vs 2023	\$ Change 2024 vs 2023
A General and Jurisdictional					
1 GC: World Service	1,106,816	1,106,816	1,106,816	0.00%	-
2 GC: Ministerial Educational Fund	346,657	346,657	346,657	0.00%	-
3 GC: General Episcopal Fund	444,428	444,428	444,428	0.00%	-
4 GC: Black College Fund	160,200	160,200	160,200	0.00%	-
5 GC: General Administration Fund	136,303	136,303	136,303	0.00%	-
6 GC: Africa University	36,016	36,016	36,016	0.00%	-
7 GC: Interdenominational Cooperation	4,792	4,792	4,792	0.00%	-
8 SCJ: Lydia Patterson Institute	53,204	53,204	53,204	0.00%	-
9 SCJ: Mission and Administration Fund	28,677	28,677	28,677	0.00%	-
10 SCJ: SMU Campus Ministry/Reserves	4,106	4,106	4,106	0.00%	-
General and Jurisdictional Total	2,321,199	2,321,199	2,321,199	0.00%	-
B Conference Ministries					
1 Staffing	944,865	981,410	792,325	-19.27%	(189,085)
2 Congregational Excellence	417,000	427,000	254,100	-40.49%	(172,900)
3 Clergy and Lay Leadership	392,500	384,500	369,500	-3.90%	(15,000)
4 Connectional Ministries	330,333	330,333	355,333	7.57%	25,000
5 Transforming Communities	35,000	35,000	35,000	0.00%	-
6 Mission Field Ministry Office Operations	110,000	108,000	100,000	-7.41%	(8,000)
7 Contingency General	50,000	50,000	40,000	-20.00%	(10,000)
Conference Ministries Total	2,279,698	2,316,243	1,946,258	-15.97%	(369,985)
C Ministerial Support					
1 District Superintendent/Cabinet Support	826,601	847,835	710,251	-16.23%	(137,584)
2 Episcopal Support/Executive Fund	95,000	95,000	175,000	84.21%	80,000
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	1,283,601	1,304,835	1,247,251	-4.41%	(57,584)
D Administrative Ministries					
1 United Methodist Center Maintenance	289,000	301,000	301,000	0.00%	-
2 Conference Reserves	50,000	50,000	50,000	0.00%	-
3 Commission on Archives & History	15,000	15,000	15,000	0.00%	-
4 Auditing	112,000	100,000	100,000	0.00%	-
5 Journal	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.00%	-
6 Administrative Ministries Staffing	767,123	746,094	694,226	-6.95%	(51,868)
7 Administrative Ministries Team Support	80,763	80,763	80,763	0.00%	-
Administrative Ministries Total	1,315,886	1,294,857	1,242,989	-4.01%	(51,868)
E Pensions and Benefits	345,000	345,000	250,000	-27.54%	(95,000)
F District Ministries	700,000	700,000	350,000	-50.00%	(350,000)
Grand Total	8,245,384	8,282,133	7,357,697	-11.16%	(924,436)

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
2 plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the Annual Conference” (§612.1
3 2016 *Book of Discipline*).

4
5 In keeping with the Disciplinary purpose, the Finance Table (CF&A) sees itself as an integral part of the mission
6 and ministry of the Conference. We are working to improve communications with the other agencies of the
7 Conference to ensure that our work is supportive of the ministries and goals of the Uniting Table and the Mission
8 Field Ministries Office.

9
10 Receipts on all funds for 2022 by the Río Texas Conference were \$7,847,926, or 86,53% of the apportioned amount.
11 The Finance Table (CF&A) is proposing the budget for 2024. The overall apportioned budget for all funds totals
12 \$7,357,697.

13
14 The Finance Table (CF&A) sees itself as joining with the local church in the work of the financial ministry of the
15 Annual Conference. We commend the 2024 budget to the Conference. It represents the uniqueness and depth of
16 ministries and missions provided by our church and economic realities of our Conference. The Finance Table
17 (CF&A), along with the Conference Treasurer, has been monitoring membership and economic trends within the
18 Conference, the Global Church, and society at large. As the goals and direction of the Conference become clearer,
19 we will be working with the Bishop, the Uniting Table, and Mission Field Ministries to ensure that the budget and
20 apportionments accurately reflect those goals and support those ministries. At the same time, we will continue to
21 work with our Conference Treasurer and other Conference leaders to improve communications, systems and
22 efficiency.

23
24 Operating Policies of the Finance Table (CF&A):

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

- 27
28 General and Jurisdictional
29 Conference Ministries
30 Ministerial Support
31 Administrative Ministries
32 Pension and Benefits
33 District Missions

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

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

46
47

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

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

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

- 9 2. At the beginning of the calendar year, the Finance Table (CF&A) shall determine which portions of the
 10 Conference Ministries and Administrative Ministries are “fixed costs” (salaries, benefits, etc.) and shall thus
 11 be authorized to be paid at 100% of the approved budget. On the basis of prior-year receipts to these funds,
 12 the Finance Table (CF&A) shall then determine a percentage of the approved budget to be authorized for
 13 expenditures in the remaining items of each budget, so that expenditures shall not exceed income.
 - 14 a. Each church is expected to support all funds at 100% of the apportioned amount. (§247.14 2016 *Book*
 15 *of Discipline*)
 - 16 b. The churches are requested to make payments thereon aggregately, with the understanding that the
 17 Conference Treasurer will allocate such payments according to the appropriate percentage due the fund
 18 according to the Conference Budget.
- 20 3. An Unrestricted Fund Balance Account will be maintained by the Annual Conference at a minimum level of
 21 20% of the current total of the Conference Funds. Any undesignated interest income will be transferred to
 22 the undesignated fund balance at the end of the fiscal year.
- 24 4. All apportioned funds, pension and health benefits costs both receipts and disbursements, will be managed
 25 through the office of the Conference Treasurer. All boards, agencies, committees, and commissions shall use
 26 the Conference Treasurer as the fiscal agent.
- 28 5. The compensation (including housing and utilities) for District Superintendents shall be recommended to the
 29 Annual Conference by the Finance Table (CF&A), using a guideline formula adopted in 2017 of 1.85 times
 30 the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The calculation was suspended in 2020 and 2021 at the
 31 request of the Cabinet due to the pandemic. In order to gradually step up to the amount equal to the formula,
 32 the 2023 salary calculation will use the 2021 CAC instead of the 2022 CAC. The calculation, assuming
 33 utilities are \$5,000 and housing is 25% of Cash Salary, is \$71,791 x 1.85 = \$132,813; then, (\$132,813 –
 34 \$5,000) / 1.25 = \$102,250. The purpose of the formula is to relate DS Compensation to Full Time Clergy
 35 Compensation. We recommend that the salary computation should also be applied to other clergy appointed
 36 to the conference staff at Cabinet level. For the year 2024, the Cabinet has requested that this formula be set
 37 aside leaving their salaries frozen at the lower 2021 rate as shown in the preceding calculation.
- 39 6. All agencies receiving funds from the Conference budget shall affirm that funds will not be expended for
 40 uses not consistent with §613.18-19 2016 *Book of Discipline*.
- 42 7. The amount of compensation designated as housing allowance for ordained staff members and district
 43 superintendents of the Conference will be set by an annual resolution of the Conference Finance Table
 44 (CF&A) after consideration of a statement of amounts to be used during the year.
- 46 8. The governing boards of United Methodist related entities must apply to the Finance Table (CF&A) to be
 47 granted the privilege of soliciting and receiving funds from churches, individuals, and other sources (but not
 48 from conference-wide offerings except as indicated in the list which follows) in keeping with §262 2016
 49 *Book of Discipline*; no capital campaigns have been approved for 2023; and the following, and only the
 50 following, conference-wide offerings are approved for 2024:

51 Human Relations Day.....	General Conference
52 UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing).....	General Conference
53 Native American Awareness.....	General Conference

- 1 Peace with Justice.....General Conference
- 2 World Communion.....General Conference
- 3 United Methodist Student Day.....General Conference
- 4 Harvest Sunday (see Transforming Communities Vision Team Report).....Annual Conference
- 5
- 6 9. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary of the Conference Finance Table (CF&A), the
- 7 Chairperson of the Audit Committee, the Chairperson of Equitable Compensation and the Conference
- 8 Treasurer/Director of Administrative Ministries constitute the executive committee of the Conference
- 9 Finance Table (CF&A).
- 10
- 11 10. The Finance Table (CF&A) is authorized to appoint a Conference auditor.
- 12
- 13 11. A Conference Fund will not be permitted to carry over unobligated budget allocations from one conference
- 14 year to another unless specifically authorized by the Finance Table (CF&A). Agencies receiving funds from
- 15 sources other than apportioned funds may carry over such unspent funds into the next year. Any unobligated
- 16 budget allocations not authorized for carryover will be added to the undesignated Fund Balance of the Annual
- 17 Conference.
- 18
- 19 12. Each year, the Conference Comptroller shall set a cutoff date for all apportionment payments to the
- 20 Conference Treasurer to be applied to the preceding year. The cutoff date will be communicated to the local
- 21 churches no later than December 1 each year.
- 22
- 23 13. Each Conference board, agency, or institution receiving or disbursing funds not managed by the Conference
- 24 Treasurer shall maintain adequate financial records and prepare and submit annual audit reports to the
- 25 Conference Treasurer and the Finance Table (CF&A). All treasurers shall be properly bonded.
- 26
- 27 14. The Conference fiscal year shall begin on January 1 each year, and end on December 31 each year.
- 28
- 29 15. The Conference Finance Table (CF&A) is responsible for designating depositories for Conference funds.
- 30
- 31 16. The Conference will include in each annual budget an appropriate line for each “shall” ministry as defined
- 32 by *The Book of Discipline*.
- 33

REPORT VI
MEETING EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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

45

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

48

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

4
5 When it is necessary to fly to a meeting, flight must be booked at least 14 days prior to the meeting. If flights are
6 not booked 14 days prior to the meeting, the member booking the flight must pay the difference in the cost of the
7 flight. This does not apply in the rare instances when the meeting is an emergency meeting that is not announced
8 prior to 14 days.

9
10 Each local church is encouraged to undergird the meal, transportation, and lodging expenses of Annual Conference
11 members in attending Annual Conference by adding a minimum of \$100 to the church budget for each lay and
12 clergy delegate. The district superintendents are asked to encourage such support at each Charge Conference.

REPORT VII
AUDIT COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

13 The Río Texas Conference Audit Committee is chartered and reports to the Finance Table (CF&A). The Audit
14 Committee is in the process of reviewing audits of 2022 financial statements. Audits for the Río Texas Conference
15 and Board of Pensions will be published in the Conference Journal later in 2023. Members of the Río Texas Audit
16 Committee are as follows:

17

18	Jim Noble	Clergy	Chairman
19	Zeda Alvarado	Laity	
20	Drew Claes	Laity	
21	Brad DeHaven	Clergy	
22	Oscar Garza	Laity	
23	Jim Wynn	Laity	

BOARD OF PENSIONS

REPORT I
PAST SERVICE RATE 2023
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

24 The Past Service Rate for 2024 will be **\$731** per year of annuity credit for the Pre-82 Pension
25 Plan. This represents a 3% increase over 2023. The Pre-82 Pension Plan, also known as
26 Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP), is a defined benefit pension
27 plan administered by Wespath and provides eligible clergy with a pension benefit for their
28 years of ministry with The United Methodist Church before 1982.

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

29 The Río Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church adopts the following resolutions
30 relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons:
31
32
33
34
35

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

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

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

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

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** an amount equal to 100% of the pension,
16 severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline
17 of The United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"), which includes all such payments from
18 Wespeth Benefits and Investments, during the years 2023 and 2024 by each active, retired,
19 terminated, or disabled clergy person who is or was a member of the Conference, or its
20 predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such clergy
21 person; and that the pension severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing
22 allowance applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities,
23 or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespeth Benefits and
24 Investments "Wespeth" and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity
25 arising from benefits accrued under a Wespeth plan, pension, or fund authorized under the
26 Discipline, that result from any service a clergy person rendered to this Conference or that an
27 active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergy person of this Conference rendered to any local
28 church, annual conferences of the church, general agency of the church, other institution of
29 the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the church, or any other employer that
30 employed the clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the church, or its
31 predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a
32 plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired, or disabled clergy person's pension or disability
33 as part of his or her gross compensation.

34
35 NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergy person's gross
36 income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code
37 section 107(2) and regulations hereunder to the least of (1) the amount of the rental/housing
38 allowance designated by the clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the church
39 (such as this Conference in the preceding resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount expended
40 by the clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the
41 house, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities
42 in such year.

43
REPORT III
2022 COMPREHENSIVE FUNDING PLAN
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

44 The Comprehensive Funding Plan is under review by Wespeth Benefits and Investments and will
45 be available at the annual conference session and included in the 2023 Río Texas Conference
46 Journal.

REPORT IV
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

47 The Río Texas Conference Board of Pensions is proud and honored to care for those who serve in
48 the United Methodist Church. The Board administers several benefit programs including pension,
49 disability, health insurance, wellness, ancillary, and optional life benefits to clergy and lay
50 participants serving in ministry throughout the conference. We are in partnership with Wespeth in

1 the administration of plans to ensure participants and churches have the resources and support
2 valued by The United Methodist Church.

3
4 The goal of the Board continues to be stability in a challenging environment of high inflation, market
5 volatility, and disaffiliation. We continue to monitor investment conditions to maintain a long-term
6 sustainable asset plan to meet benefit liabilities for beneficiaries who have faithfully served.
7 Specifically, the administration of Defined Benefit (DB) pension plans that provide lifetime annuities
8 to beneficiaries is complex and requires strategic planning decades into the future as plan funding
9 levels change due to market volatility, Past Service Rate (PSR) increases, compliance, and
10 actuarial changes. Wespath actuaries also continue to provide a monthly Annual Conference
11 Allocated Underfunding estimate for purposes of disaffiliation. Pension liability funds received from
12 churches that have disaffiliated are held in a dedicated restricted account at Wespath and will be
13 used strictly for paying any future unfunded pension liabilities. Rest assured, any funds
14 administered by the Board of Pensions are managed with integrity, transparency, and always
15 honoring all restrictions associated with any assets. All assets are reviewed by the Board, Joint
16 Investment Committee and audited by an independent auditor every year which is published in the
17 Journal.

18
19 To reduce pension costs in the future and avoid new long-term liabilities, legislation by Wespath
20 for the new Compass Pension Plan will be considered at General Conference 2024. If adopted,
21 the Compass Plan would begin in January 2026. For 2024, the Board is proposing a 3% increase
22 for Conference action in the Pre-82 Plan Past Service Rate (PSR) plan beneficiaries. This change
23 would not require any additional advance contribution to the plan. For current full-time clergy
24 participants, formulas will remain the same for the CRSP DB (Defined Benefit), CRSP -DC (Defined
25 Contribution), and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). In addition, the Board of Pensions is
26 reducing its budget by 28% in 2024 to adapt to the changing environment of disaffiliation.

27 **Health Benefits**

28 The rising cost of health insurance continues to be a challenge across the nation. Unfortunately,
29 the HealthFlex plan and our conference are not exempt from these challenges. The highest cost
30 drivers are high claims, inflation, increased healthcare labor costs, provider consolidation,
31 escalating drug costs, worsening mental health, and missed preventive and non-emergency care
32 in the aftermath of the pandemic. For the Rio Texas group, claims have run exceptionally higher
33 than usual in the last two years ending 2022 with a loss ratio of 140%. Another way to look at a
34 loss ratio is our participant claims exceeded premiums paid into the plan. The result of these high-
35 cost drivers is a higher premium rate increase for 2024. The average increase in 2024 across all
36 six available plans will be 14% for our group. Overall, HealthFlex medical plan premium increases
37 for all conferences are between 6-18%. In 2024, participants can expect to pay a larger share out
38 of pocket in premiums due to the rate increases or they can choose an alternative plan. The 2024
39 premium credit will be \$992 per month.

40 41 **2024 Plan Changes and Enhancements**

42 Participants can expect plan design changes in 2024 in the HSA-based plans. The H1500, H2000,
43 and H3000 will all be replaced by the H2000, H2500, and H5000 in anticipation of the IRS changing
44 high deductible minimums for HSA-based plans. Participants currently in these plans are
45 encouraged to make an active selection during the Annual Election period in November, otherwise
46 they will automatically be moved into the new HSA replacement plan if no election is made.
47 Although all plans have different plan designs and co-insurance levels, all will have the same
48 annual out-of-pocket maximum of \$5,000 for an individual participant. In addition, all plans will
49 retain the same network of providers and the same formulary. Plan enhancements available as of
50 April 2023 include telehealth through MDLive is now at \$0 cost share and includes acute medical
51 and behavioral/emotional health care. Also, starting in 2024 all participants will have concierge
52 support from Quantum Health for advocacy and a more supportive and efficient participant
53 experience. Participants will receive additional information on all plan changes and enhancements
54 from HealthFlex later this year. An overview of the rates, the premium credit and plan summaries
55 can be found in Report VI.

1
2 I would like to thank the members of the Board for their continued service and time to participants
3 and the Rio Texas Conference. The Board remains committed to caring for those who serve in our
4 fiduciary role with the utmost transparency in the administration of plans and church funds. We are
5 especially thankful to the United Methodist connection and our congregations for their faithful
6 commitment and support of participants who serve Christ throughout all our communities.
7

8 Respectfully Submitted
9 Tony LoBasso, President

REPORT V
PENSION PLANS
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10 **2024 PENSION PLAN CHURCH DIRECT BILLING**

11 Effective January 1, 2024, church direct invoicing by the Conference for clergy participants under
12 appointment for current active service will include:
13

- 14 - Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) Defined Benefit required annual contribution of
15 **\$6,132** for each eligible full-time clergy invoiced monthly.
- 16 - Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) Defined required contribution of **3%** of Plan
17 Compensation for each eligible full-time clergy invoiced monthly.
- 18 - Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) required contribution **3%** Plan Compensation for
19 each eligible full-time clergy to a maximum of two times the 2024 denominational average
20 compensation or DAC of \$76,221 in 2023 invoiced monthly.
- 21 - United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP-PT) required Contribution of **9%** for
22 each eligible part-time clergy (3/4 time appointment or less) invoiced monthly.
- 23 - United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) optional contributions as elected by
24 clergy as a payroll deduction invoiced monthly.
- 25 - The Rio Grande Legacy Fund will continue to provide contributions to eligible legacy
26 churches for full-time clergy in the CRSP-Defined Benefit Plan, CRSP-Defined Contribution
27 Plan, and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP).
- 28 - The Rio Grande Legacy Fund will continue to provide a **9%** contribution to eligible part-
29 time clergy appointed to a Rio Grande Legacy church in the United Methodist Personal
30 Investment Plan UMPIP-PT.
31
32

33 **PRE-82 PENSION PLAN**

34 The Pre-82 Pension Plan, also known as Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Plan
35 (CRSP), is a defined benefit pension plan administered by Wespath and provides eligible clergy
36 with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church before 1982.
37 The Pre-82 Pension Plan was replaced by the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1,
38 1982. One of the responsibilities of the Board of Pensions is to recommend to the annual
39 Conference the Past Service Rate or (PSR) to clergy for each year of eligible service in the Pre-82
40 Pension Plan.
41

42 As the need to provide adequate clergy pension benefits evolved with establishing the Pre-82
43 Pension Plan, contributions were insufficient to provide the benefits required for many participants
44 during years of active service. Therefore, it became the Conference's responsibility to ensure
45 annual contributions in an amortization schedule would provide benefit obligations required by the
46 plan. Each Conference's goal is for the Pre-82 Pension Plan to be fully funded until all benefit
47 obligations have been met. However, the Plan's assets are not fixed with the potential of additional
48 liabilities due to market volatility, Wespath policies, and the number of eligible beneficiaries. Further,
49 any increase in the Past Service Rate (PSR) adopted by the Conference also increases the plan's
50 liabilities. Any change in the PSR also increases the Plan's liabilities and must be funded in the
51 year adopted in accordance with the Plan asset level and funding requirements. As of December
52 31, 2022, no Advance Contribution for 2024 to fund the Past Service Rate increase of 2024 is due.

1 **MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN (MPP)**

2 The Ministerial Pension Plan, also known as Supplement Three to the Clergy Security Retirement
3 Plan (CRSP), provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United
4 Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. The MPP is an Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b)
5 retirement plan. The Conference is required to fund any liability attributable to MPP annuities due
6 to market fluctuations, mortality/demographic assumptions, and Wespath Plan policies. As of
7 January 1, 2022, actuarial valuation for 2024, for the MPP and CRSP plan, annuities no additional
8 contributions are required in 2023 and 2024.

9
10 **CLERGY SECURITY RETIREMENT PLAN (CRSP)**

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

14
15 **Defined Contribution (DC)** – Provides a defined amount deposited into an active full-time
16 clergy person's account with monthly contributions. This benefit distributed at retirement is the
17 accumulated amount plus earnings (or losses) in the individual's account. The defined contribution
18 (DC) component of CRSP is 2% of Plan Compensation with a match for participant contributions
19 to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) – up to 1% of Plan Compensation.
20 Therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% compensation to UMPIP, the CRSP DC
21 contributions will be 3%.

22
23 **Defined Benefit (DB)** – Provides a specific dollar amount at retirement regardless of market
24 conditions or investment performance. The amount is based on a formula that specifies a monthly
25 retirement benefit to eligible clergy and 70% for eligible contingent annuitants for the remainder of
26 their lives. The CRSP-DB provides a monthly retirement benefit using 1.25% of the Denominational
27 Average Compensation (DAC) at retirement multiplied by years of service from January 1, 2007,
28 to December 31, 2013. The multiplier is reduced to 1% for years of service beginning January 1,
29 2014.

30
31 Both components are direct billed to each church for eligible full-time clergy. The defined
32 contribution (DC) billing is based on 3% of Plan Compensation. The annual defined benefit (DB)
33 direct billing in 2023 to churches for each clergy appointed to full-time service is \$6,132. The annual
34 defined benefit (DB) direct billing in 2024 to churches for each clergy appointed to full-time service
35 will remain at \$6,132.

36
37 The annual DB contribution to Wespath is based on the number of eligible active full-time clergy
38 and clergy on Medical leave with CPP benefits on the actuarial valuation provided by Wespath.
39 The contribution amount due in 2023 for the DB component is \$1,343,309 and \$1,323,804 in 2024.
40 The DB contribution does not account for a decrease in eligible Full time clergy due to disaffiliation
41 due to Wespath's 2-year lag for advance contribution planning. Any clergy serving less than full-
42 time not eligible for the CRSP DB are eligible to participate in the United Methodist Personal
43 Investment Plan with a required church contribution of 9% of Plan Compensation.

44
45 **COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)**

46 The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) is a welfare benefit plan administered by Wespath
47 Benefits and Investments. The CPP includes long-term disability, death and other welfare benefits
48 for eligible full-time clergy. The CPP plan is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded
49 by plan sponsor contributions. The CPP required direct billing to churches is 3% of Plan
50 Compensation for eligible full-time clergy up to two times the 2024 denominational average
51 compensation or DAC of \$76,221 in 2023.

52
53 **UNITED METHODIST PERSONAL INVESTMENT PLAN (UMPIP) FOR CLERGY**

54 The United Methodist Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b)
55 defined contribution retirement savings plan administered by Wespath for clergy and lay employees
56 of The United Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Eligible participants may make

1 personal contributions through payroll deductions for before-tax, Roth or after-tax contributions in
2 a flat dollar amount or percentage of eligible compensation, up to Internal Revenue Code limits.
3 Churches are encouraged to offer the UMPIP to lay employees and may contact Wespath for
4 additional plan provisions and sponsorship.
5

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

REPORT VI
2024 HEALTHFLEX
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

HEALTHFLEX BENEFITS

12 The Rio Texas Conference participates in the HealthFlex Plan administered by Wespath Benefits
13 and Investments for eligible full-time clergy and Conference lay employees. The HealthFlex plan is
14 also available to lay employees of churches who have adopted a HealthFlex Salary-Paying Unit
15 Sub-Adoption Agreement meeting the eligibility requirements of the Plan. HealthFlex is an
16 integrated, wellness-driven health program that supports healthier lifestyles. The HealthFlex plan
17 is designed to provide eligible participants with a comprehensive plan including medical,
18 prescription, and wellness benefits. HealthFlex uses incentives as part of its strategy to promote
19 engagement in healthy behaviors and wellness programs. In addition, to the HealthFlex wellness
20 programs, the Conference also provides additional holistic wellness benefits for clergy and
21 Conference lay employees, including spiritual, mental, emotional and physical care components
22 funded by grants from Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas. In 2023 and 2024 the
23 HealthFlex provider will be **Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) National Network**.
24
25

2024 HEALTHFLEX PLAN

26 The HealthFlex multi-plan option gives participants a greater choice across several HealthFlex
27 plans with varying plan designs and the flexibility to choose the coverage that best fits the
28 participant's health, financial and family needs. The multi-plan approach encourages greater
29 accountability by participants for health care costs and utilization while retaining the valued
30 HealthFlex Benefits and wellness opportunities that participants have come to expect from
31 Wespath. In 2024 Wespath will proactively incorporate plan design changes in the HSA based
32 plans as the IRS is expected to increase the minimum deductible for HSA high-deductible based
33 plans.
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1 In 2024 HealthFlex will offer six distinct plan choices for participants:

2

HealthFlex Exchange	B1000	C2000	C3000	H2000	H2500	H5000
Lifetime Maximum	None	None	None	None	None	None
HRA Individual / Family	NA	\$1,000 / \$2,000	\$250 / \$500	NA	NA	NA
HSA Individual / Family	NA	NA	NA	\$1,000 / \$2,000	\$250 / \$500	\$0 / \$0 <i>Personal contribution allowed</i>
Deductible: Individual / Family	\$1,000 / \$2,000	\$2,000 / \$4,000	\$3,000 / \$6,000	\$2,000 / \$4,000	\$2,500 / \$5,000	\$5,000 / \$10,000
In-Network Coinsurance: Plan / Participant	80% / 20%	80% / 20%	50% / 50%	80% / 20%	70% / 30%	NA
Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum (OPP)	\$5,000 Individual \$10,000 Family	\$5,000 Individual \$10,000 Family	\$5,000 Individual \$10,000 Family	\$5,000 Individual \$10,000 Family	\$5,000 Individual \$10,000 Family	\$5,000 Individual \$10,000 Family

3

4

HRA - Health Reimbursement Account, HSA - Health Savings Account

5

6

2024 HEALTHFLEX INDIVIDUAL PREMIUM CREDIT (PC)

7

The 2024 HealthFlex design will include a non-taxable premium credit (PC) of **\$992 per month**.

8

The PC is a fixed dollar amount provided to each HealthFlex full-time clergy and Conference lay

9

employee participant. Participants will use the allocated PC amount to select a health plan in

10

HealthFlex and pay for some or all premiums for the plan of their choice.

11

12

- The **2024 PC amount will be \$992** per month and direct invoiced.
- The PC will appear as a “credit toward purchase” when choosing a HealthFlex plan from all available HealthFlex plan options.
- Participants who choose plans costing less than their PC credit amount will “bank” the excess. The unspent PC balance will then be credited by HealthFlex to the participant’s Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) or Health Savings Account (HSA), depending on the health plan selected or be used to offset dependent premiums. The excess annual amount (unspent PC balance) is not credited in a lump sum; rather it is available on a prorated, monthly basis over the plan year. Internal Revenue Code (IRC) limits for annual HSA contributions will apply. Participants can then use HRA or HSA funds for out-of-pocket eligible IRS health care expenses.
- 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 personal pre-tax 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).

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HEALTHFLEX DIRECT INVOICING FOR ALL FULL-TIME CLERGY

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To ensure the Plan is efficient and sustainable for the benefit of all participants and churches with

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clergy appointed full-time, any church where a clergy has chosen to not participate in HealthFlex

34

will continue to be invoiced the PC through direct billing at the current amount as approved by the

35

Conference. For 2024 the premium credit (PC) will **\$992 per month**.

36

37

38

1 **HEALTHFLEX TRANSITIONAL GRANT**

2 The Board of Pensions believes that Health Benefits should not be a hindering factor in equipping
3 a congregation with the excellent clergy it needs for ministry. The Board established a grant
4 program in 2019 with funds received from churches with non HealthFlex participating clergy to help
5 clergy transition between churches. We recognize that this can be a financial burden for both the
6 church and clergy and believe this assistance will help ease the transition. Upon District
7 Superintendent's approval, the program may provide a six-month grant of up to \$5,700 in 2023 and
8 \$5,952 in 2024. This one-time grant is to provide assistance with six months of health care coverage
9 as part of a clergy's transition to a new church when the sending and receiving church have adopted
10 differing contributions for dependent coverage or there is a loss of spouse's employer health
11 coverage. Upon eligibility, the grant may also be considered for clergy transitioning to Personal
12 Leave, Sabbatical, Family Leave status to bridge health coverage to another plan.
13

14 **FAMILY HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND**

15 The Board of Pensions recognizes that affordable health care coverage is an essential component
16 of an attractive employee benefits package. In the current health care environment, it is evident
17 that some clergy's health care family coverage premium payroll deductions make up a significant
18 portion of their salaries. To assist, the Board of Pensions has established a grant fund using the
19 2016 HealthFlex dividend to assist clergy whose salaries are near the minimum threshold and
20 paying for a significant portion of their salaries as a payroll deduction to provide healthcare for their
21 families (P+ Family Rate). This fund will provide grants to align healthcare costs for clergy with the
22 current P+1 tier cost based on the default plan (C2000). In 2023, the family grant amount is \$666
23 per month or \$7,992 annual (the difference of the family rate at \$2,475/month and the P+1 rate of
24 \$1,809/month). In 2024, the family grant amount will be based on the default plan (C3000) of \$667
25 per month or \$8,004 annual (the difference of the family rate at \$2,478/month and the P+1 rate of
26 \$1,811/month). These grants require a District Superintendent's approval and application grant
27 request demonstrating need-based eligibility.
28
29

30 **2024 CHURCH HEALTH BENEFITS DIRECT BILLING**

31 In 2024 churches will continue to be invoiced for eligible active clergy participants under full-time
32 appointment and eligible enrolled lay employees:

- 33
34 - The HealthFlex Premium Credit (PC) for each eligible full-time enrolled clergy or enrolled
35 lay employee.
36 - The Rio Grande Legacy Fund will continue to provide contributions to eligible legacy
37 churches for full-time clergy enrolled in the HealthFlex Plan (individual clergy premium).
38 - Additional contributions will be direct invoiced for benefits including any election above
39 the PC, the cost of dependent coverage, Optional Term Life Insurance, HSA personal
40 contributions and the Flexible Benefits Plan funded by payroll deduction
41

42 **2024 HEALTHFLEX INDIVIDUAL PREMIUM CREDIT**

2024 Individual Premium Credit (PC)

	Monthly Contribution	Annual Direct Bill
Active Clergy	\$ 992	\$ 11,904
Pre-65 Retiree or Spouse (Age 62-64)	\$ 992	\$ 11,904
Medical Leave with CPP (Max 24 Months)	\$ 992	\$ 11,904
Conference Lay Employees	\$ 992	\$ 11,904

43
44
45 Each eligible active full-time clergy will receive a monthly individual Premium Credit in the
46 HealthFlex plan of \$992 (funded through their Rio Texas Conference church) and will choose from
47 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 pre-tax 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.

Lay employees of HealthFlex Church Plan Sponsors do not receive a premium credit, allowing churches to set the employee/employer cost-sharing. The church elects' cost-sharing and will be billed on plan selections. A church must be a HealthFlex Plan Sponsor to offer HealthFlex to its eligible full-time lay employees. Please contact the Conference benefit office at 210-408-4500 for information and requirements on plan sponsorship.

2024 HEALTHFLEX RATES – Blue Cross Blue Shield National PPO Network

2024 HealthFlex Plan Options

MEDICAL PLANS	B1000	C2000	C3000	H2000	H2500	H5000
Participant	\$ 1,140	\$ 1,094	\$ 953	\$ 1,067	\$ 916	\$ 860
Participant + 1	\$ 2,166	\$ 2,079	\$ 1,811	\$ 2,027	\$ 1,741	\$ 1,634
Participant + Family	\$ 2,964	\$ 2,845	\$ 2,478	\$ 2,774	\$ 2,383	\$ 2,236

DENTAL PLANS	HMO	Passive PPO 2000	Dental PPO
Participant	\$ 16	\$ 48	\$ 39
Participant + 1	\$ 30	\$ 96	\$ 78
Participant + Family	\$ 53	\$ 144	\$ 117

VISION PLANS	Exam Core	Full Service	Premier
Participant	\$ 0	\$ 8	\$ 14
Participant + 1	\$ 0	\$ 13	\$ 23
Participant + Family	\$ 0	\$ 20	\$ 36

2024 DEFAULT PLAN

The HealthFlex exchange is a passive enrollment. Participants who are currently enrolled in HealthFlex for 2023 will automatically be enrolled in the same medical, dental and vision plans for 2024 if no elections are made during the Annual Election Period. New participants to the HealthFlex plan will be enrolled in the default plans for all of 2024 if no elections are made.

Due to the 2024 Plan design changes, participants in the H1500 will be moved to the H2000 plan, participants in the H2000 will be moved to the H2500 plan, and participants in the H3000 will be moved to the H5000 plan if no selections are made during the Annual Election period. All participants are encouraged to annually evaluate their current and anticipated health care needs and enroll in the plan choices that best match their individual requirements.

2024 DEFAULT PLAN - If no plan selection is made for new enrollees during the Annual Election Period

Medical	C3000
Dental	Dental PPO
Vision	Exam Core

HealthFlex Personal Reimbursement Accounts

1 Eligible full-time HealthFlex participants may participate in the optional participant funded Health
2 Saving Account (HSA), Medical Reimbursement Account (MRA), or Dependent Care
3 Reimbursement Account (DCA) offered as a benefit funded by participant payroll deductions and
4 administered by HealthFlex and HealthEquity.

5
6 **ANCILLARY BENEFITS**

7
8 **Optional Term Life Insurance**

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

12
13 **Retiree Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)**

14 A Retiree Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) is provided by Via Benefits for eligible retirees
15 and funded by apportionments. The HRA is based on the stipend amount received by eligible
16 retirees before December 31, 2013. As of January 1, 2023, there are 42 retirees eligible for an
17 HRA. Eligible retirees must be enrolled in a Medicare Supplement or Advantage plan through Via
18 Benefits (formerly One Exchange) to receive the HRA. To provide sustainability of the HRA benefit
19 and not increase conference benefit plan liabilities and apportionments, the HRA is a fixed amount
20 per eligible retiree and does not increase from year to year.

21
22 Per the 2014 Unification Plan policy, the HRA stipend will not be offered to any other retiree not
23 receiving an HRA as of January 1, 2014 and is a closed participant group. The HRA provides
24 reimbursement for IRS-eligible health care expenses such as Medicare Part B premiums, Medicare
25 supplement plan premiums, and out-of-pocket expenses such as co-pay and deductibles. To
26 receive HRA funds, eligible retirees must submit a claim form to Via Benefits annually for premium
27 reimbursement or as needed for other IRS-eligible expenses.

REPORT VII
2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

28 The 2022 financial statements of the Río Texas Conference are in the process of being audited.
29 The 2022 audit will be included in the 2023 Río Texas Conference Journal.

REPORT VII
2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

	2022 Approved	2022 Actual Unaudited	2023 Approved	2024 Proposed	% Change 2022 vs. 2023	% Change 2023 vs. 2024
Pension & Benefits Apportionment	345,000	345,000	345,000	250,000	0%	-28%
Pension Administration and Grants						
Sources: Apportionment	345,000	335,369	345,000	250,000	0%	-28%
Uses:						
Office	36,500	20,536	36,500	25,949	0%	-29%
Audit	28,500	22,001	28,500	24,220	0%	-15%
Retiree HRA Actuarial Requirement	-	-	5,000	-		-100%
D&O Fiduciary Insurance	31,897	33,276	34,509	35,605	8%	3%
Legal Fees	30,000	6,529	30,000	30,000	0%	0%
Interim Pastoral Support - Disability	22,000	2,396	22,000	16,650	0%	-24%
LTD-Medical Leave & Grants	43,146	-	43,146	18,500	0%	-57%
Basic Life	12,957	10,806	13,345	10,315	3%	-23%
Delinquent Direct Billing	60,000	13,619	54,000	29,800	-10%	-45%
Retiree HRA	80,000	57,374	78,000	58,961	-3%	-24%
Total Uses	345,000	166,537	345,000	250,000	0%	-28%
Excess/(Deficit)	-	168,832	-	-		
Benefit Plans						
Sources: HealthFlex	4,463,000	4,220,032	4,644,000	4,053,650	4%	-13%
HealthFlex Waiver	77,700	80,475	57,000	35,712	-27%	-37%
CRSP - CPP, DC, DB	2,641,383	2,561,333	2,517,964	2,216,658	-5%	-12%
UMPIP / UMPIP-PT	1,082,731	976,864	1,059,607	807,067	-2%	-24%
Flex Plan/HSA	389,272	324,561	357,670	250,981	-8%	-30%
Optional Life	39,325	33,897	36,800	28,372	-6%	-23%
Total Sources	8,693,411	8,197,162	8,673,041	7,392,440	0%	-15%
Uses: HealthFlex Premiums	4,463,000	4,201,196	4,644,000	4,053,650	4%	-13%
HealthFlex Grant	30,000	5,550	51,300	35,712	71%	-30%
CRSP - CPP, DC, DB	2,641,383	2,520,272	2,489,133	2,216,658	-6%	-11%
UMPIP / UMPIP-PT	1,082,731	980,357	1,059,607	807,067	-2%	-24%
Flex Plan- HSA	389,272	320,380	357,670	250,981	-8%	-30%
Optional Life	39,325	34,797	36,800	28,372	-6%	-23%
Total Uses	8,645,711	8,062,552	8,638,510	7,392,440	0%	-14%
Excess/(Deficit)	47,700	134,610	34,531	-		
Other Matters						
Sources: Investment Income						
Wespath -RGC Legacy	401,889	(1,628,489)	426,003	117,783	6%	-72%
Wespath- RTC Invest/Benefit Reserve	141,712	(958,404)	150,215	72,160	6%	-52%
Wespath - RTC Deposit Account	78,570	(329,379)	83,284	24,257	6%	-71%
Total Investment Income	622,172	(2,916,272)	659,502	214,200	6%	-68%
Uses:						
RGC Legacy - Benefits	415,074	396,649	408,891	408,790	-1%	0%
Clergy Family Medical Grant	79,200	38,563	43,200	64,032	-45%	48%
Pre-82 Past Service Rate (PSR)	689	689	710	731	3%	3.0%
Adv. Contribution Past Service Rate	-	-	-	-		

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 Bishop Schnase, Río Texas Annual Conference family, greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus
2 Christ. Since last we met the Board of Ordained Ministry has been at work identifying, assessing, and
3 equipping clergy leaders for effective and fruitful ministry. Despite the challenging times and circumstances
4 our denomination and conference is going through, this Board has continued to diligently strive to complete
5 our tasks in a Godly and equitable manner. We thank God for the grace that has enabled us to improvise
6 and innovate in order to continue our work with faithfulness.

7
8 The purpose of our credentialing work is to identify persons that have demonstrated the five qualities of a
9 missional leader: ethnic and cultural proficiency; a heart for evangelism; faith in their calling from God;
10 ability to develop and equip missional leaders; and catalytic capacity.

11
12 This year we recommend the following candidates for commissioning as Provisional Elders: Patrick
13 Jackson, Cody Logan and Katie Toalson; and the following candidates for commissioning as Provisional
14 Deacons: John Hathaway and Monica O'Donnell; and the following candidate for Associate
15 Member: Cynthia Bun Jackson; and the following for full membership and ordination as Deacon: Randolph
16 Knighten; as Elders: Russell Bowlin, Curtis Davis, Jacqueline Freeman and Jason Surdy.

17
18 We are grateful for the sacred work entrusted to us. We ask your continued prayers as we seek to be faithful
19 in fulfilling our responsibility on behalf of the Annual Conference.

20
21 Grace and peace,
22 Rev. David E. Payne, Chairperson

NOMINATIONS REPORT

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

23 Greetings Rio Texas Conference in the name of the Lord!

24
25 This annual conference we will be electing leadership to fill a few open vacancies in several of our boards
26 and committees. They will be elected for one year. This report is intended to lay out the basic nominations
27 process for the upcoming conference in Corpus this June. Again, this conference year we will just be
28 replacing a handful of positions and not the entire slate. We will elect a full slate of Rio Texas Conference
29 leadership after the upcoming General Conference in June 2024.

Nominations Process

30
31 This nominations process will align with our Standing Rule #8 and the Book of Discipline. The Committee
32 on Nominations shall work toward the goals of inclusiveness as set forth in ¶ 610.5 in the 2016 Book of
33 Discipline.

34
35 The conference Committee on Nominations met to consider filling vacancies lifting possible candidates
36 while considering gifts, gender, ethnicity, clergy, and lay.

37
38 Report 1 will occur Friday morning with the names coming from the nominating committee. Those
39 individuals nominated have already been ask and said yes to serving if elected.

40
41 Nomination from the floor will occur in the following manner:
42
43

1 A table will be place in the back of plenary session where any delegate can fill out a form nominating
2 someone to fill an open slot on a board or committee.

- 3 1. The person being nominated must say yes to the possibility of serving before their name is
4 submitted.
- 5 2. The person nominated must be a member of a church of the Rio Texas Conference or clergy of
6 the Rio Texas Conference.
- 7 3. Forms must be completely filled out and with legible writing.
- 8 4. You must indicate on the form which position you are nominating for.
- 9 5. Submit your nomination at the table in box marked "Nominations Box".
- 10 6. Nominations will cease 4pm on Friday June 9.

11 Nominating Committee will gather to organize the slate once nominations cease.

12
13 Nominations from floor will not occur for the board of ordained ministry.

14
15 Nominating Committee will meet to prepare Report 2 for consideration on Saturday morning June 10.

16
17 Grace,
18 Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez
19 Assistant to the Bishop
20 Director of Connectional Ministries

**TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES VISION TEAM / MISSION, SERVICE, AND JUSTICE
MINISTRIES
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

21 **Transforming Communities Vision Team**

22 Now in its seventh season, the Transforming Communities Network (TCN), operating under the
23 Transforming Communities Vision Team (TCVT) and the office of Mission, Service & Justice Ministries,
24 has begun our 2023 cohort training. The long work of TCN is community transformation and it begins
25 when local congregations nominate and affirm small groups representing their congregation and
26 community who are willing commit to a nine-month course of study, which will include practical
27 community-based exercises and ultimately, a project they communally feel called to pursue. Increasingly,
28 we celebrate stories of congregational and community redemption and vitalization as local congregations
29 gain a clearer understanding of their called identity and mission. In its seventh year, we also celebrate the
30 evolution of cohort participation, some participants in 2nd and 3rd generation expression with expanded
31 aspiration and reach, both breadth and depth. To facilitate continued missional development and growth,
32 TCN is now in the design and development phase of facilitated support for next generation community
33 transformation endeavors.

34
35 Harvesting stories is an effective method of assessing missional endeavors and measuring community
36 transformation. At Annual Conference this year, TCVT will host a booth equipped to record individual and
37 congregational reflections as it regards calling, passion, and energy for mission and ministry in our
38 current moment. It is discovery, and we believe it will help guide future connections and missional
39 development.

40
41 The annual Mission Breakfast, hosted by Transforming Communities Vision Team, will implement
42 elements of TCN training this year to provide a venue for a Conference-wide conversation with project
43 development. It is our hope the exercise will offer clarity of focus and missional purpose as we move

1 through the pain of congregational disaffiliation Conference-wide, and lean into our future, full of
2 possibilities. Because the work of TCN is highly connectional and breakfast participants will come from
3 every corner of our Conference, we anticipate at least a few missionally aligned projects will emerge that
4 will strengthen our communities, our congregations, and our connection.

5
6 In the Rio Texas Conference mission field, the common theme emerging from colleagues and
7 congregants committed to The United Methodist Church, is one of new determination to emerge from this
8 season of collective loss with greater missional clarity and stronger missional connection. May it be so.

9
10 Respectfully Submitted, Cynthia Engstrom - TCVT Chair

11
12
13 **Mission, Service, & Justice Ministries** continues emerging to be organized in three areas of focus:

14
15 **1. Community Health & Wellbeing**

16 *Seek peace and well-being for the city where I have sent you into exile and pray to the LORD on*
17 *its behalf; for in its peace (well-being) you will have peace. - Jeremiah 29:7 AMP*

- 18 ▪ Transformational Communities Network
- 19 ▪ Missions & Community Engagement
- 20 ▪ Disaster Response
- 21 ▪ Poverty Simulations / Poverty Alleviation
- 22 ▪ Global Health / Social Determinants of Health & Advocacy for Vital Conditions of Health

23
24 **2. Creation Care & Justice**

25 *So, the LORD God took the man [He had made] and settled him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate*
26 *and keep it. - Genesis 2:15 AMP*

- 27 ▪ Cultivation of a Creation Care Network within the Rio Texas Conference
- 28 ▪ Resource Development
- 29 ▪ Creation Care Mapping
- 30 ▪ Environmental Advocacy

31
32 **3. Migration & Border Realities**

33 You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the soul [the feelings, thoughts, and concerns] of a
34 stranger, for you were strangers in Egypt. - Exodus 23:9 AMP / For I was hungry, and you gave Me
35 something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me
36 in; - Matthew 25:35 AMP

- 37 ▪ Border Point Ministries of Welcome & Hospitality
- 38 ▪ Colonia Ministries & Realities
- 39 ▪ Methodist Border Friendship Commission
- 40 ▪ Justice For Our Neighbors & Justice For All Immigrants Legal Support Ministries
- 41 ▪ The Border Collaboration Network
- 42 ▪ Advocacy

43
44 These areas of focus intersect and cross-reference in various ways and reflect active and emerging
45 mission and ministry realities within the Rio Texas Conference region. Statistics self-reported by local
46 churches in 2022 indicate that conference-wide, 889,033 persons were served by community ministries
47 for outreach, justice, and mercy offered by local churches. The ways local churches engage their
48 communities varies as these details of the means of engagement are not qualified in the reporting. Even
49 so, it may be safe to assume that these ministries of outreach and engagement may flow out of the

1 named areas of focus: ministries such as feeding programs, health and wellness ministries, community
 2 gardens, and responding to the needs of asylum-seekers.
 3

Year		20.a Number of mission teams sent from the local church	20.b Number of persons sent out on mission teams from the local church	21 Total number of community ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy offered by the local church	21.a Of the ministries counted in Column 3, how many focused on global / regional health?	21.b Of the ministries counted in 21, how many engaged in ministry with the poor / socially marginalized?	22 Number of persons from the congregation serving in mission / community ministries	23 Number of persons served by community ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy
1	2015	82	1,112	n/a	n/a	n/a	18,714	677,004
2	2016	101	1,217	n/a	n/a	n/a	25,258	660,583
3	2017	182	1,514	5,726	1,721	3,770	42,059	849,230
4	2018	122	1,144	2,044	731	1,638	28,267	902,994
5	2019	122	1,203	2,372	695	2,714	29,741	986,992
6	2020	62	270	1,869	684	1,450	21,681	850,380
7	2021	45	233	1,643	672	1,289	23,478	943,625
8	2022*	56	553	1,954	837	1,420	27,796	889,033

4
 5 *initial data 03/17/2023; to be checked verified, and finalized July 2023
 6

7 **Community Health & Wellbeing**

8 In 2022, the **Transformational Communities Network [TCN]** trained four church teams in the foundational
 9 theology and principles of Shalom and the use of asset-based community development tools as means of
 10 discovering more deeply the gifts and resources in their church's geographic communities. The teams have
 11 each developed community engagement projects using TCN seed funding. Project profiles are:

- 12 1. Schertz / Universal City / Bracken - *Tri-church Community Outreach*: Three churches are joining
 13 together with the community to create a community resource center.
- 14 2. St. Mark Lockhart / Corinth Dale - *Clean It Like You Mean It, Jesus Surely Does*: Connecting to
 15 community residents through providing needed cleaning supplies and personal hygiene products.
- 16 3. Hays / Travis County Team Buda - *Mental Health Outreach Initiative*: Improving access to mental
 17 health awareness and care by our service population.
- 18 4. El Mesias / FUMC Floresville - *Lodi Community Outreach*: To bring services and activities that can
 19 help build up relationships with the community that is around El Mesias UMC and, through them,
 20 show our love for our neighbors in an integral way.

21
 22 The TCN 2023 training season began March 2 with teams from Westlawn UMC, E.T. Dixon UMC, and
 23 Alamo UMC – San Antonio. Individuals are now able to register and participate in the training that could
 24 lead to organizing for bringing in teams to be trained in 2024. Disaffiliation considerations of congregations
 25 from the UMC may be causing some distractions and preoccupation for local congregations whereby
 26 impeding their focus and commitments to community engagement.

27

1 The TCN Development Team is working to amplify its connections within the Rio Texas Conference in 2023
2 through the goals of:

- 3 1. Capacity Building through equipping congregational leaders with skills, tools, and technologies to
4 engage and develop their geographic communities.
- 5 2. Convening by bringing UMC lay and clergy together who are actively engaged with their
6 communities beyond the walls of the church to connect with each other and to share wisdom and
7 lessons from the community.
- 8 3. Connecting to discover and learn how God is at work across the Rio Texas Conference through
9 various organizations and initiatives and invite connection and collaboration that enhances each
10 mission and strengthens our unity.
- 11 4. Contextualizing TCN so that congregations will receive the benefits of TCN tools and methods that
12 are most relevant to that congregation and its community at this specific time.

13
14 In October 2022, TCN convened its first **SHALOM SUMMIT** gathering about leaders for a day of inspiration,
15 conversation, and reflection on what it means to be a prophetic voice for Shalom and Justice in community.
16 The dates for the 2023 SHALOM SUMMIT are October 20 & 21 to be held at Travis Park UMC San Antonio.
17 *Shane Claiborne* is the featured speaker. The SHALOM SUMMIT seeks to connect practitioners of shalom
18 and grow their capacity for shalom-making with the hope that practitioners will (re) discover their connection
19 to other shalom-makers and experience a renewed hopefulness about the work ahead.

20
21 The work of shalom is a complex and life-long journey with relationships at the core. It is work that is
22 challenged by the era of enormous isolation in which we live and by an overdependence on systems and
23 institutions to solve problems and meet needs. Shalom is fostered by a culture of care that emerges when
24 neighbors are connected, and communities are restored. The Transformational Communities Network
25 invites you to join with others across the Rio Texas Conference as we experience a conversation that
26 inspires possibilities for the future of our communities—a future grounded in a shared vision for the common
27 good.

28
29 In 2023, TCN is working to amplify its reach amongst RTC congregations through connecting via webinars,
30 storytelling sessions, and listening sessions with local church leaders seeking to engage their communities.
31 The inspiration of the *asset-based community development* [ABCD] philosophy and principles are alive in
32 region of the Rio Texas Conference and Methodist Healthcare Ministries as demonstrated through the
33 evolving work of TCN, MHM Prosperemos Juntos, and The New Wineskins Initiative. Collaboration is an
34 ongoing process through the increased emergence the connecting and networking of these three ABCD
35 approach-based entities. TCN is actively connecting and seeking to collaborate more fully with these
36 entities.

37
38 Other connection points of seeking the health and wellbeing of communities are reflected through:

- 39 ▪ **Global Ministries Abundant Health Network** offering a monthly networking session the 1st
40 Wednesdays at 6pm Central via Zoom connecting persons interested and involved in Abundant
41 Health ministries and activities.
- 42
43 ▪ **RTC Disaster Response Ministry** providing UMCOR funding responding to Unmet Needs request
44 responding to homes damaged by the hailstorm in D'Hanis. There is a monthly opportunity for
45 volunteers to verify cleaning kits There is also a call for Hygiene Kit donations.
- 46
47 ▪ **RTC Volunteers-In-Mission** is in a state of getting reorganized. The immediate need is to identify
48 coordinators in the districts to form the conference VIM infrastructure to mirror the conference
49 Disaster Response infrastructure. This will assist in identifying VIM teams within RTC to respond
50 to ongoing long-term recovery needs. RTC VIM Coordinator is developing a mission trip opportunity
51 to Cuba, December 2-16, 2023.

- 1 ▪ **Global Ministries UMCOR Responses** through local church giving which contributes to UMCOR
2 response domestically and globally to tornado destruction in the Mississippi Delta, to earthquakes
3 in Turkey and Syria, and to refugee and asylum-seeking migrant needs in various parts of the world
4 and at the southern border. Continued support for UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response Advance
5 #901670, UMCOR International Disaster Response Advance #982450, and UMCOR Global
6 Migration Response Advance #3022144 is greatly appreciated.
- 7
- 8 ▪ **South-Central Jurisdiction MISSION ACADEMY** gathered at Laurel Heights UMC San Antonio,
9 February 26 – 28, 2023. Bishop Schnase was the featured speaker offering three border crossing
10 story / conversation moments – *The Baptism, The Airport, and The Wedding*. There were various
11 workshops offered on the topics of outreach, missions, and disaster response ministries. There
12 was a panel presentation on migration where participants heard from the experiences of those
13 leading border response ministries from Del Rio to Brownsville.
- 14
- 15 ▪ **Poverty Simulation** During Annual Conference 2022, a Poverty Simulation was offered as one of
16 the Learn and Serve Mission Opportunities. Participants expressed interested in hosting and
17 conducting a poverty simulation in their region. MSJ Ministries is working to coordinate regional
18 poverty simulation opportunities beginning in Fall 2023. The goal is to work with congregations to
19 host regional Poverty Simulations with the conference to promote poverty awareness, increase
20 understanding, inspire local change, and transform perspectives. Our conference region has higher
21 poverty rates within Texas.
- 22
- 23 ▪ The **Harvest Sunday Offering** will be paused for 2023. The Transforming Communities Vision
24 Team will move into a time of discernment and inquiry and study for community needs assessment.
25 The 2022 Harvest Sunday Offering yielded \$4,126.84.

26 **Creation Care and Justice**

27 In November 2021, the United Methodist Creation Justice (UMCJ) Movement offered a series of zoom
28 workshops on organizing Annual Conference creation care ministries led by Rev. Pat Watkins. By the end
29 of the workshops, Abel Vega, Director of Mission, Service & Justice Ministries, and Rev. Mark Brechin
30 began to envision what this type of ministry might look like in the Rio Texas Conference. During the annual
31 conference of 2022, a Creation Care Cohort was announced led by Rev. Brechin to begin building the
32 foundation of a Creation Care Team. The Cohort ended in January of 2023 and the RTC Creation Care
33 Connection (CCC) was formed.

34

35 The RTC-CCC has been meeting monthly with participants in the Rio Texas, New Mexico, and Central
36 Texas Conferences. While this ministry is still taking shape, the CCC is actively promoting the General
37 Board of Missions EarthKeeper program and networking with the nationwide UMCJ Annual Conference
38 group as well as the UMCJ Southcentral Jurisdictional group. Our goal is to assist local churches, districts,
39 and the conference work toward the goal of Net-Zero by 2050 (a goal endorsed by various Boards and
40 Agencies as well as the Council of Bishops).

41

42 Since 2019, several Rio Texas Conference disciples have become EarthKeepers having gone through the
43 General Board of Global Ministries creation care and justice training program. Within the conference, there
44 are various ways congregations over the years have engaged in Earth Day and the Festival of God's
45 Creation activities. Two churches in San Antonio have installed solar panels and have active testimony of
46 the benefits of the use of green technology. Other churches are engaging in community gardening.

47

48 Earth Day is April 22 and is annually observed since 1970. It was a day that drew attention to the increasing
49 amounts of air pollution in the U.S. due to the inefficiency of leaded gas-using automobiles. In 1990, Earth
50 Day propelled to be observed globally, which led to the convening of the United Nations Earth Summit in
51 Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Today, Earth Day is a day of action to change human behavior and create global,
52 national, and local policy changes to combat climate change.

1
2 Akin to Earth Day, the United Methodist Church celebrates the Festival of God’s Creation, generally the
3 first Sunday to April 22. The Festival of God’s Creation is celebrating God's gracious work in creating the
4 earth and all living things. Over the years, congregations have celebrated God’s creation through worship
5 and various ways of connecting to God’s creation. The UMC provides worship and learning resources that
6 enhances our discipleship as stewards of God’s creation.
7

8 Recent activity examples are:

- 9 ▪ Northern Hills UMC San Antonio celebrated Earth Day inviting the community to explore their
10 Beatitudes Prayer Walk along with various workshop and demonstration learning opportunities.
11 NHUMC, the first church in the state of Texas to be designated a Sacred Grounds site with the
12 National Wildlife Federation.
- 13 ▪ Las Misiones District held a Creation Care Festival at Impacto Comunitario San Antonio bringing
14 together the local and UMC communities in the area for connection and learning about caring for
15 God’s earth.

16
17 As the Rio Texas Conference Creation Care Connection continues, CCC looks to connect with what local
18 churches may be doing or wish to do in this realm.
19

20 **Migration and Border Realities**

21 The **Addressing Migrant Needs Project** offers support to border-point ministries in providing hospitality
22 services to migrants and refugees. Methodist Healthcare Ministries has provided \$500,000 for this 1-year
23 project supporting the operational work of six border-point ministries: Del Rio Val Verde Border
24 Humanitarian Coalition, Eagle Pass Mission Border Hope, Laredo Holding Institute, El Valle District
25 Immigration Ministries [servicing Humanitarian Respite Center McAllen, Good Neighbor Settlement House,
26 & La Posada Providencia], and San Benito La Posada Providencia.
27

28 Numbers are now low due to recent border enforcement actions. Del Rio Val Verde Border Humanitarian
29 Coalition, Eagle Pass Mission Border Hope, and Laredo Holding Institute all display a high degree of
30 organizational growth through receiving and offering welcome, hospitality, respite / shelter and logistical
31 support to the high numbers of arriving asylum seekers. Each of these border point ministries are in
32 conversation, cooperation, and coordination with

33 Customs and Border Patrol as migrants are received. Eagle Pass Mission Border Hope is exploring
34 expansion to a larger facility in preparation once Title42 is lifted.

35 La Posada Providencia is in the process of needed expansion through the building of new housing units
36 and community building. The next step of this project is to begin documenting out border story offering
37 testimony of the churches response of welcoming the sojourner historically to present day. This will be
38 reflected through interviews and written reflections.
39
40

Mission Border Hope Eagle Pass 2022 Asylum Seeking Migrant Arrivals

Month	Adults	Children	Total
January	3,572	12,498	5,070
February	1,282	658	1,940
March	7,522	1,459	8,981
April	8,132	1,347	9,479
May	10,783	1,704	12,487

June	9,233	1,402	10,635
July	11,472	2,214	13,386
August	13,018	1,639	14,657
September	12,727	2,090	14,817
October	12,362	2,040	14,402
November	13,975	1,750	15,725
December	16,389	3,149	19,538
TOTALS	120,467	20,950	141,417

1 **The Border Collaboration Network Monthly Webinar** is held on the 3rd Tuesday / month at 2:30 pm
2 Central via ZOOM. This monthly gathering connects persons, ministries, and organizations actively
3 supporting asylum-seeking migrants and refugees with emphasis on evolving humanitarian response
4 infrastructures in the areas of hospitality, sponsorship and accompaniment, legal services and policies, and
5 advocacy. Remaining 2023 Webinar Dates: June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, and
6 November 21. Through the participation of practitioners in the monthly webinars, a defined **Shelter**
7 **Hospitality & Advocacy Network** has evolved. This network meets twice monthly and reflects shelter and
8 hospitality entities working at the Southern and Northern border and in the interior U.S.

9

10 **Immigrant legal support services** within Rio Texas continues to grow through the ministries of Justice
11 For Our Neighbors – Austin and Justice For All Immigrants – San Antonio and Corpus Christi. Both JFON
12 and JFAI ministries are part of the national Immigration Law and Justice Network, formerly National Justice
13 For Our Neighbors.

14

15 **Rio Texas Conference – New Mexico Conference Border Connections** – Conversation and connection
16 has begun with the New Mexico Annual Conference Border Ministries Committee to discuss border
17 response of the respective conferences. Immersion visits to each conference borderlands are projected.

18

19 Respectfully submitted,
20 Abel Vega
21 Director of Mission, Service, and Justice Ministries

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

22 **“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm**
23 **you, plans to give you hope and a future.”** Jeremiah 29:11

24 The landscape of our conference is changing, and yet there is hope all around. While we cannot fully see
25 what the future holds, we trust that God has future plans to prosper Rio Texas and the United Methodist
26 Church. Amen and amen.

27

28 **Creating Congregations**

29 In this season of disaffiliation, we will be looking to create new communities of faith to both hold UMC
30 memberships for those individuals who wish to remain United Methodist as well as reaching out to growing
31 communities. The District Superintendents leave a letter with laity of a church after a disaffiliation vote
32 passes. A QR code leads to a form a family can fill out and the information comes to my office. I contact
33 each family as I receive the information. Laity can also find this form on the riotexas.org website under “We
34 are UMC” and clicking on the blue box “Remaining UMC”. At the writing of this report there have been 48

1 households who have reached out officially to remain UMC in 6 different locations. One house church has
2 already started meeting together, outgrew the house and is now renting a meeting space in Seguin. An
3 average of 30 people worship on Sunday mornings with retired pastor Rev. Ron Welborn in the new space.
4 A second community in Marble Falls met on April 17th with 27 people present and another 25 indicating
5 they are interested in learning more. Rev. Cody Logan has been appointed to the Marble Falls plant and
6 will begin working with that community beginning July 1. Two Certified Lay Servants / Lay Ministers have
7 contacted me in the Hondo/Leakey area. This will be one of the first places to potentially dream of what a
8 circuit of house churches might look like. Who might serve in this sort of rural area? How do we not only
9 care for those who wish to remain UM but also reach out to new people? These are the questions we will
10 be working on and the details to be worked out. However, these are the plans I trust God with. This sort of
11 circuit takes us back to our Methodist roots. I trust God will make a way.

12 **Impacto Comunitario** continues to grow and thrive under the leadership of pastora Liliana Padilla as she
13 and her team serve the west side community. Keeping close connections with Westlawn UMC and
14 University UMC, Liliana, Laura Dorantes, and volunteers from University UMC provide many services. Here
15 is Rev. Liliana's report:

16 The Wind of the Lord that moves to Impact the Community!

17 ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where
18 it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." John 3:8

19

20 During the annual conference in June 2020, we began with the dream of Impacto Comunitario, with the
21 vision of working with our local Churches. But a month later, on July 2nd, we visited the Divine Grace
22 building, who had had her last service on the 17th of May 2020. It was a building with a lot of potential, and
23 I began to call it something it was not yet, but what it could be. I visualized those rooms full of people,
24 people learning, children reading, and mothers sharing together. That was what I saw, a space for the
25 community. In June 2022, I moved full-time to serve at Impacto Community Center (formerly Divine Grace).
26 The dream of serving the community came true: we could focus on developing community programs for
27 education, financial growth, and transformation of families.

28 But where to start, that's where the image of the wind comes to me. Every day I just waited for the movement
29 of God and trusted that in that motion, God would bring new opportunities. I was trying to catch the wave
30 of the Spirit, using the resources at hand, and alert to where God was leading me.

31

32 We started the summer with Project Transformation and then English classes. We had meetings on
33 Sundays where we would bring agencies that offer resources to the community, serve plates of hot food,
34 pampers, free clothes, and make time to pray and meditate on the Word. All at once, trying to create a new
35 community. But the question still was how would the dream of serving the community, connecting with
36 families, and helping them connect with resources come true? Rather, how would we be able to connect
37 with the families that remain at home, who do not meet with us? How would we be more effective in
38 transforming the community? At the beginning of August, I still couldn't see it. My mind couldn't structure
39 how this dream would be a reality. In the process of planning the Sunday meetings, I planned that on
40 September 11th we would broadcast the Sunday meetings on the radio and serve in person simultaneously.
41 And the theme would be peace (thinking about the commemoration of the attack on the twin towers). So I
42 began to structure what the celebration would be like, and then one of my friends on Facebook connected
43 me and told me they had a friend, and that friend told me they had a friend, and that friend said they had a
44 friend... that's where everything started.

45

46 I meet with Patricia Castillo (Executive Director The PEACE Initiative), Marta Castilla (Instructor of CHW
47 Community Health Workers), and PHD. Eduardo Gándara, Doctor of Public Health from UTSA, who when
48 they heard the vision I had, were so moved that they felt that I was repeating the thoughts and dreams that
49 they also had. So God started working with resources from UTHealth, UTSA, and South Costal AHEC, and
50 made it possible to develop our own team of Impacto Health Promoters.

51

52 We started at the end of September with the first group's training and certification in the State of Texas with
53 13 promoters, and in the month of January 2023, we started two simultaneous training sessions. One

1 session teaches the second level for resource training, and the second group started 18 new promoters on
2 the first level, now to graduating them this April 2, 2023.

3
4 What's next? Where is Spirit leading us?

5 I know that God is clarifying the Impacto mission. Our 31 promoters will have intensive training in English
6 and computing in the Summer, where they can feel more secure.

7 Also in the summer, we want to start a third group, but this time including men. In the month of September,
8 we will begin working with a Health agency to connect our promoters with clients and support the promoters
9 in visiting homes in the community. This will create a support network to connect families in need with
10 agencies.

11 What do I see in the future? Well, a lot of work. We still have 3 half-finished rooms; we have a bathroom to
12 remodel and install showers. We are finishing up the kitchen and dining room, which needs more work, in
13 addition to remodeling the parking lot and basketball court. In the midst of all this work, I dream of opening
14 a community kitchen that works during the week serving food to the community and also installing a
15 workplace for health promoters, a music academy, and a community computer room.

16
17 We have allies who are interested in working with us. One of them is the Community Consulate who is
18 supporting the community plaza in Impacto with laptops and an adult literacy instructor in Spanish. Also,
19 the Collins Garden Library, with whom we plan to work together on community programs for parents and
20 children. In addition, we are continuing to form our integration to 501C3 and thus be able to work to receive
21 resources to continue the ministry of Impacto. We continue to share our faith. We continue to accompany
22 the community in prayer and Bible teaching. We have our Sunday worship services and Bible classes for
23 children where our community feeds their faith and Spirit while also receiving the resources they need. We
24 continue to dream that Impacto Comunitario will become a model Faith Community that sustains itself, and
25 that transforms the community.

26
27 **La Cabana**, under the leadership of Rev. Jose David Mercado, continues to reach the Bellview community
28 in San Antonio with weekly worship on the St. Mark's campus where the cabin is located, outreach ministries
29 to women and children, food resources and other ways to make a difference in this community.

30
31 Rev. Ray Altman continues to do the deep work of creating intentional faith communities with **New**
32 **Wineskins** and had expanded his reach in San Antonio where he and his family relocated. Rev. Altman
33 also is leading clergy cohorts teaching others how to reach deep into their neighborhoods. He has recently
34 partnered with Abel Vega and the Transforming Community Network to share stories and training of how
35 the church and the community are strengthened in this neighboring movement.

36
37 Austin New Church's Hispanic Community **Amor Original** will go completely online as Rev. Soto and his
38 family will be moving back to Chile this summer. While Rio Texas will not be able to continue supporting
39 the ministry financially once his family has left, we will be praying for this important community and stay
40 connected to Rev. Soto.

41
42 Three other churches that are not yet chartered are The Rock UMC , the Journey UMC and Windsong
43 UMC. The Rock UMC moved into their new building last Easter and have done wonderfully their worship
44 attendance is slowly rising. The Rock is perfectly positioned to reach all the new growth at the 1604 / I-10
45 area. The Journey UMC has moved into their more permanent space and continues to grow. Windsong
46 UMC began to re-focus and reach out into the community. They held a Palm Sunday event where 20
47 children and 40 adults celebrated. Praise God! Continue to pray for these three churches as they grow and
48 move toward chartering hopefully in 2023.

49 50 **Lay and Clergy Leadership Development**

51 On April 19th, Bishop Schnase and Rev. Karen Horan hosted a zoom gathering for laity whose church are
52 in discernment or had recently voted to disaffiliate. This zoom gathering was to encourage, empower and

1 inform laity of possible next steps. 65 registered with 51 in attendance. This is the first of three possible lay
2 gatherings. At the writing of this report no dates have been set, but we hope to have one in mid to late May
3 and then another after Annual Conference.

4 Seminary internships have slowed down considerably. We have funds, however, to continue to offer
5 scholarships to churches who engage with seminary students.

6

7 I am so grateful for the ways in which Ralph Thompson, Conference Lay Leader, stays connected with the
8 lay leadership in so many ways. He has been working on an on overnight gathering we hope to complete
9 soon.

10 Lay servant ministries continue to offer courses both in person and online in English and expanding to
11 Spanish (interpretation is always available). Scott Maderer and his team are working hard to equip laity for
12 all forms of service in their local church as well as supporting other churches via pulpit supply in Rio Texas.

13

14 Rio Texas clergy have benefited from multiple gatherings with consultant Claire Bowen from Atlanta,
15 Georgia. While we first engaged Claire in the on boarding process, Claire has helped coach some of our
16 large church pastors, engage clergy as they process the complexities of this season of disaffiliation, and
17 how to lead well during these liminal times. We are grateful for our connection with Claire and how she
18 brings wisdom and perspective.

19

20 In March 2022, Rio Texas hosted the SCJ Certification for On Boarding led by Claire Bowen. This is a
21 process where clergy and laity are certified to help bring new pastors “on board” in larger complex systems,
22 unique settings and for cross-racial/cross-cultural settings. Rio Texas has 4 active people certified to help
23 churches on board their pastors which helps strengthen both the church and the pastor often giving them
24 a 6-month head start in their ability to lead well and set goals. Because of this amazing training, 18 churches
25 experienced on boarding in June/July of 2022. These churches and pastors have praised this process and
26 plans are in place to do as many on boardings as possible this summer. This summer we anticipate doing
27 between 18 and 20 on boardings facilitated by 4 certified people in Rio Texas.

28

29 **Vitalizing Congregations:**

30 There has not been much interest in cohorts or learning events since last fall when disaffiliation geared up.
31 While some zoom and in person events have been planned especially around Fresh Expressions, there
32 have been little to no interest. I pray that in the fall of 2023 we can re-focus on mission and leadership
33 development as well as congregational vitality.

34

35 New People New Places Grants continue in 2023. We did not have a single church apply for the first grant
36 cycle in March. We have set a new spring deadline for May 11th and will actively be seeking requests for
37 those churches remaining United Methodist. From July 1, 2022- Dec. 2022, we did grant \$36,000 to six
38 congregations that applied. What a joy to partner with these churches as they reach new people to become
39 more vital in their area! These grants are offered 3 times a year, we pray the funds can be used to the
40 fullest.

41

42 **College / Campus Ministry:**

43 In July 2022, the College / Campus Ministries was handed over to Rev. Miguel Padilla as he came on board
44 the conference staff. He and his team have done a wonderful job!

45

46 May God continue to bless these ministries and the Rio Texas Conference.

47

48 Respectfully Submitted,

49 Rev. Karen Horan

50 Director of Creating /Vitalizing Congregations and Developing Leaders

51 Rio Texas Conference

TEXAS UNITED METHODIST COLLEGE ASSOCIATION
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 The Texas United Methodist College Association exists to advocate for our Texas Methodist college
2 students attending one of the six United Methodist institutions of higher learning in Texas. Gifts received
3 from our Annual Conference partners are passed along to deserving students through the Texas
4 Methodist Scholarship Program. During the 2022-23 academic year, we awarded over \$172,000 in
5 scholarship support through this program to students at Huston-Tillotson University, McMurry University,
6 Southern Methodist University, Southwestern University, Texas Wesleyan University and Wiley College.
7 These scholarships are given on the basis of financial need and oftentimes make the difference in a
8 student attending college and persisting to graduation. The importance of these specific scholarships
9 cannot be overstated especially given the impact on **access** and **affordability** for those who receive
10 these funds.

11 The students receiving support through the Texas Methodist Scholarship Program represent a wide range
12 of vocational interests. Attending United Methodist institutions, they have the opportunity to develop their
13 faith and find a career path leading to a life of service and contribution to the greater good. It is our hope
14 that in supporting our Methodist students at our own institutions that they will contribute to the growth of
15 the Church, whether that be as an ordained minister, in another church-related role or as active laity. By
16 encouraging their exploration of faith, we know that some will enter the ministry – whether that be a direct
17 path out of college to seminary or as second-career ministers, which is increasingly the norm.

18 On behalf of the Texas Methodist Scholarship recipients, we would like to express our appreciation to the
19 Texas Conference for your continued generous support of this vitally important program. To learn more
20 about the Texas Methodist Scholarship Program, the impact on students, and the Texas United Methodist
21 College Association, please visit www.tumca.net.

22 Gratefully,
23 **Michael Hutchison**
24 **President, TUMCA**

CONFERENCE STAFF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (EDI) AND YOUNG PEOPLES'
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

25 Mark 6:7-9 is a constant reminder that I am not alone in ministry. During my faith journey, I have had many
26 people who prayed, supported, mentored and encouraged me to always keep faith and trust God. This first
27 year serving with the EDI and Young peoples' Ministry has not been an exception. It feels good to have
28 staff members, pastors and lay members in the local church make themselves available to create space for
29 younger generations and meaningful conversations about EDI.

30

31 This was a transitional year. I participated in EDI course to get myself acquainted with this important work.
32 I visited and had conversations with all Campus Ministers to listen and learn. I hosted coffee time with Youth
33 coordinators. I visited some District "Pastors and Professional" meetings to connect with Youth coordinators
34 to learn and listen to what awesome things they are doing across our Conference. I learned many great
35 things and opportunities.

36

37 **Youth Camp.**

38 I celebrate Bonnie Bevers' ministry. She continues to work with the Youth Ministry Council (YMC) and
39 coordinates full participation in the Rio Texas Conference events. She ensures representation from Rio
40 Texas conference youth at the national event **Youth 2023** Daytona, FL. YMC report will share more details.

1 Our dream, Bonnie and mine, is moving from securing youth representation at Annual Conference to an
2 opportunity to develop Youth leaders who will help plan and execute Conference camps, as well as
3 participation in Districts and local churches events in ministry. We have identified five pastors/youth
4 coordinators, one from each district, that will help us to develop this plan. I thank Bonnie and these
5 passionate individuals who will help us: first to connect with ministries in the local church and then to create
6 opportunities for our Youth in the local church, district, and the Conference so they can be the leaders our
7 churches need now.

8
9 Three districts hosted Mid-Winters, each camp was unique in leadership, themes, and location. However,
10 all three were the same as they welcomed youth from everywhere in our conference. The district leaders
11 collaborated in order to have a meaningful time together, and all sought to bring their best so youth will
12 have an encounter with God and make new friends. I celebrate their cooperation and work to enhance the
13 efforts of local churches rebuilding back their youth ministry. We are getting ready to host two Conference
14 camps during the summer at [Palacios TX](#), July 2 -7 and [Buda TX](#), July 9 - 13. Our goal is to host people
15 from all over our conference area and to renew our faith as we witness to one another the diversity of gifts
16 we have. I invite everyone to bring your youth to any of these events and start making new connections
17 through these opportunities.

18 19 **Campus Ministry**

20 I had the blessing of meeting 10 campus pastors working in 9 locations. As the students are returning to
21 classrooms and dorms, Campus Pastors are looking to do ministry in creative ways. I am happy to learn
22 that Rev. Dr. Todd Salmi, in collaboration with other campus ministers from across our jurisdiction, is hosting
23 conversations about ministry in the post-pandemic to hear more details and supporting this effort you can
24 contact Rev. Dr. Todd.

25
26 This year, some campuses had EDI work or similar conversations. Texas State University hosted a
27 conversation with students and community members led by “Be The Bridge” facilitator. The event was
28 aimed to foster difficult conversations and invite people to continue doing self-work to identify some of the
29 preconceptions and misconceptions we have about one another. UT Wesley had the blessing to do a civic
30 right pilgrimage during Spring Break. Students and pastors visited locations in Alabama and Mississippi
31 and had conversations with local leaders seeking justice for their community. All thanks, in part, of the grant
32 from General Commission on Religion and Race and the leadership of Rev. David McMinn.

33
34 We hosted two Zoom meetings with all Campus Ministers to share ideas and collaboration. All campus
35 leadership benefitted and collaborated to create new opportunities for students. To hear more details on
36 what each campus does, do not miss the opportunity to visit the Campus Ministry booth in the Ministry
37 marketplace during Annual Conference. We celebrate the incorporation of three new campuses: Texas
38 A&M in Kingsville, TX, Schreiner University in Kerrville, TX and UTRGV in Brownsville, TX. Our dream is
39 to create relationships with more campuses across our conference and have at least one campus ministry
40 in each District. I encourage you to connect your High school students, especially seniors, or college
41 students with any of the Conference campus ministries, and support campus ministry with your prayers,
42 presence and monetary gifts. You can find the contact information for each campus or pastor at:
43 riotexas.org/campus-ministry

44 45 **Equity, diversity, Inclusion (EDI)**

46 The Bishop’s Task Force celebrates the election and consecration of Bishop Laura Merrill during the past
47 Jurisdictional Conference. She is a former member of this team. I am thrilled to work alongside a group of
48 diverse pastors, lay members of the conference, and the consultant Dr. Pamela Benson Owens. More
49 details about their work and future plans will be shared in their report.

50
51 The Uniting Peoples Vision team finally met twice, via Zoom. We are in the process of getting to know each
52 other and each member is making connections with diverse ministry groups to start conversations and
53 create a better network of communication between ministries in the conference. I give thanks to the

1 leadership of Rev. Nohemi Ramirez, chair of the vision team, and the whole team who are committed and
2 making plans to advocate for diversity and inclusion in The Rio Texas Conference.

3
4 I give thanks to God for placing leaders who are committed to the kingdom of God. I am not walking alone;
5 I have fellow workers committed to the United Methodist Church mission. My goal for this year is continuing
6 to strengthen the connection and collaboration among these groups and continue having conversations
7 with people in the mission field to identify opportunities for all ages and continue expanding the table for all
8 God's children.

9
10 Respectfully Submitted,
11 Rev. Miguel Padilla
12 Conference Staff Equity Diversity Inclusivity
13 and Young Peoples
14 Rio Texas Conference
15
16

INTERGENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

17 It has been another year full of hard and holy work for the Office of Intergenerational Discipleship. I remain
18 committed to journeying alongside faith formation leaders as we all discovered ways to equip and support
19 disciples of Jesus Christ in our constantly changing ethos. Four tasks continue to shape the work of this
20 office: Relationships, Research, Resources, and Leadership Development. Leaning into these four areas
21 of ministry we all continue to discover creative pathways for reaching people of all ages in the many
22 communities within our conference. I am inspired by the creativity, courage, and commitment of our faith
23 formation leaders. It is a joy and an honor to serve alongside each of you as we discover ways to make
24 disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

25
26 Listed below are the many ministries created and offered in response to consistent and intentional research
27 and discernment. I am grateful for the teams of hardworking individuals who make these ministries possible.
28 I do not do this work alone and I give thanks for all the leaders God has gifted who come alongside me and
29 our conference in these efforts.

Connect

30
31 **Connect**
32 Connect was created out of an expressed need for connection, support, prayer, and accountability. This
33 ministry continues to change and thrive as ministry leaders seek connection, support, and resources. In
34 2022 I met with leaders across the connection to connect, listen, and learn as ministry leaders across our
35 conference shared their celebrations, their struggles, and their hopes. My call was renewed as I listened to
36 stories of courage, vulnerability, and faithfulness. The Connect ministry provides monthly opportunities for
37 leaders in faith formation to gather to connect, discuss, share best practices, and pray with and for one
38 another. In 2022 we hosted six guest speakers who spoke on topics requested by members of the Connect
39 community including: including: Sabbath, Faith Formation, Community Outreach, Family Faith Formation,
40 and seasonal ministry preparation and planning. Connect distributes a monthly newsletter to ministry
41 leaders with resources and training opportunities to support them in their ministry. All recordings and
42 resources along with upcoming meetings and offerings can be found at: riotexas.org/igconnect.

Faith Formation Leadership Academy

43
44 **Faith Formation Leadership Academy**
45 Faith Formation Leadership Academy equips faith formation leaders in United Methodist Churches as they
46 guide and support Christ's disciples in the work of loving God and loving neighbor. This digital learning
47 space offers online courses, continuing education units, and a three-year faith formation certification. I am

1 grateful for Rev. Jessica Petersen's leadership on the FFLA ministry team. In the last Annual Conference
2 year, we offered: *Discipleship pathways and Playlists, Approaches to Congregational Learning,*
3 *Intergenerational Ministry, and Teaching the Bible.* We also offer a 24-hour spiritual renewal retreat and
4 monthly cohorts led by experienced ministry leaders within our conference. Special thanks to Rev. Janet
5 Larson, Rev. Leigh Lloyd, and Rev. Candice Parry for their leadership as mentors. The rest of 2023 will
6 bring our 3rd spiritual renewal retreat, two summer courses, *Children's Ministry Elective* and *UMC Theology*
7 *and Doctrine,* and two fall courses, *Ministry for all learning abilities* and *Faith Formation in a Rural Context.*
8 Funded by the Sam Taylor Grant (Discipleship Ministries), FFLA seeks to intentionally connect, train, and
9 support faith formation leaders in the Rio Texas Conference and greater United Methodist connection. The
10 certification includes virtual courses, monthly cohort groups, and annual spiritual retreat and renewal
11 opportunities. This ministry offers development opportunities for new staff and volunteers as well as those
12 seeking to continue their education. More courses including electives in various ministry areas to be offered
13 in coming sessions. More information can be found at rtfaithacademy.com.

14 15 **Family Faith Formation Initiative**

16 2022 brought the beginning of a 5.5 year initiative funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. This grant creates an
17 opportunity for the Rio Texas Conference to partner with other leaders in faith formation as we listen to and
18 learn from parents and caregivers with young children (Ages 0-3yrs). As we listen, we plan to respond by
19 creating resources and experiences for families as they grow in their faith together. We will also share our
20 findings and train ministry leaders so that they can support parents and caregivers of young children in their
21 ministry contexts. Subscribe for updates on this initiative at: <http://eepurl.com/h5Eck1> (new website coming
22 soon).

23 24 **Launch**

25 Launch! faith formation is a series of short videos, podcasts, and curated resources to support and equip
26 ministry leaders for the important work that God calls us to - the work of growing in love of God and neighbor
27 for the transformation of today's world. In a time of uncertainty and change, the church needs adaptive and
28 strategic ministry leaders who will lead with clarity and purpose as they shepherd their communities in the
29 important work of discipleship. I am grateful to work alongside Rev. Christine Hides (UMC Deacon, Northern
30 Illinois Conference) and Rev. Kathy Pittenger (UMC Deacon, Michigan Conference). Together we create
31 and curate these resources to equip and support ministry leaders as a guide for the important work of
32 growing in love of God and neighbor for the transformation of the world. Each playlist has four components:
33 watch, explore, create, and learn more. Your time is valuable! Most of the playlist content takes less than
34 10 minutes to watch, create, or explore. The playlists are designed to be completed on their own, yet also
35 can build on one another. Find us at launchfaith.com.

36 37 **#pictureadvent and #picturelent**

38 Intergenerational, spirit-filled, invitational, and reflective, #picture invites individuals, families, and faith
39 communities to encounter God daily through Scripture, images, and reflection during the holy season of
40 Advent and Lent. With over 3,200 subscribers, we continue to grow as we reach people across our
41 conference, denomination, and world. I am grateful for the many individuals in our conference who have
42 contributed to these daily devotionals with their words, images, and prayers. Join us next time as we
43 pictureadvent.com and picturelent.com together. #Picture is a joint ministry between the Rio Texas and
44 the Michigan annual conferences.

45 46 **Thriving Congregations**

47 The Rio Texas Conference has three churches participating in a 4-year thriving congregations project
48 through a Lilly Endowment Inc. Grant awarded to Vibrant Faith. These churches include: Colonial Hills
49 United Methodist Church in San Antonio, Floresville United Methodist Church, and First United Methodist
50 Church, Victoria. Each church works with their team and joins a monthly Rio Texas Cohort meeting. These
51 churches are coached by Rev. Dr. Campen and resourced by the staff at Vibrant Faith. This last year,
52 teams continued to lead ministry experiments in their community as they ask: "What does it mean to thrive?"
53 I'm excited to see how God continues to work in these communities as they continue to thrive.

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Trusted con Confianza

The Rio Texas Conference is still hard at work creating safe spaces for children, youth, and vulnerable adults as we celebrate 6 years of *Trusted* ministry. We currently have over 4,000 certified adults engaged in fruitful ministry across our conference. Our facilitator team includes 14 facilitators trained to lead certification sessions across our conference. You can find information about our facilitators at: riotexas.org/safefacilitators.

The Trusted Coalition’s training work team continues to receive and review all evaluations, working to update and strengthen the training curriculum. The report of the training work team, chaired by Emily Buchanan (FUMC, Austin), is included at the end of this report. We are grateful for the work of these ministry leaders and their commitment to the safety of the children, youth, and vulnerable adults in their care. Together we are keeping all of God’s children safe.

Other ministry this year

In addition to all these projects, I continue to curate resources and provide training and coaching for faith formation leaders. In the past year, I offered webinars and workshops on Children’s spirituality, Family Faith Formation, Effective Volunteer Ministry, and Faith formation in today’s world. I partnered with Vibrant Faith and Lifelong Faith, two organizations providing resources and trainings to local church leaders. I also continue to visit with churches, conferences, and other faith communities about my book, *Holy Work with Children: Making meaning together*, as they design effective ministries with children in their contexts. Finally, I curate resources for important conversations in our churches and homes alongside playlists for holy seasons including Advent and Lent. All resources can be found at the intergenerational discipleship webpage: riotexas.org/ig

I continue to enjoy my work with faith formation leaders throughout our conference. It is humbling and inspiring to see all that God is doing in and through intergenerational discipleship in our conference. I am grateful to serve alongside each and every member of the conference and look forward to more conversations, collaboration, and fruitful ministry in the next twelve months.

Prayerfully submitted by,
Rev. Dr. Tanya Campen
April 19, 2023

Report from Trusted con Confianza Training Team

Amid concerns raised during Annual Conference 2022 the Trusted training team was asked to review the current Trusted con Confianza three-step process. In response, the team hired research consultants from EffectX to design and implement an in-depth evaluation of the process. The evaluation combined quantitative and qualitative data from interviews and surveys of three groups of stakeholders: Trusted administrators, volunteers, and church employees. The Safety Policy and Step 1 of the Trusted process received high overall average ratings from the respondents. However, the ratings showed a clear decline for steps 2 and 3, suggesting some dissatisfaction or difficulty with these stages. In general, there is a perception that steps 2 and 3 exacerbate volunteer shortages in post-Covid ministry settings. The team is currently evaluating what adjustments can be made to the training process to address concerns from the research, while still adhering to Texas state requirements and the current RTC policy and plans to make a full report with recommendations to the Annual Conference in June.

Prayerfully submitted by,
Trusted con Confianza Training Team
April 19, 2023

UNITED METHODIST MEN
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 On behalf of the leadership of the Rio Texas Conference of United Methodist Men, I bring you greetings
2 and prayers in the name of our Lord and Savior.

3
4 We continue to look for dynamic ways to “Help Men grow In Christ So Others May know Christ”. United
5 Methodist Men are accomplishing the assignment by leading and participating in Bible studies, prayer
6 groups, feeding the hungry, clothing those in need, mentoring children and youth and building projects.

7
8 As some of our Brothers and Sisters depart for another form Methodism we wish them well and keep them
9 in prayer. To our UMC Brothers, we need to continue to strengthen our congregations, support our pastors,
10 build your men’s ministries, strengthen our UMC connection, support your district UMM Presidents and their
11 leadership teams and be leaders in our communities. - Ephesians 4:11–16.

12
13 If you have not done so please renew your Men’s Ministry Charter
14 <https://www.gcumm.org/support/chartering>
15 <https://www.gcumm.org/files/uploads/Charterapp2015.pdf> or online
16 <https://www.gcumm.org/charter-form> .

17
18 Sign up for Every Man Shares Magazine.
19 <https://www.gcumm.org/support/ems>
20 <https://www.gcumm.org/ems-renewal-form> online
21 <https://www.gcumm.org/files/uploads/EMSBrochure2016.pdf>

22
23 If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

24
25 Charles E. McGarity, Jr, President
26 Rio Texas Conference United Methodist Men
27 South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Men
28 cmcgarity_umm@att.net
29 www.riotexasumm.org

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH)
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

30 I knew that when I accepted this position of becoming the Rio Texas Conference United Women in Faith
31 President, it would be a challenge.

32
33 But I knew that our Lord was and is with me.

34
35 Especially during this phase that our United Methodist Church is going through, with Churches
36 disaffiliation, we’re going to lose some members.

37
38 We are happy to say that our Conference paid 100% of our pledges for 2022.

39

1 We are not sure about this year because as I said earlier with ladies withdrawing their membership or
2 Local Units disbanding, it will be hard to accomplish our pledge.

3 We are emphasizing that even if the Church disaffiliates, they are still members of our organization.
4

5 I attended the Texas Legislative Event on January 29-31 in Austin, TX.
6

7 The Co-Chair of the Event Abby Gutierrez invited me to bring one morning Devotional, I was honored to
8 participate in this way. It was a Blessing!
9

10 As the new President, I attended the National Leadership Development Days via Zoom.

11 Rio Grande Endowment Fund: The former Rio Grande Conference had some monies in an endowment
12 fund and some leaders, former members of it, decided that the money will be for scholarships only for
13 members or descendants of members of the former Rio Grande. We created the guidelines and
14 application form. I sent Ann Marie Cantu, our communications coordinator the Guidelines and the
15 Application forms to be posted on our Website.
16

17 We are inviting to our Event of Mission u this July 7-9 in San Antonio; the registration form is in our
18 Website - <https://www.umwriotexas.org/mission-u>
19

20 I belong to the Conference Vision Team Committee and the Uniting Table Committee. We had meetings
21 at the Conference Office, Bishop Schnase talked to us about the sad situation that our Rio Texas United
22 Methodist Church is going through, let's keep praying for our Church in general.
23

24 I'm looking forward to what The Lord has in store for as United Women in Faith!
25

26 Respectfully submitted,
27 Minerva Briones
28 Conference President

RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

29 The mission of United Methodist Disaster Response ministry in the Rio Texas conference is to provide a
30 caring Christian presence in the aftermath of disaster. For the second consecutive year, no major disasters
31 struck within the conference but there was still substantial activity. In calendar year 2022, a small tornado
32 struck in the Georgetown—Pflugerville--Elgin area. Rio Texas ERT teams worked with teams from the
33 Central Texas Conference to do cleanup and debris removal. In early 2023, a devastating ice storm did
34 extensive damage over a large area from just north of San Antonio thru Austin. Much of the work in the
35 disaster was done by individuals working with their neighbors but an ERT team did deploy from Oak Hill
36 UMC in Austin. Finally, in March an ERT team responded to a hail storm in the Hill Top Colonia near Dilley.
37 On the recovery front, work was completed in D'Hanis and Medina County from damage caused by the
38 April 2021 Hail Storm and work continued in the Valley to assist families impacted by Hurricane Hanna and
39 other flooding events during the past three years. For the first time in nearly twenty years, Rio Texas
40 Conference has no active grant from UMCOR.
41

1 Early Response Team training continues but a new format has been implemented that is more convenient
2 for many people. The training is now broken into an online component held one evening during the week
3 and a hands-on component held at various locations Saturday morning. The result is that trainees do not
4 have to give up an entire Saturday to complete the training requirement.

5
6 One of the exciting programs implemented during the past year is “First Saturday at the Warehouse.” The
7 first Saturday of each month is a designated workday at the Martinez Center in Kerrville. Volunteers are
8 invited to come to the warehouse to assist with preparing UMCOR kits for distribution or to do other tasks
9 needed at the time. Individuals and groups from churches arrive at 9:30 and work for two or three hours.
10 Contact Warehouse Coordinator, Rev. Larry Altman, or Conference Coordinator, Eugene Hileman for more
11 information or to schedule your participation. Groups may also schedule a special time that better suits
12 their schedule.

13
14 The disaster response program is being impacted by disaffiliation. Several key members of the Disaster
15 Response Committee belong to churches that are disaffiliating and the same is true of many Early
16 Response Team members. Work to close these gaps has already begun but the committee will meet soon
17 after Annual Conference to plan a path forward to assure that Rio Texas Conference is prepared to respond
18 to disasters within our borders as well as to reach beyond our borders to help others in need.

19
20 Visit the Disaster Response website (Riotexasresponse.org) for more information about all disaster
21 response activities and programs.

MISSIONARIES AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT 2022

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

22 The Rio Texas Conference is well-represented by people responding to God's Call to serve in mission with
23 Global Ministries in 2022:

- 24
25 • **Missionary Support** in 2022: Congregations gave **\$25,811.39 in 2022** to support Global
26 Ministries missionaries who are bringing the Good News across the country and around the world
27 (a **decrease of \$14,910.37**). Many Rio Texas congregations support one of the nearly 193 Global
28 Ministries missionaries serving in over 60 countries.

29 Our very own from the Rio Texas Conference is Rev. Anna Troy, serving as Director of
30 Open Heart Ministries in Clarksburg, WV (<http://openheartwv.weebly.com/>).

31 In 2023 Global Ministries will be introducing the following new Missionaries to our Rio
32 Texas Conference:

- 33 1) Dr. Natalia Manyeza - <https://umcmmission.org/missionary-bio/3022590/> and 2) Dr.
34 Hector Laporta - <https://umcmmission.org/missionary-bio/3022160/>

- 35
36 • **Advance Project Support** Giving: Congregations have also faithfully supported Global Ministries
37 projects by giving **\$53,369.08 in 2022**. This was a **decrease of \$29,015.61** or **35.2%**.
38 • **UMCOR Special Focus Giving**: Congregations supported Global Ministries with their gifts to
39 UMCOR in 2022 of **\$668,762.22** (an increase in UMCOR Giving of **\$274,527.52** or **69.6%**).

40
41 These totals along with missionary support totaled giving to Global Ministries of **\$747,942.69 in 2022**. We
42 recognize Northshore UMC, with gifts to Global Ministries in 2022 totaling **\$36,918.21**.

43
44 If you feel called to become a missionary yourself, please explore the various categories of short-term and
45 long-term adult and young adult mission service opportunities that are described on the Global Ministries
46 website (<https://www.umcmmission.org/serve-with-us/missionaries>)

1
 2 **United Women in Faith** (United Methodist Women) note there are currently five active deaconesses from
 3 and serving in the Rio Texas Conference. They are:

- 4
 5 Tara Carnesi; Direct Care, Sunnyglen Children's Home. San Benito
 6 Sonia Cruz; Bus Operator at VIA Metropolitan Transit, San Antonio
 7 Cindy Johnson; Consultant for La Posada Providencia, San Benito, Texas
 8 Julie Smith; Clinic Coordinator at Smithville Community Clinic, Smithville, Texas
 9 Diana Woods; Social Services Coordinator, Buda UMC

10
 11 Deaconesses and Home Missioners are laywomen and laymen who are called by God to be in a lifetime
 12 relationship in The United Methodist Church in full-time ministries of love, justice, and service. After
 13 commissioning, each person finds his or her own place of employment.

14
 15 The Office of Deaconess has been part of our tradition as a church since 1888. The Office of Home
 16 Missioner was established at the 2004 General Conference. Currently, the Deaconess and Home Missioner
 17 program is administered by the National Office of United Methodist Women.

18
 19 **Blessings, Becky Wright, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries**

SUPPORTING MINISTRIES OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Donor Account Type	Sum of Gift Amount
Grand Total	\$ 747,942.69
Churches	\$ 678,365.69
Individuals	\$ 54,217.00
Organizations	\$ 15,360.00

Missionary Support

Project Name	Sum of Gift Amount
Grand Total	\$ 25,811.39
Guillermo Berman Ramirez	\$ 11,795.55
Anna Troy	\$ 7,562.87
Farat da Silva Mahamane K	\$ 2,000.00
Patrick Abro	\$ 1,848.58
Sara Flores Quinonez	\$ 1,050.00
Jonathan J. Park	\$ 635.00
Gaston Ntambo	\$ 523.78
Didier Monga wa Shakapanga	\$ 500.00
Imourana Bockarie	\$ 230.00
Jeanne Ntambo	\$ 145.84

John Nday	\$ 135.00
Florence Kaying	\$ 110.00
Nancy Augusta Carew	\$ 100.00
Osias Segura-Guzman	\$ 100.00
Tendai Paul Manyeza	\$ 86.00
Catherine Mudim Akale	\$ 85.00
Israel M. Painit	\$ 83.34
Nan McCurdy	\$ 75.00
Genilma Boehler	\$ 50.00
John Calhoun	\$ 50.00
Fuxia Wang	\$ 25.00
Claudia Genung	\$ 1.00
Missionaries - Around the World	\$ (1,380.57)
	\$ 25,811.39

Advance Project Support

Project Name	Sum of Gift Amount
Grand Total	\$ 53,369.08
Lydia Patterson Institute	\$ 9,555.79
Society of St. Andrew	\$ 4,134.83
Moscow Seminary - Scholarship and Academic Support	\$ 4,000.00
Church World Service, CROP Hunger Walk	\$ 3,552.94
Living Gifts: Heifer International	\$ 3,029.96
True Vineyard Ministries, Inc. (Handspun Hope)	\$ 2,936.37
Indigenous Women's Vegetable Gardening and Leadership Project in Guatemala	\$ 2,835.42
Maua Hospital Service Fund	\$ 2,051.52
Shade and Fresh Water	\$ 2,050.00
National Justice for Our Neighbors	\$ 1,733.60
Cookson Hills Center United Methodist Mission	\$ 1,204.00
McCurdy Ministries Community Center (formerly known as McCurdy School)	\$ 1,103.34
House of Hope Children's Home	\$ 1,050.00
Manos Juntas Mexico, A.C. (Hands Together Ministry)	\$ 1,049.00
New Life Center Zambia	\$ 1,000.00
Water for Life	\$ 966.00
House of Mercy Orphanage	\$ 793.00
Africa University Scholarships	\$ 769.60
Native American Children's Fund	\$ 756.00
Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Parish Partners	\$ 724.11
Babyfold at Old Mutare Fairfield Children's Home	\$ 669.00
United Methodist NOMADS	\$ 641.94

Give Ye Them To Eat	\$ 623.98
Hope Center of Latvia	\$ 597.00
Agricultural Resources for Impoverished Farmers in Central America/Caribbean	\$ 500.00
Mountain T.O.P.	\$ 500.00
Four Corners Native American Ministry	\$ 321.00
Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Construction Project Fund	\$ 320.61
Brighter Future Children Rescue Center Program	\$ 275.00
Bethlehem Bible College	\$ 270.00
Women and Community	\$ 250.00
Sierra Leone Water and Development Ministry	\$ 230.00
El Porvenir: Clean Water, Healthy Nicaraguans	\$ 216.00
Agua Viva Serves	\$ 200.99
Ludhiana Christian Medical College & Hospital	\$ 200.00
Belize Methodist High School Scholarship and Construction Fund	\$ 198.44
North Katanga Wings of the Morning	\$ 195.00
Ghana Water Projects	\$ 175.00
University Student Ministries	\$ 166.20
Appalachia Service Project, Inc. (ASP)	\$ 150.00
The Big Garden	\$ 147.00
Africa University Farm Development	\$ 100.00
Aids Orphans and Community Health, Maua Hospital	\$ 100.00
Disability Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church	\$ 100.00
Fresh Water for Central Congo	\$ 100.00
Haiti Children Project	\$ 100.00
Strength For Service	\$ 100.00
Red Bird Mission	\$ 75.00
Birchwood Camp	\$ 73.00
Community Health & Agricultural Development (CHAD-Cambodia)	\$ 55.00
Clinton Indian Church and Community Center	\$ 50.00
Kafakumba Pastors' School and Scholarship	\$ 50.00
Wadi Foquin Narjes Community Development Project	\$ 50.00
Kingdom House Children's Services	\$ 44.00
Faith-Based Advocacy to End Hunger	\$ 43.00
Hope School	\$ 36.00
United Methodist Bible College in Rwanda	\$ 35.44
Appalachian Ministry Network	\$ 25.00
Cross and Key Prison Ministries	\$ 25.00
Red Bird Missionary Conference Church and Outreach Ministries	\$ 25.00
Blackfeet United Methodist Parish	\$ 20.00
Native American Comprehensive Plan	\$ 20.00
	\$ 53,369.08

Global Ministries and UMCOR Special Focus

Project Name	Sum of Gift Amount
Grand Total	\$ 668,762.22
UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery	\$ 479,712.39

UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery	\$ 133,953.50
UMCOR - Where Most Needed	\$ 24,646.57
Senegal Mission Initiative	\$ 9,600.00
UMCOR COVID-19 Response Fund	\$ 7,100.00
UMCOR Sager Brown	\$ 2,862.00
Global Ministries - Where Most Needed	\$ 2,201.00
Anti-Human Trafficking	\$ 1,717.00
Imagine No Malaria	\$ 1,574.06
Eurasia In Mission Together - Russia and Belarus	\$ 1,000.00
Eurasia In Mission Together - Ukraine and Moldova	\$ 1,000.00
Evangelism and Church Revitalization	\$ 1,000.00
World Hunger and Poverty	\$ 804.23
Environmental Sustainability	\$ 377.00
Abundant Health	\$ 325.00
Afghanistan Undesignated	\$ 200.00
UMCOR Global Migration	\$ 125.00
Material Resources	\$ 120.00
Community Developers Program	\$ 100.00
Honduras Mission Initiative	\$ 100.00
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Program	\$ 100.00
World Communion Scholarships	\$ 50.00
Bishop John K. Yambasu Agriculture Initiative	\$ 45.00
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries	\$ 39.47
Children, Poverty, and Violence	\$ 10.00

UMCOR SUNDAY 2022
FOR INFORMATION

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

5

6 In 2022, the total UMCOR Sunday offering from Rio Texas churches was **\$44,598.68**, an **increase of**
7 **\$11,474.63** from the amount collected in 2021.

8

- 9 Capital District – 14 churches; \$5,627.78
- 10 Coastal Bend District – 21 churches; \$6,012.58
- 11 Crossroads District – 42 churches; \$7,197.41
- 12 El Valle District – 9 churches; \$2,646.40
- 13 Hill Country District – 19 churches; \$5,774.30
- 14 Las Misiones District – 27 churches; \$7,692.21
- 15 West District – 10 churches; \$9,648.00

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Special thanks to **First United Methodist Church, Mason, Texas** for giving the largest single congregational offering in 2022 of **\$8,602.00**.

The Methodist Committee on Relief (now UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief) was founded in 1940s to respond to suffering after the onset of World War II. For 80 years it has been the global humanitarian aid and development organization of The United Methodist Church. All UMCOR Sunday receipts help support the small but impactful UMCOR staff who are specialists in disaster response and recovery. Funds also ensure adequate training for emergency response coordinators, construction volunteers, case managers who assist victims of disasters, chain saw gangs, and sheetrock installers. UMCOR’s broad scope of work includes disaster response, refugee ministries, hunger and poverty programs, and sustainable global development projects.

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

Thanks to all the congregations that supported this vital offering in 2022 and made it possible for the United Methodist Church to reach out in caring to our neighbors in need.

Becky Wright, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

ADVANCE GIVING 2022 AND THE FIVE-STAR PROGRAM
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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

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

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

In 2022, 116 Rio Texas Conference churches achieved Five Star mission giving status, a decrease from 2021 of 24 churches in the Rio Texas Conference.

Capital District 13

Austin: Bend
Austin: Bethany

Austin: Northwest Hills
Austin: Oak Hill

Austin: St. Luke
Austin: Tarrytown
Austin: University
Austin: Wesley
Austin: Westlake

Cedar Park: First
Leander
Manchaca
Waco: Latin America

Coastal Bend District 16

Beeville: First
Bishop: First Bruni
Corpus Christi: El Buen Pastor
Corpus Christi: Island in the Son
Corpus Christi: St. John's
Corpus Christi: St. Paul
George West
Goliad: Fannin Street

Lolita
Pettus
Point Comfort
Portland: First
Refugio
Seadrift
Skidmore

Crossroads District 37

Altair: Wesley Chapel
Bastrop
Belmont
Columbus: First Dewville
Edna: First
El Campo: First
Evan's Chapel
Fentress
Freyburg
Ganado: First
Gonzales: First
Gonzales: Henson Chapel
Hallettsville: First
Hope
Louise
Luling: First
Luling: William Taylor
Lytton Springs

Manor
Monthalia
Mossy Grove
Prairie Lea
Richardson-Brown Chapel
Runge
Seguin: First
Seguin: La Trinidad
Seguin: Wesley Harper
Shiner: First
Shiner: Johnson's Chapel
Smiley
Smithville: First
Stevens Chapel
Telferner
Victoria: First
Victoria: Webster Chapel
Yorktown: First

El Valle District 7

Brownsville: First
Edinburg: First
Harlingen: El Buen Samaritano
McAllen: First

McAllen: St. Mark
Mission: First
Rio Grande City: St. John

Hill Country District 13

Bandera
Boerne
Buda
Canyon Lake
Carrizo Springs
Center Point
Hondo

Kerrville: St. Paul's
Marble Falls
New Braunfels: First
New Fountain
Sabinal: First
San Marcos: Jackson Chapel

Las Misiones District 23

Bracken
Bulverde
Devine: First
Floresville
Floresville: El Mesias
Laredo: La Trinidad
San Antonio: Bethel
San Antonio: Chapel Hill
San Antonio: Colonial Hills
San Antonio: East St. Paul
San Antonio: El Divino Salvador
San Antonio: Emanuel

San Antonio: Epworth
San Antonio: La Trinidad
San Antonio: Oak Meadow
San Antonio: Pollard Memorial
San Antonio; Sanford Chapel
San Antonio: St. John's
San Antonio: St. Matthew's
San Antonio: Westlawn
San Antonio: Windcrest
Somerset
Universal City

West District (9)

Art
Barksdale
Brackettville
Rankin

Sonora
Sterling City: First
Veribest

1

116 Total

2

We are grateful to each of these congregations for their generous mission giving in 2021.

3

4

As of March 2023, the following Rio Texas district and conference projects are approved to receive Advance contributions -- and local churches will receive Five Star credit for their gifts -- through December 31, 2023. The projects are listed in the online catalog under the "Admin Services" tab on the conference website.

6

7

8

Capital District

9

Wesley Foundation of Austin

10

Caritas of Austin

11

Austin Habitat for Humanity

12

13

Coastal Bend District

14

Corpus Christi Metro Ministries

15

Mission of Mercy

1 Justice for All Immigrants-Corpus Christi
2
3 Crossroads District
4 Cathedral Oaks Worship and Retreat Center
5 Crossroads District Missions
6 Lighthouse 2911
7 Golden Age Home
8
9 El Valle District
10 Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.
11 Women Together Foundation, Inc.
12 El Valle Ramp Project
13 El Valle District Border Refugee/Immigration Ministries
14 La Posada Providencia
15
16 Hill Country District
17 The Helping Center of Marble Falls Area, Inc.
18 Mission: Border Hope
19 Barnabas Connection
20 United Campus Ministry, San Marcos
21
22 Las Misiones District
23 San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Inc. (SAMM)
24 Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio
25 Mobility Worldwide-San Antonio (formerly PET Project)
26 Wesley Foundation of San Antonio
27 Texas Diaper Bank/Diaper Assistance
28 Magdalena House
29 Justice for All Immigrants-San Antonio
30
31 West District
32 Wesley Trinity Daily Bread Program aka Soup Kitchen
33
34 Rio Texas Conference
35 Methodist Children's Home in Waco (MCH)
36 Kingdom Kamp
37 Mission Service Project
38 Academy for Spiritual Formation Scholarship
39 Methodist Border Friendship Commission
40 U.M. Army
41 Project Transformation
42 Russia/Eurasia Initiative
43 Rio Texas Conference Disaster Response Fund

- 1 Texas Methodist Scholarship Program
- 2
- 3 National Mission Institutions
- 4 Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, Capital District
- 5 Wesley Community Center, Robstown, Coastal Bend
- 6 Wesley Community Center, Corpus Christi, Coastal Bend
- 7 Good Neighbor Settlement House, Brownsville, El Valle District
- 8 Holding Institute, Laredo, Las Misiones District
- 9 Southside Community Center, San Marcos, Rio Texas Conference

10
 11 All district and conference Advance projects must re-apply for listing every quadrennium. As of January 1,
 12 2021, the new Rio Texas Advance catalog for the 2021-2024 quadrennium is online on the conference
 13 website, and approved projects are ready to receive contributions from generous congregations across the
 14 annual conference.

15
 16 Becky Wright
 17 Rio Texas Conference Secretary of Global Ministries
 18

METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOME
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

19 Greetings from Methodist Children’s Home (MCH) and the more than 10,000 children, youth and families
 20 we serve each year. In light of changes occurring in the church, and as an independent 501c3 organization,
 21 your continued voluntary support of our vision to empower all we serve to experience life to the fullest is as
 22 important as ever. I invite each of you to visit our website at MCH.org to learn more about how to refer a
 23 child for placement, or a call to join our ministry.

24 Your support provides the resources needed to offer the care, programs and talented individuals needed
 25 to positively impact the lives of those we serve through residential care on the Waco campus and Boys
 26 Ranch and through 14 MCH Family Outreach offices, including San Antonio and Corpus Christi.
 27

28 We are now in our 133rd year of ministry. Here are some highlights of the past year:

- 29 • The MCH Board of Directors unanimously approved a proposal to begin a master planning
 30 process for the MCH Boys Ranch. This includes expansion of programs and examining how MCH
 31 can be even more effective in meeting the needs of children through residential placement.
 32
- 33 • For the 10th consecutive time since 1986, MCH earned national reaccreditation from the Council
 34 on Accreditation (COA). MCH was evaluated on more than 800 standards, which examined all
 35 areas of our operations.
 36
- 37 • Secured funding for the Stone and Harris Homes on the Waco campus. These homes are the
 38 10th and 11th new additions and complete Phase 4 of the Building Hope Capital Campaign.
 39
- 40 • Raised more than \$900,000 in support of the launch of the 14th MCH Family Outreach office,
 41 which will be located in the Permian Basin and open in 2023.
 42

- 1 • Strengthened the “Together We Flourish” initiative designed to maximize and steward our
2 resources for ministry through collective impact, generosity and support in order to achieve the
3 MCH vision and mission in a greater way. This initiative guides us as we seek out collaborations
4 with other organizations and strengthen the cohesion between our ministry programs.
5
- 6 • Launched a new Emergent Services program with MCH Family Outreach. Emergent Services
7 allows staff to offer referral consultation, assistance and support in an efficient and impactful
8 manner.
9
- 10 • Launched a pilot program to provide free professional counseling services for individuals and
11 families. The program is being through the MCH Family Outreach offices in Abilene and Waco,
12 with hopes of expanding to other MCH Family Outreach locations.
13
- 14 • MCH recognized Stephanie Cummings, residential supervisor on the Waco campus, who
15 received the award for “General Residential Operation Staff of the Year” from the Texas Alliance
16 of Child and Family Services.
17
- 18 • Provided Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training to Bexar County officials for the
19 purpose of ways to apply its principals in the legal community.
20
- 21 • MCH leadership attended the 2022 United Methodist Association (UMA) Conference in
22 Savannah, Georgia. President and CEO Trey Oakley, Vice President for Programs Traci Wagner,
23 and Community Engagement and Training Specialist John Warren, presented at the conference.
24
- 25 • Children, youth and families enjoyed fun summer activities across our residential and Family
26 Outreach programs. Youth participated in faith formation camps, volunteer opportunities and
27 service-based mission trips.
28
- 29 • The MCH football team was named Texas Private School of the Week by Dave Campbell’s Texas
30 Football. The Bulldogs were recognized for their 46-40 win against state champion Wylie Prep in
31 Week 3.
32
- 33 • Dedicated the Florence C. Howard Prayer Labyrinth on the Waco campus. The prayer labyrinth is
34 a space for outdoor worship, personal spiritual growth and contemplation.

35 Our achievements in the past and those yet to come are directly related to the many individuals and
36 congregations throughout our service area, including the Rio Texas Annual Conference, who support our
37 work and ministry through financial gifts, prayers, advocacy and service on the Board of Directors. May
38 God continue to bless MCH and the ministries of the Rio Texas Annual Conference.
39

40 Trey Oakley
41 President and CEO
42
43

AFRICA UNIVERSITY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 United Methodists worldwide celebrated an ‘Ebenezer’ moment in the ministry of Africa University in 2022,
2 marking 30 years of faithfulness, generosity, growth, and impact within and beyond The United Methodist
3 Church.

4 God’s presence and provision in the life of Africa University are evident, thanks to the prayers and generous
5 support of the Rio Texas Conference. Thank you! The Rio Texas Conference continues to lead and grow
6 its investment, delivering 66.45 percent of its share of general church giving to support the day-to-day
7 operations of Africa University. At 83.7 percent overall in 2022, giving to the Africa University Fund (AUF)
8 remained resilient in all five jurisdictions in the United States.

9 Supported by strong missional engagement and investment by Rio Texas United Methodists and church
10 members across the denomination, Africa University embraced new opportunities as it emerged from
11 pandemic-related restrictions in 2022.

- 12 • **Enrollment:** Strategic recruitment and retention initiatives, including blended learning options,
13 technology upgrades, and additional mental health support and financial aid, helped Africa
14 University achieve a total enrollment at 2,791 students in August 2022. Female students comprised
15 58 percent of the student population and 23 African nations were represented.
- 16 • **Academic Growth:** Africa University launched its first new academic unit in almost twenty years—
17 The School of Law—with a pioneer cohort of 20 students pursuing the Bachelor of Laws (Honors)
18 (LLBS) degree program. The institution has five new undergraduate and graduate programs
19 approved for implementation by the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE), the
20 national accreditation and quality assurance agency.
- 21 • **Infrastructure expansion:** Construction of a new residence hall for female students at Africa
22 University is ongoing. Funding to build and equip the facility was provided by the East Ohio
23 Conference (EOC). The EOC’s **Teach * Reach * Bless** campaign raised more than \$1.5 million.

24 Africa University’s year-long 30th anniversary program culminated in October 2022 with a gathering of more
25 than 3,000 people at its main campus in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Amidst the commemoration and joyful
26 thanksgiving livestreamed to the world, the Rev. Dr. Peter Mageto was formally installed as the fifth vice
27 chancellor (president) of the institution.

28 Mageto, a Kenyan and academician specializing in theological ethics, echoed the gratitude of the students,
29 faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni of Africa University for the incalculable sum of answered prayers that are
30 the Africa University story. His inaugural address highlighted the optimism and commitment to purpose that
31 are the foundation of the university’s unfolding vision.

32 “Today, Africa University turns 30. The number 30 is in itself a blessed figure. Thirty was the age of our
33 Lord Jesus Christ when he commenced his ministry here on earth. It gives us great faith to be walking
34 resolutely towards the fourth decade,” Mageto said.

35 Thank you, Rio Texas Conference, for nurturing change leaders and building an enduring legacy through
36 the ministry of Africa University. Let us continue to journey together—learning, leading, and serving God,
37 all the time, everywhere.

38 James H. Salley, President and Chief Executive Officer, Africa University (Tennessee) Inc.
39 & Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
40 Africa University

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 I am profoundly grateful for your partnership, prayers, and support in these challenging times. A year like
2 2022 makes even more relevant BUSTH's historic and ongoing commitments to peace and justice in
3 equipping transformational leaders. We remain hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.
4

5 **BREAKING NEWS:**

- 6 ● **Students:** Our academic year 2022-23 entering class was among our most diverse, with 88 new
7 students enrolling, 34% of whom are international students.
- 8 ● **Faculty:** In September we welcomed three new [faculty members](#): James McCarty, Assistant
9 Clinical Professor of Religion and Conflict Transformation; Eunil David Cho, Assistant Professor
10 of Spiritual Care; and Peng Yin, Assistant Professor of Ethics.
- 11 ● **New Online Degree First Cohort:** BUSTH's first fully online master's degree—the Master of
12 Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL)—welcomed its first students in fall 2022. MARPL
13 seeks students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that creatively engage the
14 challenges of public life. Learn more at bu.edu/sth/marpl.
- 15 ● **Faculty Research:** Prof. Filipe Maia was awarded a Louisville Institute book grant in April, and
16 Prof. Luis Menéndez-Antuña was awarded a grant from the Catholic Biblical Association in
17 August. Other large grants continue to move forward, including the Trauma Responsive
18 Congregations Project led by Prof. Shelly Rambo and supported by the Lilly Endowment, and
19 the Positive Psychology and Formation-Based Flourishing grant led by Prof. Steven Sandage
20 and supported by the Peale Foundation.
- 21 ● **Scholarships:** This year, we announced free tuition for all residential master's candidates. We
22 continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for ordained ministry and leadership
23 fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies. New funds include the
24 Research & Teaching Fund and Affirmation & Empowerment Fund as well as the following
25 endowed funds: DEI, Theology & the Arts, and Doctor of Ministry.
- 26 ● **Accreditation Visit:** BUSTH just welcomed the United Methodist University Senate Review
27 team on February 1-3 for our re-accreditation visit.
- 28 ● **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual
29 enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include "Ethics and Video Games," and
30 "Spiritual Mending for Helping Professionals." To learn more, visit bu.edu/sth/oll.
- 31 ● **Development:** Recent accomplishments include endowing the Faith and Ecological Justice
32 Fund, and new funding for student scholarships and academic programs.

33
34 **COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:**

- 35 ● BUSTH's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers webinars on timely inclusion efforts,
36 such as "[Increasing Participation of Students of Underrepresented Backgrounds](#)."
- 37 ● This year's [Lowell Lecture](#) topics explore the spiritual dimension of artistic expression. This fall,
38 Dr. Emmett G. Price III highlighted the brilliant resilience and demonstrative hope of Black folk
39 through the lens of two exceptional spiritual beings: Nina Simone and John Coltrane. A diverse
40 panel response fostered rich conversation.
- 41 ● Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing. BUSTH is the
42 first certified Green School at BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative.

43 With faith and gratitude,
44 G. Sujin Pak, Dean

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 Since 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated faithful and creative
2 leaders for the church’s ministries throughout the world. An official seminary of The United Methodist
3 Church, Candler holds true to the Methodist value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming
4 students from more than 42 denominations, with nearly half of Master of Divinity students coming from
5 the Wesleyan tradition, including United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist
6 Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Wesleyan, Free Methodist, Church of the Nazarene,
7 and others. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an
8 enrollment of 417 from 16 countries and 33 states, and 43% persons of color. This diversity is a
9 blessing, enriching our life together and providing a “learning laboratory” for ministry in the 21st
10 century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong,
11 and embodies Christ’s love in and among us.

12 Candler offers six single degrees and ten dual degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online
13 formats so students can remain rooted in their home communities as they pursue their degrees. Our
14 new hybrid Master of Divinity blending online classes and in-person intensives launches in Fall 2023,
15 and our successful Doctor of Ministry—with its high 87% completion rate—is 90% online. Hybrid and
16 online options are also available in the Master of Religious Leadership and the Master of Religion and
17 Public Life programs. Plus, Candler’s Teaching Parish program allows student pastors to earn
18 contextual education credit as they serve their churches. We are excited that these flexible learning
19 formats make a first-rate Candler education possible for even more people who are called to ministry.

20 Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority for Candler. In 2021-2022, we
21 awarded \$7.3 million in scholarship support, with 100% of MDiv students receiving aid. All MDiv
22 students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships,
23 and all MDiv, MTS, MRL, and ThM students receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition.
24 MDiv students also complete a financial literacy program to strengthen their financial and budgeting
25 skills and reduce debt.

26 Candler was recently honored as one of 16 theological schools to receive a “Pathways to Tomorrow”
27 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The \$5 million grant will support Candler in establishing a set of
28 initiatives to create an interconnected continuum of offerings for the education of pastoral leaders. This
29 will position Candler as a hub of theological learning with multiple entry points, including The Candler
30 Foundry, our innovative program to make theological education accessible to the public, the United
31 Methodist Course of Study, undergraduate classes, and a new venture, La Mesa Academy for
32 Theological Studies. Set to launch in Fall 2023, La Mesa Academy will offer diplomas in pastoral
33 leadership via a two-year hybrid program with courses in Spanish and English. An optional third year of
34 study will be offered to those aspiring to continue to a graduate professional degree at Candler.

35 This year, we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski as Assistant Dean of Methodist Studies, a
36 position made available by the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Anne Burkholder. Brett is an elder in full
37 connection in the Florida Annual Conference and most recently served for nine years as senior pastor
38 of Christ Church United Methodist in Ft. Lauderdale. In addition to other pastoral appointments, he has
39 held a variety of leadership roles in the Florida Conference, including chair of the Board of Ordained
40 Ministry. He is deeply committed to working with students in discerning their call, spiritual formation,
41 and guiding them through the commissioning and ordination process.

42 Candler’s ability to fulfill our mission to provide the church with the faithful and creative leaders it
43 needs depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you
44 advance this essential ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us online at

1 candler.emory.edu.

2 —Jan Love

3 *Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics*

4 *Candler School of Theology, Emory University*

5

DREW THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

6 Drew educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change
7 agents. In Fall 2022 Drew welcomed 77 new students, and as of February 2023 Drew has a total enrollment
8 of 408 students. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate
9 theological education with substantial ministry experience. The latter reflects a growing trend among all
10 theological schools in the United States and Canada. During 2022, Drew classes met on campus in
11 Madison, New Jersey, but also some classes met exclusively online, while other met in hybrid fashion, i.e.,
12 partially online, partially in-person. This was also the case with chapel worship. This reflects both our
13 ongoing emergence from the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, but also Drew leaning into what it means to be
14 a global school with a global student population. With 35% of students coming from 28 different countries
15 Drew Theological School is truly global and diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic,
16 national, and international identities. Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs foster out-of-the-box
17 thinking, provide real-world apprenticeships, promotes adaptive leadership skills, and encourages
18 innovation through a team-taught core courses reflecting the integration of the theological disciplines and
19 practices characteristic of the life of faith. The faculty articulated shared values are infused across the
20 teaching and learning at Drew: a commitment to anti-racism; gender and sexual-identity equality; eco-
21 sustainability and environmental justice; and interfaith understanding and cooperation. The Theological
22 School has seen an increase in United Methodist students. Moreover, Drew has many United Methodist
23 Global Fellows who chose to pursue education for ministry at Drew. UMC graduates are serving in
24 conferences across the United States as well as in our regional conferences in Greater New Jersey, Eastern
25 Pennsylvania, and New York Annual Conference.

26

27 **Drew University Theological School**

28 **Edwin David Aponte, Dean**

29

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

30 Educating tomorrow's leaders by offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning courses at a FLEXible
31 schedule, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary serving a diverse community committed to the
32 formation of people for innovative, creative ministry through rigorous academic life. Grounded in the
33 academic study of faith and ministry, theology is practiced in a traditional classroom and in remote
34 spaces. Our contextual curriculum features Ministry Collaboration Groups, Practicums, Spiritual
35 Formation Retreats, and Seminars. Students learn from dedicated faculty, experienced pastors, and
36 community leaders about best ministry practices leaving our graduates with the tools and first-hand
37 experience necessary to meet the needs of a changing world.

38

39 We continue to implement the changes the last few years have integrated into our daily lives. Our weekly
40 chapel service utilizes a hybrid format, where participants may join in-person or online, allowing staff and
41 students to come together as one institution where all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from
42 wherever they are. In addition, Saint Paul offers weekly Spiritual Formation allowing students to engage
43 in spiritual practices led by Rev. Jen Logsdon-Kellogg. Some practices will take us outdoors or to other
44 sacred spaces, and others will have us connect with community leaders.

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Saint Paul welcomed over 30 new students for the 2022-2023 academic year. Enrollment remained solid for the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program with promising growth on our Oklahoma campus. With COVID-19 restrictions lifted yet monitored, prospective students returned to in-person visits on both campuses, experiencing community meals, worship, and the newly implemented "Hammock ministry" on the Oklahoma campus. The Admissions team continues to expand travel to meet new students, including the Carolinas, Washington, D.C., and various parts of Texas.

This year we have focused on strengthening the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry by creating two specializations: Women, Society, and Church; and Social Justice and Advocacy. In each case, the student takes 22 hours of MACM required courses, and then the remaining 12 hours of the degree are comprised of courses focusing upon the specialization. The two existing specializations, Prophetic Witness and Service; and Deacon Ministries, will continue to be offered as well. The Women, Society, and Church Studies specialization is also available in the MDiv program, as is a specialization in Wesleyan Studies.

Saint Paul staff and faculty continue contributing to the academy, church, and society. This year, we welcomed Rev. Dr. Sharon Betsworth as our new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean and Professor of New Testament. The faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology maintains high standards of scholarship, research, publication, and engagement. Over the past year, their many activities and publications have been so numerous that space permits only sharing selected highlights.

- Rev. Dr. Sharon Betsworth co-authored a journal article with Julie Faith Parker, "Where Have All the Young Girls Gone? Discovering the Girls of the Bible through Childist Analysis of Exodus 2 and Mark 5–7," in *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 38, no. 2 (Fall 2022).
- Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual Education, was the keynote speaker for the United Methodist Church Missouri Preaching Academy "Offering the Word to a Digital World." She published "Failure to Discern the Online/Hybrid Body: A Captivity of the Eucharist" for the special issue of *Currents in Theology and Mission: Eucharist and Online Worship: Toward Extended Theological Reflection*, vol. 50, no. 1 (2023) and published the chapter "Liturgical Authority and the Table in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)" in *Liturgical Authority in Free Church Traditions*, edited by Sarah Johnson and Andrew Wymer, Calvin Worship and Witness Series.
- Dr. Joshua Bartholomew, Assistant Professor of Ethics, Church, and Society, led a "Race, Liberation, and Political Economics" series at Second Presbyterian. He also spoke at The Open Table KC on "Race, Liberation, and Economics."
- Dr. Amy Oden, Adjunct Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality, was a guest speaker at numerous events around the country this year, including at a Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in Oklahoma, the Beyond Conference in St. Louis, and the Academy for Spiritual Formation in Alabama.

In October, Saint Paul hosted a forum on "Innovative, Creative Ministry" featuring alumni Matt Austin '18, Fabian Gonzalez '20, Bo Ireland '18, Matt Patrick '18, & Abby Peper '22, with each sharing their personal stories of innovation in ministry. In November, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, hosted a forum given by Rev. Mike Slaughter, former lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church, on "Spiritual Awakening: the here and the not yet." Later in the year, the Evangelical Society hosted a lecture featuring Dr. Cheryl Bridges Johns, Visiting Professor of Pentecostal Studies and Director of the Global Pentecostal House of Study at United Theological Seminary. And on May 12, Saint Paul again held a hybrid commencement celebration via Zoom, allowing graduates to come together from both campuses with attendees viewing from around the country. During the ceremony, we honored the

1 2023 Distinguished Graduate Award Winner and Commencement Speaker Bishop Delores J. "Dee"
2 Williamston.

3
4 Saint Paul Board of Trustees changed leadership this year as long-time faculty and board member Rev.
5 Dr. Tex Sample concluded his term as chair of the Board. Dr. Amy Hogan, Professor of Education and
6 Dean of the School of Education at Ottawa University, has succeeded him as chair. Dr. Hogan possesses
7 a deep reservoir of experience in teaching, research, and accreditation. In response to President Neil
8 Blair's announcement that he will retire on December 31, 2023, Dr. Hogan appointed a search committee
9 composed of faculty, staff, students, and trustees charged with identifying Saint Paul's next president.
10 The search committee is currently conferring with Saint Paul's constituent groups to prepare the position
11 prospectus that will describe Saint Paul's needs and aspirations to candidates.

12
13 In September 2022, Saint Paul School of Theology hosted a review team from the Higher Learning
14 Commission (HLC), one of Saint Paul's primary accreditation agencies, as part of the Seminary's regular
15 reaffirmation cycle. On November 18, 2022, the Higher Learning Commission notified Saint Paul that the
16 Commission "continued the accreditation of Saint Paul School of Theology with the next Reaffirmation of
17 Accreditation in 2028-2029." The Seminary's Board of Trustees also devoted considerable time to
18 improving its governance capacity. For example, in April 2022, trustees invested a significant portion of
19 their meeting in a facilitated Emotional Intelligence and Trust-Building workshop. The workshop was led
20 by Gail Parker, a noted management consultant who has worked with clients such as KPMG, Goldman
21 Sachs, and Disney, among many others. In October 2022, former executive director of the Association of
22 Theological Schools, Dan Aleshire, offered an overview of demographic and enrollment trends in the
23 nation's seminaries, focusing on how those trends affect institutions' diversity, equity, and inclusion
24 initiatives. As these activities suggest, the Board remains deeply committed to enhancing its capabilities
25 to guide Saint Paul effectively and knowledgeably.

26
27 We are happy to report that Saint Paul School of Theology is financially sound. We operate with a
28 balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment 9-10 times the size of our annual expenses. As always, we
29 continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and
30 evolving academic programs to students. As of the close of 2022, over one hundred alumni and friends of
31 Saint Paul contributed more than \$60,000 to create the Tex and Peggy Sample Endowed Scholarship
32 Fund honoring the life and work of Tex and Peggy Sample. Sustainability has been our focus over the
33 past five years, and we have achieved our goal. Investments in our future bring exciting new opportunities
34 for our students, staff, and faculty. Our significant technological investments have allowed us to maintain
35 a hybrid educational delivery model providing a flexible working arrangement for our students.

36
37 We are continuing to enhance our partnership with Zoom and Neat. Late last Spring, in conjunction with
38 our Neat Board electronic whiteboards and Neat Bars, we implemented Neat's newest product, their Neat
39 Bar Pros, in our large classrooms. These new bars are designed to offer a superior video and audio
40 experience in large spaces and the ability to output to multiple large screens to enhance the overall
41 classroom experience significantly. We have rolled out additional Zoom Room Neat Boards in numerous
42 common areas to encourage ad-hoc use of the technology for breakout groups and other miscellaneous
43 meetings between our two campuses and remote students. One of the best features of this technology is
44 its ability to receive automatic real-time over-the-air features upgrades. Several significant enhancements
45 have rolled out this past year, including improved voice cancellation, Zoom Room Breakout Groups, real-
46 time Closed Captions with transcripts, and updated use of AI to split each in-classroom student into their
47 individual zoomed-in Zoom window. In addition, our Neat equipment continuously monitors several
48 environmental factors within our classrooms; air quality, temperature, humidity, VOC, and CO2, as well as
49 being able to tell if the classrooms are occupied and how many individuals are in the room. We can also
50 monitor the audio/video quality and network connectivity in each of our classrooms, as well as the
51 connection quality for all remote students attending the class. We are excited about the additional

1 enhancements that will come to our classrooms from Neat and Zoom over this next year and look forward
2 to our continued partnership with Neat and Zoom on this groundbreaking technology.

3
4 Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking to discover
5 more and answer the call. We are grateful for your support of our students and our seminary. May we
6 continue to live into the call of Jesus Christ to be faithful witnesses for generations to come.

7
8 President Neil Blair, Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students thank you for your prayers
9 and support.

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10 Southern Methodist University (SMU) has served as a nonsectarian institution of higher learning since its
11 founding in 1911 by the citizens of Dallas and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. SMU's mission is to
12 expand knowledge through research and teaching and to serve as an igniter and facilitator of growth in
13 Dallas and North Texas. With continued Methodist representation on the Board of Trustees and by
14 welcoming students of all faiths, SMU is reaching a higher level of accomplishment and global recognition
15 in our second century of shaping world changers. Consistent with the University's appreciation of our
16 Wesleyan heritage, SMU voluntarily submits this report to the Rio Texas Annual Conference.

17
18 **Students, faculty, and staff**
19 Each year SMU continues to attract more academically qualified and diverse students. The 1,639 students
20 of the Class of 2026 entered with the highest grade-point average (3.71) of any previous first-year class.
21 Equally important, nearly a third of these incoming students (32%) identified as being from an
22 underrepresented background. Just over 100 of these new Mustangs had their tuition fully met through
23 SMU's scholarship for high-achieving Texas students who are eligible for federal Pell grants. Most of them
24 (59%) come to Dallas from other states, 38% are homegrown Texans and 3% are international students.

25
26 As our incoming students reach new heights of academic excellence, research by our faculty members,
27 graduate students, and even undergraduates benefits our region and the world around us. SMU remains
28 committed to our goal of becoming a Research One (R1) institution in the Carnegie Classification system,
29 which will further elevate our national rankings and reputation.

30
31
32

33 **Rankings**
34 SMU continues to receive strong recognition and high rankings among prestigious reviewers, including:
35 • Top 20% best national universities by *U.S. News & World Report* (2023). Also cited among the
36 Top Performers on Social Mobility and Best Colleges for Veterans and Best Value Schools
37 (2023).

- 1 • Top 12% (No. 94 out of 796) of U.S. public and private universities by the *Wall Street*
- 2 *Journal/Times Higher Education* (2022).
- 3 • One of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education by *The Princeton Review's* The
- 4 Best 388 Colleges and among its 2023 Best Colleges: Region by Region.
- 5 • Top 5% best nationwide colleges (91 out of 2,241) by College Factual (2023). Also, SMU alumni
- 6 ranked among the top 10% in pay for graduates across a range of fields.
- 7 • SMU's Perkins Chapel at No. 16 out of 35 of the nation's most beautiful college churches and
- 8 chapels by College Rank.
- 9 • "Higher research activity" as classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of
- 10 Teaching.

11 **Capital campaign and research funding**

12 Momentum is growing as the University moves into the second year of the comprehensive campaign *SMU*

13 *Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*. As of March 1, 2023, donors have contributed over \$991 million to this

14 multiyear \$1.5 billion campaign to attract and support outstanding students and faculty, explore new fields

15 and cutting-edge technologies, and positively impact Dallas and the world beyond.

16

17

18 In fiscal year 2023, SMU received nearly \$46 million in external funding for domestic and global research.

19 Current funding agencies include the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, U.S.

20 Department of Education, U.S. Department of Energy, Google, and Toyota USA Foundation.

21

22 **Perkins School of Theology**

23 After six and a half years of service, Craig Hill retired as dean of the Perkins School of Theology on

24 December 31, 2022, but is continuing as a member of the faculty until December 31, 2023. We are pleased

25 to have Bishop Michael McKee '78 serving as interim dean until a successor is brought aboard.

26

27 The Caren and Vin Prothro Organ project is fully funded. The 1927 Skinner organ has been restored, and

28 installation of this rare instrument in our Perkins Chapel should be completed by November 2023.

29

30 SMU remains grateful for the enduring work of our Perkins School of Theology in the instruction and training

31 of clergy for all Wesleyan traditions and other denominations. We ask for your prayers and continued

32 support as we strive to further our mission to make a positive impact on the world around us.

33

34 Warm regards,

35

36

37 R. Gerald Turner

38 President, Southern Methodist University

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 Southwestern University continues to rank among the best liberal arts institutions in the nation. In 2022,
2 Southwestern rose 13 places in *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Colleges rankings, the biggest single-
3 year jump in school history. The publication ranked the University 85th among national liberal arts colleges
4 and first among national undergraduate liberal arts colleges in Texas. Southwestern also ranked 44th in
5 the social mobility category, which measures how well schools graduated students who received federal
6 Pell Grants.

7
8 Southwestern officially closed the class of 2026 in June, marking one of the earliest dates the University
9 has finalized its incoming class in institutional history. A record 5,557 applicants competed for a spot, an
10 increase of 17% over last year. Southwestern ultimately welcomed 436 first-year students for a total
11 enrollment of 1,483 in fall 2022. The University's acceptance rate fell by 7%, and Southwestern also met
12 its academic and diversity goals, with more than 25% of incoming students identifying as Hispanic for the
13 third year in a row.

14
15 Our world-class faculty of scholar-teachers celebrated a number of accomplishments in 2022. Ten faculty
16 members received Sam Taylor Fellowships from the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education
17 and Ministry. Jessica Hower (history) published *Mary I in Writing: Letters, Literature, and Representation*
18 and *Writing Mary I: History, Historiography, and Fiction*, a two-volume edited collection. Michael Gesinski
19 (chemistry and biochemistry) was awarded a \$16,000 grant from Organic Syntheses Inc. to fund student
20 research on gold catalysis. Jennifer Stokes (kinesiology) received the 2022 Early Career Award in
21 Education Research from the American Physiological Society Teaching Section.

22
23 Our students received several honors and recognitions. Thirty-four students were inducted into
24 Southwestern's chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. Two students were awarded scholarships
25 from the Texas United Methodist College Association, two students received Benjamin Gilman International
26 Scholarships, and one student was named a Newman Civic Fellow. Three recent graduates were selected
27 as 2022–2023 Fulbright award winners.

28
29 In athletics, Southwestern finished second for the SCAC President's Trophy. The Pirates garnered 76 all-
30 conference selections, including 38 first-team selections, 19 second-team selections, and 19 honorable
31 mention selections, as well as four SCAC Coach of the Year awards. The Pirates also earned three All-
32 America honors in 2022 and six All-Region selections. Men's golf won the SCAC Championship. Three
33 programs earned NCAA Tournament bids.

34
35 In 2022, Southwestern hosted the 40th Brown Symposium, which featured five distinguished experts who
36 spoke on the theme of attraction. More than 250 students, mentored by 52 faculty and staff, led panels,
37 presented posters, gave performances, and set up exhibitions during the 23rd annual Research and
38 Creative Works Symposium. Southwestern recognized the class of 2022 during its Commencement
39 Convocation in May, with Southwestern alumna and applied mathematician Cassandra M. McZeal '92
40 serving as the keynote speaker.

41
42 **Ratification of Trustees**

1 As stated in the University By-Laws, "Conference trustees are nominated by the University's board of
2 trustees, upon recommendation to the board's trusteeship committee, and elected by their respective
3 conferences." Conference confirmation of "trustees at large" is no longer required by the By-Laws.

4
5 There are no trustees requiring ratification by the Rio Texas Conference.

6
7 **Conclusion**

8
9 I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to visit Southwestern and experience, in person,
10 our vibrant intellectual community.

11
12 Respectfully yours,

13 

14 Laura E. Skandera Trombley
15 President
16

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

17 Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the Rio Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist
18 Church.

- 19
- Seven (7) students affiliated with the Rio Texas Annual Conference are enrolled at Perkins,
20 including: 5 Master of Divinity students, 1 Master of Arts in Ministry student and 1 Doctor of
21 Ministry student.
 - During the 2022-23 academic year, 6 students from the Rio Texas Annual Conference received
22 funding from the PACE (Perkins Annual Conference Endowment) grant, with the average
23 overall financial aid award per student totaling \$3,000.
 - Two (2) Perkins students from the Rio Texas Annual Conference currently are taking part in
24 internships.
- 25
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27

28 **Enrollment Update**

29 Enrollment at Perkins for the 2022-23 academic year totaled 257 students. The hybrid Houston-Galveston
30 Extension Program, in its fifth year of providing a combination of online and residential classes leading to
31 the M.Div. and M.A.M. degrees, totaled 96 students during the 2022-23 academic year.

32 **Institutional Highlights**

- 33
- Craig C. Hill, who became the 11th dean of Perkins School of Theology in July 2016, retired as
34 dean December 31, 2022, due to medical reasons. Hill, the Leighton K. Farrell Endowed Dean
35 and Professor of New Testament, will remain a member of the Perkins faculty until December 31,
36 2023. During his years at Perkins, he led a thorough study and reorganization of the Office of
37 Enrollment Management, doubling new student enrollment from 2016-17 to 2019-20. Under his
38 leadership, financial aid to students increased by 50 percent. He also reinvigorated the Houston-
39 Galveston extension site as a hybrid program. Hill broadened academic offerings to include the
40 development of the Baptist House of Studies, the Black/Africana Studies and a healthcare
41 chaplaincy program.

- 1 • Bishop Michael McKee began his service as Dean of Perkins School of Theology **ad**
2 **interim** effective January 1, 2023. He will serve until a permanent dean has been named.
3 Bishop McKee previously served as episcopal leader of the North Texas Annual Conference
4 since his election by the South Central Jurisdiction in 2012, from which he retired on January 1,
5 2023. As interim dean, he will provide leadership development with students and alumni and, at a
6 time of particular challenge within the Methodist denomination, will further strengthen SMU's ties
7 with donors, congregations and institutions within our region as well as nationally.
- 8 • Perkins was honored to have Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey preach a Chapel service during the
9 first week of classes for our Houston/Galveston in January 2023. That same week, Bishop McKee
10 traveled to Houston to visit with our hybrid students for the first time as interim dean.
- 11 • The inaugural William J. Abraham Memorial Lecture took place Oct. 17 in Perkins Chapel, with
12 Dr. Fred Aquino delivering the lecture and a reception following in the Blue Room in Bridwell
13 Library. Bridwell Library (SMU Libraries) and Perkins School of Theology established the annual
14 Memorial Lecture to bring a scholar to the SMU campus each year to engage in a topic related to
15 Abraham's work of the scholar's choosing. Dr. Abraham, 73, died suddenly in October 2021. He
16 was the Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies at Perkins from 1995 until his retirement
17 in May 2021.
- 18 • Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. (M.Div. '97; D.Min. '09) was honored as the 2022 recipient of the Perkins
19 Distinguished Alumnus/a Award. Saenz, a native of south Texas and lifelong United Methodist,
20 was elected bishop in 2016 at the South Central Jurisdictional Conference. He currently serves
21 as episcopal leader of the North Texas and Central Texas annual conferences. The banquet,
22 which took place Nov. 14, also recognized the 2021 Award recipient, Evelyn Parker, and the 2020
23 Award recipients, the Rev. Donald W. Underwood and the Rev. Dr. Sidney G. Hall, III.
- 24 • Eight congregations were selected for the second cohort of the Lilly Endowment-funded
25 Testimony HQ initiative to develop thriving congregations through the practice of testimony as
26 community engagement. These congregations were selected from applications submitted from
27 churches within a 350-mile radius of Dallas. The cohort congregations will each receive up to
28 \$5,000 in grant funding to support their Testimony HQ work from January through December
29 2023. The following year, in 2024, each of these churches will mentor a church selected to
30 participate in the third cohort.
- 31 • An anonymous donor gifted to Perkins and Bridwell Library a Heritage Edition of the St. John's
32 Bible. Only 299 copies are being produced, with only a few copies in the State of Texas.
33 Renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson produced the hand-written, hand-illuminated Bible. The
34 volumes are bound – by hand –in a single piece of Italian calfskin leather and adorned with a
35 solid silver clasp. The headbands are handsewn in Pakistan. Each volume is numbered and
36 initialed by Donald Jackson and protected in a burgundy clamshell box.
- 37 • Perkins is continuing its curriculum review process, chaired by Dr. Rebekah Miles, as it seeks
38 refinement in its degree programs that will enhance flexibility for students while also providing
39 opportunities to engage with the school's degree concentrations. We hope to implement the
40 revised curriculum beginning Fall 2024.
- 41 • Following a formal campus visit by a seven-member review committee in September, the
42 University Senate of the General Board for Higher Education and Ministry provided SMU and
43 Perkins School of Theology a positive recommendation with regard to institutional integrity, well-
44 structured programs, sound management and clearly defined church relationships. This review
45 process takes place once every 10 years.
- 46 • Dr. Rebekah Miles and Dr. Ted Campbell were formally installed as the holders of two endowed
47 chairs: Miles as the Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology and Ethics and
48 Campbell as the Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies. Not only do the two chairs
49 involve professorial positions, but the new chairholders also received an engraved desk chair as
50 part of the formal installation ceremony. Miles and Campbell also each delivered a lecture on a
51 topic of their choosing as part of the installation.

- 1 • Dr. Bruce Marshall, Lehman Professor of Christian Doctrine, was awarded the 2023 Altshuler
2 Distinguished Teaching Award. Bestowed annually since 2001, the award recognizes four SMU
3 faculty members for their notable commitment to and achievements in fostering student learning.
4 These are teachers whose concerns for higher education go beyond classroom boundaries and
5 often the boundaries of their own disciplines. In student mentoring, in discussions about teaching,
6 and in continuous reflection about their own successes and ways to improve, they represent the
7 highest achievement in reaching the goals of higher education.
- 8 • Rev. Dr. Elias H. Lopez (M.Div. '10, D.Min. '18) joined the faculty and staff as Associate Director
9 of the Intern Program. Dr. Lopez brings a strong background in pastoral care and theology to this
10 position. Prior to Perkins, he served as Director of Pastoral Care at Methodist Health System in
11 Dallas, leading a team of 36 chaplains in providing spiritual support to the entire healthcare
12 system.
- 13 • We are saddened to announce the death of Kenneth Hart, Professor Emeritus of Sacred Music
14 and former Director of the Sacred Music program from 1987 to 2005. Among his scholarship, he
15 wrote and published the 2014 volume titled *A Day for Dancing: The Life and Music of Lloyd*
16 *Pfautsch*.

17
18 The highlights listed above are reflective of the vibrant engagement of Perkins faculty, staff and students.
19 Our mission is to equip persons for faithful leadership and Christian ministry in a changing church and
20 society; to educate those seeking a deeper understanding of the Christian faith; and to strengthen the
21 church, academy, and world through service, scholarship, and advocacy. We thank our many colleagues,
22 friends and alumni in the Rio Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church for your generous
23 support, including referrals of prospective students.

24 Grace and peace,
25
26 Bishop Michael McKee
27 Leighton K. Farrell Endowed Dean, ad interim
28 Perkins School of Theology

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

29 United Theological Seminary celebrated rising enrollment in the 2022-2023 academic year. In the previous
30 year, 464 students were enrolled at United; in 2022-2023, the seminary is serving 541 students, a 17%
31 increase. A diverse community of many denominations, races, and nationalities, United welcomed students
32 from 36 states, 21 countries, and 43 denominations, with 42% of students identifying as United Methodist.*
33 The Seminary prepared 103 Course of Study students** and served 10 students through the Hispanic
34 Christian Academy, a 3-year online course of ministry program for Hispanic/Latino lay pastors and leaders
35 serving United Methodist congregations.

36
37 **Houses of Study**

38 In large part, this enrollment growth is a result of the seminary's House of Study initiative, which is supported
39 by a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. As of 2022-2023, the
40 Seminary has established five Houses of Study:

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- Fresh Expressions, directed by Dr. Michael Beck;
- Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship, directed by Bishop Lisa Weah;
- Global Methodist, directed by Rev. Gregory Stover;
- Global Pentecostal, directed by Dr. Cheryl Bridges Johns;
- and Hispanic, directed by Dr. Jorge Ochoa.

The largest of these is the Hispanic House of Study (Casa de Estudios Hispana), with all classes taught by Spanish-speaking professors to Spanish-speaking students. Nearly 50 students from across the United States and Latin America, including students from Mexico, Cuba, Columbia, and Peru, started the online program in the 2022-2023 academic year.

United is preparing to launch three new Houses of Study in the 2023-2024 academic year: a Korean House of Study, taught 100% in Korean for Korean-speaking students, led by Dr. Seok Jae Jeon; an African Methodist Episcopal Zion House of Study led by Bishop Eric Leake; and a Global Lutheran House of Study led by Dr. Richard Blue, Dr. Tom Thorstad and Dr. Dan Landin.

Doctor of Ministry

The Seminary is also seeing growth in its Doctor of Ministry program. In 2022-2023, the Doctor of Ministry program has grown to 250 students, an increase of 32% over the past five years.* Doctoral students at United are actively engaged in ministry and seeking to become more effective leaders for the Church through a Doctor of Ministry degree.

Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center

Launched in Fall 2021, the Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center, directed by Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, is connecting with pastors, ministry leaders, and congregational members hungry to bring God’s renewal to their faith communities. In the past year alone, the Innovation Center has engaged more than 1,000 participants through more than 40 live webinars, training events, and courses.

Dr. Kent Millard
President

* *Student data represent 2022-2023 headcount enrollment, as of March 1, 2023. Denominational figures represent those who responded.*

** *Course of Study figures represent the most recent four terms.*

GOLDEN AGE HOME
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Golden Age Home has been a fixture in the Lockhart, Texas community since the 60’s because of the dreams and hard work of men & women from the Methodist Conference.

Team members provide loving support to meet the needs of the whole person; physically, emotionally & spiritually 365 days a year, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day; holidays and weekends.

Every donation of time, materials or financial means directly affects Senior Adults.

1 *Golden Age Home is providing Compassionate, Christian care at affordable rates because of your*
2 *support.*

4 **2022 by Numbers**

6 **62 Residents** received care in our home

- 7 ▪ More than 39,000 meals prepared
- 8 ▪ **62+** Families assisted

10 **Activity Highlights**

- 11 ▪ 25 Vendors at Annual Health Fair with over 100 community participants
- 12 ▪ 32 shoeboxes made for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child
13 www.samaritanpurse.org/occ
- 14 ▪ 50 Community Members purchased gifts for the "Santas for Seniors" program
- 15 ▪ 61 Volunteers facilitating over 400 activities
- 16 ▪ 79 Volunteers assisted in community service projects in & around our home

18 **Intergenerational Programs**

19 Resumed activities to bring youth and senior adults together:

- 20 ▪ 12 participants in the Preschool Music Class for 8 hours of music therapy
- 21 ▪ 25 student & adult volunteers hosted the Annual Easter Egg Hunt
22 ○ 300 community participants
- 23 ▪ 15 student & adult volunteers hosted the Halloween Monster Bash
24 ○ 130 community participants
- 25 ▪ 12 Student groups with over 225 participants brought 20+ programs into our home

27 **Donations**

- 28 ▪ \$65,000 given by Individual, Business/Church donations
29 ○ Giving Tuesday & Give65 fundraising campaigns focus on funds to support our low-
30 income rooms for seniors who otherwise could not afford services.
- 31 ▪ Money given through Methodist Churches/conference
32 ○ Golden Age Home is an Advanced Ministries #1331

34 **Grants**

- 35 ▪ \$107,500 received grants from 5 Foundations
36 Supported Intergenerational projects, low-income housing, personnel development, equipment
37 purchases & building repairs
- 38 ▪ 1,314 hours volunteered by 2 women through the AARP Senior Community Service Employment
39 Program
- 40 ▪ 100 hours volunteered by 2 participants in the TWC Summer Earn & Learn Program

42 **Board of Directors**

- 43 ▪ 100 volunteer hours invested by Board of Directors members

44 These members are men and women from Lockhart & surrounding area are 90% from Methodist churches.
45 Members provide time, expertise advice and donations to further our mission.

PROVIDENCE PLACE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 Bishop and the members of the Rio Texas Conference, thank you on behalf of our Board of Directors, staff,
2 and those on our campus who are working hard to achieve their own personal level of success. Your
3 dedication in partnership with the ministry of Providence Place is immeasurable.

4 The year of 2023 marks 128 years of service; all possible because of your loyal and faithful support from
5 individual donors and United Methodist Churches throughout the Rio Texas Conference. Every day, we
6 have the wonderful opportunity to see God's hand in our ministries as the lives of the women, children and
7 families are transformed.

8 Providence Place works to end the cycle of generational trauma through innovative services and continues
9 to evolve its programs and services to meet the ever-changing needs of those we serve. The world is
10 changing; inflation has caused new uncertainties for many. Families are struggling with the rising costs of
11 gas, food, diapers and formula. Providence Place serves over 2,000 individuals each year; 100% of those
12 we serve are living day-to-day trying to make ends meet.

13 The relationship between Providence Place and Rio Texas Conference along with individual donors and
14 individual churches has been life changing in so many ways. Together, we have helped young women
15 facing unplanned pregnancies, provided a home for countless young adults, offered hope and restoration
16 for survivors of complex trauma, and created loving homes for children in foster care. What makes our
17 programs unique is our ability to serve women, children and families using a trauma informed care model.
18 This commitment to women and families started with our founder, Madame Volino, when she first sought
19 help from Travis Park Methodist Church in San Antonio and changed her life from a brothel owner to a
20 sanctuary for women and young children in need. Without a doubt, churches and their congregants have
21 played a significant role in the success of Providence Place for 128 years; something we will never forget.

22 I encourage you to call to arrange a speaker for your congregation or church group, and request offering
23 materials for an annual church offering. We couldn't continue these ministries without you and we would
24 love to come and share the stories of Providence Place! If we could be a resource to you, contact our
25 Mission Advancement Team at (210) 696-2410 or at mission.advancement@provplace.org. Also, please
26 visit our website at www.provplace.org to learn more about these special ministries and to hear first-hand
27 stories from those we have served.

28 Respectfully,

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31 Dr. Judith Bell, President and CEO
32

METHODIST HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

33 The following are individuals elected as members of the Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 Board year
34 (June to June). These names are submitted for election by the Annual Conference:
35

Rev. James Amerson

Karen A. Angelini

Mike Bacon

Douglas W. Becker

Raymond Chacon, Ph.D.

Susan Hellums

Rudyard Hilliard, M.D.

Ashley Hixon

John E. Hornbeak

Alan C. Kramer

Ashley Landers

Michael J. Lane, M.D.

Barbara Lyons
Lott McIlhenny
Edwin Miles
Sam O’Krent
Kerwin L. Overby
Erika Prosper
Jacqueline Pugh, M.D.

Jim Rice
Thomas Sanders
Erica Sosa, Ph.D.
John Stoll, M.D.
Rev. Virgilio Vazquez-Garza
Pendleton B. Wickersham, M.D.

- 1 Ex Officio Members with Vote:
2 MHM Board Chair: Lavonne Garrison
3 MHM Board Chair-Elect: Michael Porter
4 Bishop of the Rio Texas Conference: Bishop Robert Schnase
5 Assistant to the Episcopal Office: Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez
6 District Superintendent of Las Misiones District: Rev. Dr. Robert Ortiz
7 Two Persons Representing Transformation Communities Vision Team:
8 • Rev. Javier Leyva
9 • Rev. Cynthia Engstrom
10
11 Submitted by Methodist Healthcare Ministries

TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

12 Texas Methodist Foundation ended 2022 with deep gratitude for the many investors, philanthropists,
13 borrowers, and leaders we have been blessed to serve in ministry. In 2022 TMF honored Tom Locke
14 for 33-years of service, awarding him the Medallion of Merit at his retirement celebration in November.
15 Over the last five years, TMF has cumulatively invested over \$130.1 million of revenue and endowment
16 distributions in Methodist churches and nonprofits across Texas and New Mexico. During this time of
17 change, and with our new President & CEO, Rev. Lisa Greenwood, we remain steadfast in our
18 commitment to partnering with the Rio Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church,
19 walking alongside congregations, together creating cultures of purpose, generosity, and courage.
20

21 Tom Stanton is Rio Texas Senior Area Representative and the primary contact and bridge between
22 congregations, clergy and laity, and Texas Methodist Foundation. As partner in ministry, Tom connects
23 members of the Rio Texas Conference to relevant resources available at Texas Methodist Foundation.
24

25 Texas Methodist Foundation, headquartered in Austin, Tx, serves Methodist individuals, churches, and
26 agencies with the six annual conferences in Texas and New Mexico. We appreciate the opportunity to
27 report some of the ways we served Methodists last year.
28

29 **Within the Rio Texas Conference**

- 30 • Loans to churches in the Rio Texas Conference totaled \$49.7 million at the end of 2022.
31 • Churches and agencies, not including individuals, within the Rio Texas Conference had \$54.1
32 million invested in the Methodist Loan Fund.
33

34 **Throughout Texas and New Mexico**

- 35 • As of December 31, 2022, total assets under management by TMF were \$647.9 million.

- 1 • Methodist Loan Fund investments ended the year at \$312.2 million, and our loan portfolio at
- 2 \$290.4 million.
- 3 • Total gifts to TMF’s ministries equaled \$1.2 million, including gifts to Leadership Ministry, Grants,
- 4 and TMF’s Undesignated Endowment.
- 5 • Total gifts to TMF for the benefit of others ended 2022 at \$1.8 million, including all planned giving
- 6 Endowments, Charitable Gift Annuities, Trusts, Donor-Advised Funds.
- 7 • In 2022, the TMF Grants Ministry funded approximately \$2.03 million in support of 82 churches and
- 8 nonprofits. Of that total, TMF granted \$1.49 million from its restricted permanent endowment funds,
- 9 and the remainder from its operating budget.
- 10 • TMF’s Leadership Ministry works to equip leaders for deep change through conversations of
- 11 courage, learning, and innovation. Some of these conversations take the form of ongoing peer
- 12 groups and others as stand-alone conversations around an adaptive issue. These peer
- 13 relationships offer fresh perspectives, renew their sense of calling and embolden them for
- 14 courageous leadership.
- 15 • In March 2023, TMF hosted Launch 3.0 in Houston, Texas, a gathering of 90+ leaders from
- 16 around the United States exploring innovative ministry.
- 17 • Fueled by the desire to encourage and support, the TMF team of Area
- 18 Representatives continues to remain steadfast and loyal to those they serve. As walk-beside
- 19 partners in ministry, the Area Representative team equips and empowers faith communities
- 20 by providing financial best practices, inspiring cultures of generosity, and
- 21 cultivating strategies of legacy giving (often initiated by the workshop Putting Your House in
- 22 Order). Churches who desire to nurture purpose and innovation embrace a process of
- 23 discernment guided by this question, “What difference is God calling us to make in this time
- 24 and in this place?” Engaging both informal conversation and contract services church
- 25 leadership use Holy Conversations (4-6 months with a team of 7-9) and Holy Excavations
- 26 (half-day workshop with 25-30 people) to explore their call.

27
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29 **TMF Board Members**

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31 TMF has submitted the following candidate for re-election to the Texas Methodist Foundation Board of

32 Directors from the Rio Texas Conference:

- 33
- 34 • Rev. Taylor Fuerst, Clergy, 3-year term (Austin)
- 35

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

- 37
- 38 • Ms. Amy Thomas, Layperson, serving through 2024 (Austin)
- 39 • Rev. Thelma Flores, Clergy, serving through 2025 (Seguin)
- 40 • Mr. Nathan Johnson, Jr., Layperson, serving through 2025 (San Antonio)
- 41 • Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez, Clergy, serving through 2025 (San Antonio)
- 42

43 Respectfully Submitted,
44 Rev. Lisa Greenwood, President