

Rio Texas Annual Conference

2021 Pre-Conference Journal



Fall Afresh on Me
Ven Sobre Mí

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

June 5 – June 12, 2021

San Antonio, Texas

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

“FALL AFRESH ON ME”

THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE RÍO TEXAS CONFERENCE
2015-2021

BISHOP ROBERT SCHNASE, PRESIDING

SATURDAY JUNE 5, 2021

3:00 PM Laity Session

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021

1:00 PM AC Leadership
3:00 PM Clergy Session

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021

3:00 PM Welcome
Service of Worship

4:10 PM Break

4:20 PM Call to Order, 1st Plenary Session and Introductions
Explanation of the voting process; A practice vote
Organization of the Conference
Establishing the Bar
Adoption of the Agenda
Vote to receive Consents Agenda 1, Pre-Conference Report “Information Only”
Vote to received Consent Agenda II, Pre-Conference Report “For Action”
Bishop’s Message
Lay Leader’s Message

5:30 PM Adjourn 1st Plenary Session

6:00 PM Call to Order 2nd Plenary Session
Report on Postponed 2020 General Conference
Report of Standing Rules
Preliminary Finance Report
Celebration of the Ministry of Lydia Patterson Institute
Celebrating Persons to be Ordained & Commissioned
Nominations Report
Celebration of the Ministry of Huston-Tillotson University

7:05 PM Break

7:20 PM Service of Remembrance

7:55 PM Adjourn 2nd Plenary Session

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2021

10:00 AM	Rehearsal for Ordination and Commissioning
12:30 PM	Finance Table Dialogue for Questions and Answers
3:00 PM	Call to Order 3 rd Plenary Session Opening Prayer Teaching Opportunity Pension and Benefits Report Celebration of Mission, Service & Justice Ministry
4:17 PM	Break
4:30 PM	Finance Table Report Celebration of Creating and Vitalizing Congregations, Leaders Development Board of Trustees Report
5:29 PM	Adjourn 3 rd Plenary Session
5:30 PM	Dinner Break
6:00 PM	Call to Order 4 th Plenary Session Opening Prayer Teaching Opportunity Celebration of Intergenerational Ministries Celebration of Administrative Ministry
7:00 PM	Celebration of Retirement & Fixing of Appointments with Covenant Prayer
7:45 PM	Adjourn 4 th Plenary Session

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2021

9:00 AM	Open Dialogue with Dr. Joe Daniels
9:00 AM	Open Dialogue with General Conference Delegation
10:00 AM	Break
11:00 AM	Service of Commissioning and Ordination

CONSENT AGENDA I

- 1 Consent Agenda I includes all "For Information Only" reports that are presented in the 2020 Pre-Conference. By adopting
- 2 Consent Agenda I, these reports will be printed in the 2021 Conference Journal.

3

CONSENT AGENDA II

- 4 The following Reports are being presented to the Conference for action. It is believed that there is little or no dissent so they
- 5 are being submitted for action as a group. If there is a desire to debate or amend one of these reports, the appropriate action
- 6 is to move to have it removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. With a second, and a one-minute
- 7 explanation by the maker of the motion, it will be voted on by the Conference without debate. If 20% of the members vote
- 8 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
- 9 the Agenda Committee.

- 10 **Rio Texas Conference Harvest Sunday 2021**
- 11 **Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc**

STANDING RULES

**REPORT I
CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

1 This year 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

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**REPORT II
STANDING RULES
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION**

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

10

STRUCTURE AND AGENCIES

Uniting Table

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

26

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

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

33

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

37

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

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

43

44 the 2016 Book of Discipline. United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men are independent
45 organizations which nominate and elect their own leaders. Each of these organizations is represented by the
46 president and/or another designated person on various agencies of the Annual Conference, including the

1 Uniting Table. United Methodist Women relates to the national organization of United Methodist Women.
2 United Methodist Men relates to the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

3 **Uniting Peoples Vision Team**

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

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

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

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

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

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

52 53 **Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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55 f. There shall be a Committee on New Church Development (the committee) whose function is defined in
56 ¶ 633.5e-h and ¶ 630.3 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two

1 persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is New Church Development, plus all
2 the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee relates to the General Board
3 of Global Ministries, the General Board of Discipleship, and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The
4 committee is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is
5 funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

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

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14 h. There shall be a Council on Older Adult Ministries (the council) whose function is defined in ¶ 651 of the
15 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the council shall be the two persons elected by the Annual
16 Conference whose specific responsibility is Older Adult Ministries, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing
17 Congregations Vision Team. The council relates to the General Board of Discipleship, and to the Vitalizing
18 Congregations Vision Team. The council is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to
19 the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

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

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

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

44 45 **Developing Leaders Vision Team**

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

3 a. There shall be a Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (the board) whose function is defined in
4 ¶ 634 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the
5 Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Higher Education and Campus Ministry, plus all the other
6 members of the Developing Leaders Vision Team. The board relates to the General Board of Higher
7 Education and Ministry, and its Division of Higher Education, and to the Developing Leaders Vision Team.
8 The board is accountable to the Developing Leaders Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is
9 funded through the Developing Leaders Vision Team portion of the budget.

10
11 b. There shall be a Board of Ordained Ministry (the board) whose function, membership and organization are
12 defined in ¶ 635 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The members of the board shall be nominated by the Bishop
13 and elected by the Annual Conference. The board shall relate to the General Board of Higher Education and
14 Ministry. The board is accountable to and reports to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the
15 Developing Leaders Vision Team portion of the budget.

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

24 25 **Transforming Communities Vision Team**

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

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39 a. There shall be a Board of Church and Society (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 629 of the 2016
40 Book of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference
41 whose specific responsibility is Church and Society, plus all the other members of the Transforming
42 Communities Vision Team, plus a member named by the conference United Methodist Women. The board
43 relates to the General Board of Church and Society, and to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The
44 board is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is
45 funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget. The board shall name the
46 Peace with Justice Coordinator.

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

1 c. There shall be a Committee on Native American Ministries (the committee) whose function is defined in
2 ¶ 654 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by
3 the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Native American Ministries, plus all the other members
4 of the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee relates to the Transforming Communities
5 Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual

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7 Conference, and is funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.

8 d. There shall be a Committee on The Advance (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 656 of the
9 2016 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual
10 Conference whose specific responsibility is The Advance, plus all the other members of the Transforming
11 Communities Vision Team. The committee relates to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The
12 committee is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and
13 is funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.

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

22 23 **Administrative Agencies**

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

31
32 a. There shall be a Finance Table whose function is defined in ¶¶ 611-628 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, and
33 which will fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Council on Finance and Administration. The
34 Finance Table will also fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Commission on Equitable
35 Compensation, whose function is defined in ¶ 625 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be sixteen (16)
36 members of the Finance Table. The Finance Table relates to the General Council on Finance and
37 Administration. There shall also be a Personnel Committee to carry out those functions of the Finance Table
38 in ¶ 613.13 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be four (4) members of the Personnel Committee plus
39 a representative of the Finance Table and a district superintendent.

40
41 b. There shall be a Board of Trustees whose function is defined in ¶ 2512 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.
42 There shall be twelve (12) members of the Board of Trustees, who will be elected in four classes of three
43 members each. The first Board of Trustees will have three persons elected by the Southwest Texas
44 Conference whose terms end in June 2015, three persons elected by the Río Grande Conference whose
45 terms end in June 2016, three persons elected by the Río Grande Conference whose terms end in June 2017,
46 and three persons elected by the Southwest Texas Conference whose terms end in June 2018. The members
47 of the Board of Trustees are also members of the Board of Directors of the United Methodist Río Texas
48 Conference Board of Trustees corporation, and their election shall be consistent with the Certificate of
49 Formation and the Bylaws of that corporation.

50
51 c. There shall be a Committee on Standing Rules whose function is to oversee the rules of the Annual
52 Conference, as permitted in ¶ 604.1 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be six (6) members of the
53 Committee on Standing Rules.

54 d. There shall be an Agenda and Worship Committee whose function is defined in ¶ 605.2 of the 2016 Book of
55 Discipline. The members of the Agenda and Worship Committee shall be the Bishop and the Assistant to the
56 Episcopal Office; the seven district superintendents; the presidents of United Methodist Women, United

1 Methodist Men, the Young Adult Ministry Council, and the Youth Ministries Council; the conference lay leader;
2 the conference treasurer; the conference secretary; the chairperson of the Uniting Table; and a Worship Team
3 Coordinator recruited by the committee.
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6 e. There shall be a Committee on the Episcopacy whose function is defined in ¶ 637 of the 2016 Book of
7 Discipline. There shall be twelve (12) members of the Committee on the Episcopacy.

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

10 g. There shall be a Board of Pensions whose function is defined in ¶ 639 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.

11 There shall be sixteen (16) members of the Board of Pensions who will serve eight-year staggered terms, with
12 four members being elected every other year. The first Board of Pensions will have four persons whose terms
13 end in June 2016, four persons whose terms end in June 2018, four persons whose terms end in June 2020,
14 and four persons whose terms end in June 2022 in order to establish the staggered terms. The 2014
15 conferences will each elect two persons for each class to make up the first Board of Pensions. The members
16 of the Board of Pensions are also members of the Board of Directors of the United Methodist Río Texas
17 Conference Board of Pensions corporation, and their election shall be consistent with the Certificate of
18 Formation and the Bylaws of that corporation. The Board of Pensions relates to the General Board of
19 Pensions and Health Benefits.
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22 h. There shall be a Commission on Archives and History whose function is defined in ¶ 641 of the 2016 Book
23 of Discipline. There shall be eight (8) members of the Commission on Archives and History. The Commission
24 on Archives and History relates to the General Commission on Archives and History.

25 i. There shall be a Committee on Nominations (the committee) whose function is to identify nominees for each
26 elected leadership position for which the Book of Discipline does not specify another method of nomination.
27 The members of the committee shall be the Bishop and the Assistant to the Episcopal Office; the seven district
28 superintendents; one person from each parent conference representing United Methodist Women, United
29 Methodist Men, the Young Adult Ministry Council, and the Youth Ministries Council; the conference lay leader;
30 and six (6) at large members nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual
31 Conference to ensure equal representation on the committee from each of the parent conferences. At least
32 through 2024 the Committee on Nominations will consist of an equal number of members from each of the
33 parent conferences.
34

35 7. There shall be an Administrative Review Committee (the committee) whose function and membership are
36 defined in ¶ 636 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. There shall be three (3) members of the committee and two (2)
37 alternates, nominated by the Bishop and elected by the clergy session of the Annual Conference. The committee
38 is accountable to the clergy session of the Annual Conference.
39

40 **Applying to All Agencies**

41 8. The Committee on Nominations shall work toward the goals of inclusiveness as set forth in ¶ 610.5 in the 2016
42 Book of Discipline which states: "...special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth
43 (¶ 256.3), young adults, older adults, persons from churches with small memberships, people with disabilities, and
44 racial and ethnic persons, in keeping with policies for general Church agencies. It is further recommended that
45 the membership of such agencies, except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, include one-third clergy, one-third
46 laywomen, and one-third laymen, who are professing members of local churches." The Committee on
47 Nominations shall also strive for equal representation from the districts; and, to the extent possible, the diversity of
48 those nominated should reflect the diversity of the Mission Field. It will be important at least through 2020 that
49 both the parent conferences be equally represented on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Pensions, and
50 that both be well represented on the Uniting Table and the Vision Teams.
51

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

1
2
3 10. Any elected position on a conference agency which is vacant at the end of the Annual Conference session or
4 which becomes vacant during the conference year may be filled by the Committee on Nominations, unless
5 otherwise specified by the Book of Discipline.

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

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

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

13
14 14. No district superintendent or conference staff person shall be eligible to serve as an elective member of any
15 conference agency. If a member at the time of appointment or hire, he/she shall be considered to have resigned
16 such membership.

17 **Conference Staff and Resources**

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

27
28 16. There shall be an Assistant to the Episcopal Office who will provide assistance with the administrative tasks
29 of the Episcopal Office. This position may be filled, by appointment or otherwise, at the Bishop's discretion.

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

33 **MEMBERSHIP OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

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

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

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

37
38 b. An additional lay member assigned to each charge for each additional clergy member who is appointed to
39 the charge as provided for in ¶ 602.4 of the 2016 Book of Discipline;

40 c. Diaconal ministers, active deaconesses, home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds
41 of the Annual Conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of
42 United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of lay servant
43 ministries, conference secretary of global ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the
44 conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the
45 Annual Conference college student organization, one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and
46 seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to
47 be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the Annual Conference, as provided in ¶ 602.4 and
48 ¶ 32 of the 2016 Book of Discipline;

49
50
51 (The method for selecting the youth, college and young adult representatives to Annual
52 Conference will be as follows: the conference youth organization will select one young person
53 between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) from each district; the conference young
54 adult organization will select one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30)
55 from each district. In the absence of a college student organization, the Board of Higher
56 Education and Campus Ministry will select the college student to serve as a Lay Member of the

1 Annual Conference. Each of the agencies is responsible for providing the names and contact
2 information for these persons to the conference secretary no later than January 15 each year.)
3
4
5
6

7 **Lay Members Defined by Annual Conference**

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

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

19
20
21 f. Additional lay members required to equalize lay and clergy membership shall be assigned to each district
22 based upon district membership. The conference secretary shall notify each district superintendent of the
23 number of additional lay members to be elected no later than sixty (60) days following Annual Conference.
24 Each district will determine the method of election.

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

26
27 h. At least 10% of these additional lay members shall be age 30 or under at the time of election.
28

29 19. In accordance with ¶ 659 of the 2016 Book of Discipline, the District Conferences will be composed of all
30 members of Annual Conference as set forth in the Standing Rules who are related to churches within the bounds
31 of their respective districts and currently elected to office. In addition, it shall include the chairperson of each
32 district agency.
33

34 **CONFERENCE PROCEDURES**

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

39 21. The Annual Conference shall make available English and Spanish editions of all official correspondence,
40 including but not limited to the contents of the Pre-Conference Report and the Conference Journal. The Annual
41 Conference shall also provide oral translation between Spanish and English, and support for hearing and vision
42 impaired persons, during the sessions of the Annual Conference.
43

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

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

49 24. The conference secretary shall establish the bar of the conference. The conference secretary shall
50 nominate, and the Annual Conference elect, the persons needed to assist in the proceedings of the conference.
51 These include the timekeeper, tellers, associate secretaries, and the minutes committee.
52

53 25. Speakers should identify themselves, giving their name and church, and whether they are a clergy or lay
54 member of the conference.
55

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

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

11
12
13 28. The Committee on Standing Rules shall report to the Annual Conference during the first business session of
14 each Annual Conference. Revisions or amendments must be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Annual
15 Conference, and become effective immediately upon their adoption, unless otherwise stated in the enabling
16 legislation. The Standing Rules may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Annual
17 Conference.

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

21
22 30. Any report or resolution requiring action of the conference must be in the hands of the conference secretary
23 early enough to allow for printing and distribution to the conference twenty-four (24) hours before the report is
24 considered by the conference. Motions made from the floor must be presented in writing to the presiding officer
25 and the conference secretary at the time the motion is made.

26
27 31. The conference lay leader will chair the Committee on Resolutions and Courtesies, and will be responsible
28 for appointing additional persons to assist in preparation of the report.

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

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

33 **OTHER**

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

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

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

FINANCE TABLE (CF&A)

REPORT I

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

For Conference Action

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

REPORT II

SUPPORT FOR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

The Finance Table (CF&A) is recommending that the salary and benefits for the Río Texas Conference District Superintendents for 2022 be set as follows:

Compensation

Cash salary for 2022 is set at \$99,760 per annum.

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

Expenses to be Provided by the Districts

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

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

REPORT III

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION POLICY ON MINIMUM PASTORAL SUPPORT

FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

Minimum Pastoral Support Policies

The minimum salary levels for 2022 shall be:

- For a Full or Probationary member \$42,900 per annum.
- For an Associate member \$39,900 per annum.
- For an Approved Local Pastor or member of another denomination \$36,600 per annum.

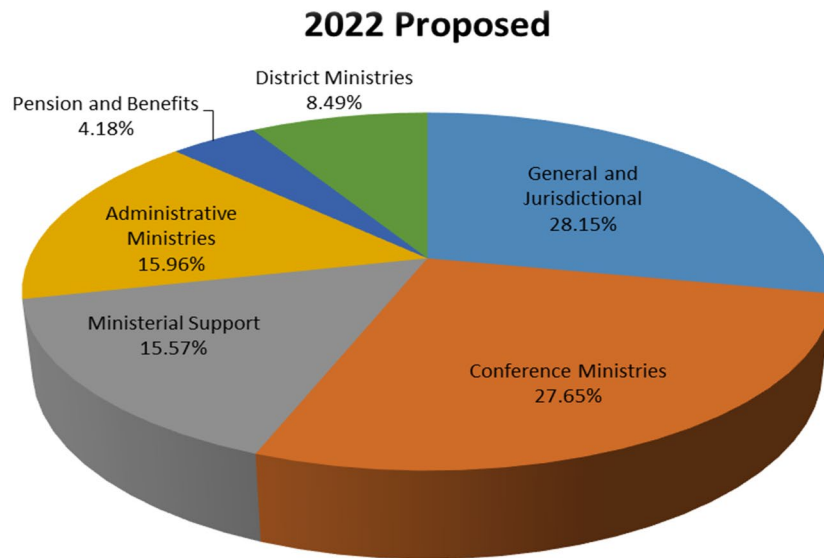
Plus \$75 for each year of service completed after 2nd year with a maximum of \$1,425

Plus \$200 for 2nd church in charge and \$100 for each additional church in the charge

REPORT IV
2022 APPORTIONED FUNDS
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

Fund Name	2020 Approved	2021 Approved	2022 Proposed	2022 vs 2021 % Change	2022 vs 2021 \$ Change
A General and Jurisdictional Total	2,812,286	2,392,988	2,321,199	-3.00%	(71,789)
B Conference Ministries Total	2,375,323	2,270,042	2,279,698	0.43%	9,656
C Ministerial Support Total	1,284,085	1,334,085	1,283,601	-3.78%	(50,484)
D Administrative Ministries Total	1,345,769	1,338,929	1,315,886	-1.72%	(23,042)
E Pension and Benefits	400,000	380,000	345,000	-9.21%	(35,000)
F District Missions	700,000	700,000	700,000	0.00%	
Grand Total	8,917,463	8,439,072	8,245,384	-2.03%	(170,659)

2022 APPORTIONED FUNDS



	2020 Approved	2021 Approved	2022 Proposed	% Change 2022 vs 2021	\$ Change 2022 vs 2021
A General and Jurisdictional					
1 GC: World Service	1,401,100	1,141,047	1,106,816	-3.00%	(34,231)
2 GC: Ministerial Educational Fund	473,227	357,378	346,657	-3.00%	(10,721)
3 GC: General Episcopal Fund	414,923	458,173	444,428	-3.00%	(13,745)
4 GC: Black College Fund	188,766	165,155	160,200	-3.00%	(4,955)
5 GC: General Administration Fund	166,369	140,519	136,303	-3.00%	(4,216)
6 GC: Africa University	42,245	37,130	36,016	-3.00%	(1,114)
7 GC: Interdenominational Cooperation	37,010	4,940	4,792	-3.00%	(148)
8 SCJ: Lydia Patterson Institute	54,849	54,849	53,204	-3.00%	(1,645)
9 SCJ: Mission and Administration Fund	29,564	29,564	28,677	-3.00%	(887)
10 SCJ: SMU Campus Ministry/Reserves	4,233	4,233	4,106	-3.00%	(127)
General and Jurisdictional Total	2,812,286	2,392,988	2,391,199	-3.00%	(71,789)
B Conference Ministries					
1 Staffing	980,573	940,542	944,865	0.46%	4,323
2 Congregational Excellence	444,250	435,000	417,000	-4.14%	(18,000)
3 Clergy and Lay Leadership	424,500	412,500	392,500	-4.85%	(20,000)
4 Connectional Ministries	273,000	282,000	330,333	17.14%	48,333
5 Transforming Communities	35,000	35,000	35,000	-	-
6 Mission Field Ministry Office Operations	118,000	115,000	110,000	-4.35%	(5,000)
7 Lydia Patterson Institute Capital Campaign	50,000	-	-	-	-
8 Contingency General	50,000	50,000	50,000	-	-
Conference Ministries Total	2,375,323	2,276,005	2,279,698	0.43%	9,656
C Ministerial Support					
1 District Superintendent/Cabinet Support	877,085	877,085	826,601	-5.76%	(50,484)
2 Episcopal Support/Executive Fund	45,000	95,000	95,000	-	-
3 Equitable Compensation	130,000	130,000	130,000	-	-
4 Moving Expenses	200,000	200,000	200,000	-	-
5 Golden Cross	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	-
6 Investigations/Emergency Response	7,000	7,000	7,000	-	-
7 Cabinet Emergency Response	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	-
Ministerial Support Total	1,284,085	1,348,169	1,283,601	-3.78%	(50,484)
D Administrative Ministries					
1 United Methodist Center Maintenance	270,000	289,000	289,000	-	-
2 Conference Reserves	100,000	100,000	50,000	-50.00%	(50,000)
3 Commission on Archives & History	18,000	15,000	15,000	-	-
4 Auditing	112,000	112,000	112,000	-	-
5 Journal	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	-
6 Administrative Ministries Staffing	762,006	740,166	767,123	3.64%	26,958
7 Administrative Ministries Team Support	81,763	80,763	80,763	-	-
Administrative Ministries Total	1,345,769	1,341,910	1,315,886	-1.72%	(23,042)
E Pensions and Benefits	400,000	380,000	345,000	-9.21%	(35,000)
F District Ministries	700,000	700,000	700,000	-	-
Grand Total	8,917,463	8,439,072	8,245,384	-2.03%	(170,659)

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

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

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

6 Receipts on all funds for 2020 by the Río Texas Conference were \$8,365,822, or 85.46% of the apportioned amount. The Finance Table
7 (CF&A) is proposing the budget for 2022. The overall apportioned budget for all funds totals \$8,245,384.

8 The Finance Table (CF&A) sees itself as joining with the local church in the work of the financial ministry of the Annual Conference.
9

10
11 We commend the 2022 budget to the Conference. It represents the uniqueness and depth of ministries and missions provided by our
12 church and economic realities of our Conference. The Finance Table (CF&A), along with the Conference Treasurer, has been
13 monitoring membership and economic trends within the Conference, the Global Church, and society at large. We believe that in order
14 foster the future health and vitality of our ministries in local communities while supporting our collective ministries as a conference and
15 denomination, we must continue the trend of annual reductions in amounts apportioned to local churches. As the goals and direction of
16 the Conference become clearer, we will be working with the Bishop, the Uniting Table, and Mission Field Ministries to ensure that the
17 budget and apportionments accurately reflect those goals and support those ministries. At the same time, we will continue to work with
18 our Conference Treasurer and other Conference leaders to improve communications, systems and efficiency.
19
20
21
22

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

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

27 General and Jurisdictional
28 Conference Ministries (formerly Conference Benevolences)
29 Ministerial Support
30 Administrative Ministries (formerly Conference Administration)
31 Pension and Benefits
32 District Missions
33

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

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

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

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

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

2. At the beginning of the calendar year, the Finance Table (CF&A) shall determine which portions of the Conference Ministries and Administrative Ministries are “fixed costs” (salaries, benefits, etc.) and shall thus be authorized to be paid at 100% of the approved budget. On the basis of prior-year receipts to these funds, the Finance Table (CF&A) shall then determine a percentage of the approved budget to be authorized for expenditures in the remaining items of each budget, so that expenditures shall not exceed income.
 - a. Each church is expected to support all funds at 100% of the apportioned amount. (§247.14 2016 *Book of Discipline*)
 - b. The churches are requested to make payments thereon aggregately, with the understanding that the Conference Treasurer will allocate such payments according to the appropriate percentage due the fund according to the Conference Budget.
3. An Unrestricted Fund Balance Account will be maintained by the Annual Conference at a minimum level of 20% of the current total of the Conference Funds. Any undesignated interest income will be transferred to the undesignated fund balance at the end of the fiscal year.
4. All apportioned funds, pension and health benefits costs both receipts and disbursements, will be managed through the office of the Conference Treasurer. All boards, agencies, committees, and commissions shall use the Conference Treasurer as the fiscal agent.
5. The compensation (including housing and utilities) for District Superintendents shall be recommended to the Annual Conference by the Finance Table (CF&A), using a guideline formula adopted in 2017 of 1.85 times the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). The purpose of the formula is to relate DS Compensation to Full Time Clergy Compensation. We recommend that the salary computation should also be applied to other clergy appointed to the conference staff at Cabinet level. For the year 2022, the Cabinet has requested that this formula be set aside leaving their salaries frozen at the lower 2020/2021 rate.
6. All agencies receiving funds from the Conference budget shall affirm that funds will not be expended for uses not consistent with ¶613.18-19 2016 *Book of Discipline*.
7. The amount of compensation designated as housing allowance for ordained staff members and district superintendents of the Conference will be set by an annual resolution of the Conference Finance Table (CF&A) after consideration of a statement of amounts to be used during the year.
8. The governing boards of United Methodist related entities must apply to the Finance Table (CF&A) to be granted the privilege of soliciting and receiving funds from churches, individuals, and other sources (but not from conference-wide offerings except as indicated in the list which follows) in keeping with ¶262 2016 *Book of Discipline*; no capital campaigns have been approved for 2021; and the following, and only the following, conference-wide offerings are approved for 2022:

Human Relations Day.....	General Conference
UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing).....	General Conference
Native American Awareness.....	General Conference
Peace with Justice.....	General Conference
World Communion.....	General Conference
United Methodist Student Day.....	General Conference
Harvest Sunday (see Transforming Communities Vision Team Report).....	Annual Conference
9. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary of the Conference Finance Table (CF&A), the Chairperson of the Audit Committee, the Chairperson of Equitable Compensation and the Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Ministries constitute the executive committee of the Conference Finance Table (CF&A).
10. The Finance Table (CF&A) is authorized to appoint a Conference auditor.
11. A Conference Fund will not be permitted to carry over unobligated budget allocations from one conference year to another unless specifically authorized by the Finance Table (CF&A). Agencies receiving funds from sources other than apportioned

1 funds may carry over such unspent funds into the next year. Any unobligated budget allocations not authorized for carryover
2 will be added to the undesignated Fund Balance of the Annual Conference.
3

- 4 12. Each year, the Conference Comptroller shall set a cutoff date for all apportionment payments to the Conference Treasurer to be
5 applied to the preceding year. The cutoff date will be communicated to the local churches no later than December 1 each year.
6
- 7 13. Each Conference board, agency, or institution receiving or disbursing funds not managed by the Conference Treasurer shall
8 maintain adequate financial records and prepare and submit annual audit reports to the Conference Treasurer and the Finance
9 Table (CF&A). All treasurers shall be properly bonded.
- 10
- 11 14. The Conference fiscal year shall begin on January 1 each year, and end on December 31 each year.
- 12 15. The Conference Finance Table (CF&A) is responsible for designating depositories for Conference funds.
13
- 14 16. The Conference will include in each annual budget an appropriate line for each “shall” ministry as defined by The Book of
15 Discipline

REPORT VI
EQUITABLE COMPENSATION POLICIES
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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

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

20

21

22 The Commission recommends the following strategic process to provide assistance for pastoral leadership to new and existing
23 churches engaged in ministries with Hispanics/Latinos within the Río Texas Conference utilizing the Hispanic Ministry Fund. The
24 process involves various local, district and conference entities in order to provide the most strategic use of these limited funds.
25 The Commission shall be responsible for the following:
26

- 27 1. Collect and analyze data* pertaining to local churches engaged in or with potential to be in ministry with Hispanics/Latinos
28 in communities of growth, in collaboration with the Mission Vitality Center;
29
- 30 2. Identify and list possible local churches that could benefit from these funds, in collaboration with the Mission Vitality
31 Center;
32
- 33 3. Share the data and list of local churches with the Bishop and Cabinet, district strategy teams, and key conference staff in
34 order to discuss, negotiate, and prioritize potential local churches;
35
- 36 4. In consultation with the district strategy teams, invite local churches to apply to the Commission's Hispanic Ministry Fund,
37 review applications, and approve annual grants;
38
- 39 5. Require the approved local churches to incorporate and utilize appropriate conference programs and tools, such as coaches,
40 mentors, Healthy Church Initiative, etc., and monitor and celebrate progress in its development and accomplishments of
41 ministry with Hispanics/Latinos;
42
- 43 6. Review and approve additional grants to same churches and others annually.

41 * Data to be gathered and analyzed includes the following:

42 population growth (actual and projected)	profile of the area served or to be served
43 membership growth (trend)	average worship attendance (trend)
44 number of baptisms (trend)	number of professions of faith (trend)
45 number of years of existence	outreach programs

1 ethnicity of congregation (trend) age profile of members
 2 language(s) utilized by congregation building size: sanctuary, educational bldg.
 3 other key indicators
 4

REPORT VIII
MEETING EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

5 All boards and agencies are urged to consider digital meeting options; this allows both economy of travel and increased participation
 6 from across the conference. When digital connection is not possible or effective, all boards and agencies are urged to schedule meetings,
 7 as far as possible, on dates and places coinciding with other groups in order to affect economy in travel expenses. Travel Expense shall
 8 be paid to members going to official in-conference meetings (between Annual Conference Sessions) at the rate of 40¢ per mile. The
 9 allowance for meals shall be \$3.00 for breakfast; \$7.00 each for lunch and dinner necessitated by the meetings. Reimbursement of
 10 100% of lodging expenses necessitated by meetings at contracted hotels through the Annual Conference will be made. Those who
 11 choose to stay elsewhere will be reimbursed at the lowest contracted rate. The Conference meeting organizer will provide contracted
 12 hotel information to participants. Original lodging receipts must accompany the Disbursement Request. These allowances are not to
 13 cover full cost at all times, simply to assist in the additional expense of attending meetings.
 14 Childcare expenses per meeting day not to exceed \$30.00 for the first child, not to exceed \$20.00 for each additional child, shall be
 15 allowed and included in the meeting expense of the board or agency.
 16
 17

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

21 When it is necessary to fly to a meeting, flight must be booked at least 14 days prior to the meeting. If flights are not booked 14 days
 22 prior to the meeting, the member booking the flight must pay the difference in the cost of the flight. This does not apply in the rare
 23 instances when the meeting is an emergency meeting that is not announced prior to 14 days.
 24

25 Each local church is encouraged to undergird the meal, transportation, and lodging expenses of Annual Conference members in
 26 attending Annual Conference by adding a minimum of \$100 to the church budget for each lay and clergy delegate. The district
 27 superintendents are asked to encourage such support at each Charge Conference.
 28
 29

REPORT IX
AUDIT COMMITTEE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

30 The Río Texas Conference Audit Committee is chartered and reports to the Finance Table (CF&A). The Audit Committee is in the
 31 process of reviewing audits of 2020 financial statements. Audits for the Río Texas Conference and Board of Pensions will be
 32 published in the Conference Journal later in 2021. Members of the Río Texas Audit Committee are as follows:
 33

34 Jim Noble	Clergy	Chairman
35 Zeda Alvarado	Laity	
36 Drew Claes	Laity	
37 Brad DeHaven	Clergy	
38 Oscar Garza	Laity	
39 Jim Wynn	Laity	

BOARD OF PENSIONS

REPORT I PAST SERVICE RATE 2022 FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

1 The Past Service Rate for 2022 will be **\$689** per year of annuity credit for the Pre-82 Pension Plan. This reflects an increase
2 1% over the 2021 Past Service Rate. The Pre-82 Pension Plan, also known as Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement
3 Security Plan (CRSP), is a defined benefit pension plan administered by Wespath and provides eligible clergy with a pension
4 benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church before 1982.

5
6 In 2016, the Board of Pensions adopted a long-term PSR strategy based on increases of 70% of the reported St. Louis Federal
7 Reserve Cost of Living Index-Urban South Region to set the past service rate each year. The Board believes that this policy
8 provides for the honor, support, and appreciation of our retired clergy while maintaining a sustainable plan to meet benefit
9 liabilities. Any change in the PSR also increases the Plan's liabilities and must be funded in the year adopted if necessary per
10 the Plan asset level and Wespath funding requirements. Therefore, the Board continues to evaluate this PSR strategy and its
11 impact on plan liabilities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received
28 from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"), which includes all such
29 payments from Wespath Benefits and Investments, during the years 2021 and 2022 by each active, retired, terminated, or
30 disabled clergy person who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a
31 rental/housing allowance for each such clergy person; and that the pension severance, or disability payments to which this
32 rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds
33 authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespath Benefits and Investments "Wespath" and from a
34 commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, pension, or fund
35 authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a clergy person rendered to this Conference or that an active,
36 retired, terminated, or disabled clergy person of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conferences of the
37 church, general agency of the church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the church,
38 or any other employer that employed the clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the church, or its
39 predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such
40 active, retired, or disabled clergy person's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

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

8
9
REPORT III
2021 COMPREHENSIVE FUNDING PLAN
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

10 The Comprehensive Funding Plan is under review by Wespath Benefits and Investments and will be available at the annual
11 conference session and included in the 2021 Río Texas Conference Journal.
12

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

13 The Río Texas Conference Board of Pensions is honored in our mission to care for those who serve. We endeavor to be
14 stewards in the administration of connectional benefit plans and retirement assets for plan beneficiaries. Our partner in
15 ministry, Wespath Benefits and Investments, implements and administers benefit plans providing guidance in legislation,
16 actuarial services, and denominational policy. We are thankful that amid the unprecedented COVID pandemic, congregations
17 have remained steadfast in their commitment and support of clergy and lay participant benefit programs during challenging
18 times. These programs include over eight million in annual direct billing in 2020 for medical, dental, vision, pension and ancillary
19 programs for active clergy and lay participants.
20

21 As of January 1, 2021, the *Pre-82* pension plan, the *Ministerial Pension Plan* annuities (MPP), and *Clergy Retirement Security*
22 *Plan* (CRSP-DB) plan with assets subject to market fluctuations remain fully funded with no additional liabilities expected in
23 2021 and 2022. We continue to monitor market volatility to maintain a long-term sustainable asset plan to meet benefit liabilities
24 for beneficiaries. With the postponement General Conference to September of 2022, the proposed pension legislation by
25 Wespath for the new *Compass* Defined Contribution (DC) plan has been delayed for consideration along with the previously
26 anticipated potential of DC plan cost savings. If adopted, the *Compass* Plan's earliest implementation is 2024, reducing
27 congregational pension costs from the current Defined Benefit (DB) hybrid plan.
28

- 29
30 - In coordination with Wespath, we were thankful to provide the HealthFlex Premium holiday during October of
31 2020, which provided COVID relief to congregations.
32 - Over the last five years, the Board of Pensions (BOP) apportionment has decreased 74% from \$1,483,992 (2017) to
33 \$380,00 in (2021). In 2022, the (BOP) apportionment will be reduced to \$345,000.
34 - The CRSP-DB flat rate contribution of \$511 per month for active full-time clergy has remained the same over a
35 three-year period.
36 - Despite higher than average claims experience, we were able to mitigate a 9% increase in all HealthFlex medical
37 plan options over a two-year period (2021-2022) to 3% with the network transition to the **Blue Cross Blue Shield**
38 (BCBS) national network in 2021.
39 - The Board established two HealthFlex grant programs, including a Family HealthFlex Coverage Grant and
40 Transitional Grant. These grants require a District Superintendent's approval and application request
41 demonstrating need-based eligibility.
42

43 We thank all of our churches, clergy and lay members for adapting during challenging times to persevere and share the gospel.
44 Our churches have remained committed in their contributions for benefits despite many new trials and we will continue to
45 in our mission to support you. Lastly, I want to thank the Board of Pensions and conference staff who continue to provide for

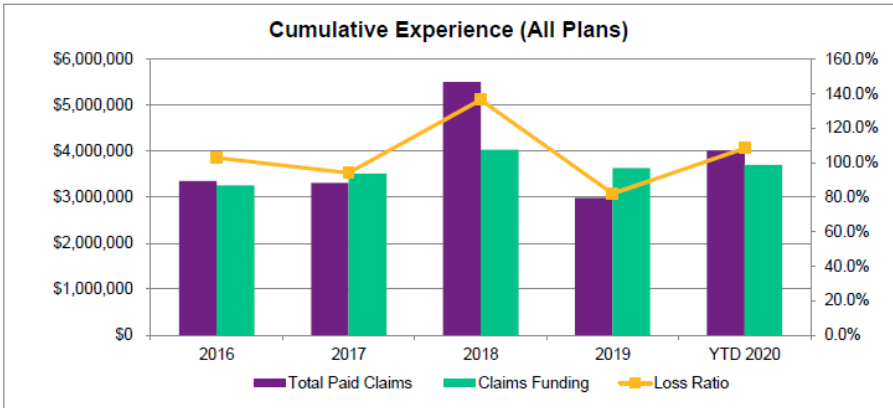
1 our clergy and lay participants' honor, support, and appreciation.
2
3 Respectfully Submitted
4 Tony LoBasso, President
5

HEALTH BENEFITS COMMITTEE UPDATE

6
7 HealthFlex plan participants continue to take advantage of the multiple plans in the HealthFlex Exchange, selecting between
8 six medical, three dental and three vision plan offerings. Additionally, participation in personal reimbursement accounts has
9 increased to almost 75% since the transition to the Exchange. This multi-plan model allows greater flexibility in choosing a
10 plan combination that fits each participant's needs. The 2021 Open Enrollment communications and events shifted to a
11 complete virtual webinar format due to the pandemic. The Conference sponsored six webinars in preparation for the Annual
12 Election (AE) period and participants also had the opportunity to attend AE webinars sponsored by HealthFlex.
13

14
15 After a difficult HealthFlex plan year in 2018 with 23% higher claims, the plan stabilized in 2019. However, 2020 concluded
16 with a claims ratio of **108.3%** compared to **82%** in 2019 and **136.4%** in 2018. Due to the pandemic impact on 2020 claims,
17 Wespath used a three-year claims experience to determine 2022 HealthFlex rates with 2018 weighted at 30%, 2019 at 50%
18 and 2020 at 20%.

- 19 - Enrollment migration continued from the B1000 to the CDHP and HDHP plans in 2020 and 2021.
- 20 - Although medical utilization decreased in 2020, non-COVID related prescription per member, per month costs
21 significantly increased by 22%



23 Focus on Wellness and Behavioral Health

24 The pandemic's mental, emotional and physical impact on participants has yet to be fully understood. Therefore, the
25 Committee has identified future areas of focus to include:

- 26 - Reducing the stigmatism of seeking care related to behavior and mental health and wellbeing.
- 27
- 28 - Promoting support tools to participants, including the EAP and BCBS Behavioral Health benefits, including
29 reimbursement for out-of-network behavioral health providers.
- 30 - Identifying areas of opportunity for wellness and physical health to include online classes.
- 31 - Increasing access to providers in underserved geographies.
- 32 - Partnering with conference leadership on the Clergy Wellness Plan funded by MHM with the plan's promotion and
33 identify areas of wellness opportunities determined from the HealthFlex Annual Report.
- 34
- 35 - We encourage participants to continue participating in HealthFlex and the Conference Wellness programs such as
36 the annual Blueprint For Wellness (BFW).

37 Respectfully Submitted
38 Michele Segura, Health Benefits Committee Chairperson

REPORT V
PENSION PLANS
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

2022 PENSION PLAN CHURCH DIRECT BILLING

Effective January 1, 2022, church direct invoicing by the Conference for clergy participants under appointment for current active service will include:

- Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) Defined Benefit required annual contribution of **\$6,132** for each eligible full-time clergy invoiced monthly.
- Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) Defined required contribution of **3%** of Plan Compensation for each eligible full-time clergy invoiced monthly.
- Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) required contribution **3%** Plan Compensation for each eligible full-time clergy to a maximum of two times the 2022 denominational average compensation or DAC of \$75,570 in 2022 invoiced monthly.
- United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP-PT) required Contribution of **9%** for each eligible part-time clergy (3/4 time appointment or less) invoiced monthly.
- United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) optional contributions as elected by clergy as a payroll deduction invoiced monthly.
- The Rio Grande Legacy Fund will continue to provide contributions to eligible legacy churches for full-time clergy in the CRSP-Defined Benefit Plan, CRSP-Defined Contribution Plan, and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP).
- The Rio Grande Legacy Fund will continue to provide a **9%** contribution to eligible part-time clergy appointed to a legacy church in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan UMPIP-PT.

PRE-82 PENSION PLAN

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

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

In 2016, the Board of Pensions adopted a long-term PSR strategy based on increases of 70% of the reported St. Louis Federal Reserve Cost of Living Index-Urban South Region to set the past service rate each year. The Board believes that this policy provides honor, support, and appreciation to our retired clergy while maintaining a sustainable plan to meet benefit liabilities. Any change in the PSR also increases the Plan's liabilities and must be funded in the year adopted if necessary in accordance with the Plan asset level and funding requirements. As of December 31, 2020, no additional Pre-82 liabilities or Advance Contribution for 2022 to fund the Past Service Rate increase is due.

MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN (MPP)

The Ministerial Pension Plan, also known as Supplement Three to the Clergy Security Retirement Plan (CRSP), provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. The MPP is an Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b) retirement plan. The Conference is required to fund any liability attributable to MPP annuities due to market fluctuations, mortality/demographic assumptions, and Wespath Plan policies. As of January 1, 2020, actuarial valuation for 2022, the MPP and CRSP annuities funded ratio for the Rio Texas Conference is approximately 110%. No additional MPP contributions are required in 2021 and 2022 under Wespath's Corridor Funding methodology.

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

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

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

10
11 **Defined Benefit (DB)** – Provides a specific dollar amount at retirement regardless of market conditions or investment
12 performance. The amount is based on a formula that specifies a monthly retirement benefit to eligible clergy and 70% for
13 eligible contingent annuitants for the remainder of their lives. The CRSP-DB provides a monthly retirement benefit using
14 1.25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) at retirement multiplied by years of service from January 1, 2007,
15 to December 31, 2013. The multiplier is reduced to 1% for years of service beginning January 1, 2014.

16
17
18 Both components are direct billed to each church for all eligible full-time clergy. The defined contribution (DC) billing is based
19 on 3% of Plan Compensation. The annual defined benefit (DB) direct billing in 2021 to churches for each clergy appointed to
20 full-time service is \$6,132. The annual defined benefit (DB) direct billing in 2022 to churches for each clergy appointed to full-
21 time service will remain at \$6,132.

22
23 The annual DB contribution to Wespath is based on the number of eligible active full-time clergy and clergy on Medical leave
24 with CPP benefits on the actuarial valuation provided by Wespath. The contribution amount due in 2021 for the DB
25 component is \$1,559,225 and \$1,443,250 in 2022. Any clergy serving less than full-time not eligible for the CRSP DB are
26 eligible to participate in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan with a required church contribution of 9% of Plan
27 Compensation.

28 **COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)**

29 The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) is a welfare benefit plan administered by Wespath Benefits and Investments. The
30 CPP includes long-term disability, death and other welfare benefits for eligible full-time clergy. The CPP plan is an Internal
31 Revenue Code 414(e) “church plan” funded by plan sponsor contributions. The CPP required direct billing to churches is 3%
32 of Plan Compensation for eligible full-time clergy up to two times the 2021 denominational average compensation or DAC of
33 \$74,199 and \$75,570 in 2022.

34
35 **UNITED METHODIST PERSONAL INVESTMENT PLAN (UMPIP) FOR LAY AND CLERGY**

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

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

REPORT VI
2022 HEALTHFLEX
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

HEALTHFLEX BENEFITS

The Rio Texas Conference participates in the HealthFlex Plan administered by Wespath Benefits and Investments for eligible full-time clergy and Conference lay employees. The HealthFlex plan is also available to lay employees of churches who have adopted a HealthFlex Salary-Paying Unit Sub-Adoption Agreement meeting the eligibility requirements of the Plan. HealthFlex is an integrated, wellness-driven health program that supports healthier lifestyles. The HealthFlex plan is designed to provide eligible participants with a comprehensive plan including medical, prescription, and wellness benefits. HealthFlex uses incentives as part of its strategy to promote engagement in healthy behaviors and wellness programs. The 2022 strategy continues the focus on rewards both for measuring risks through Blueprint for Wellness Screening and Health Quotient (HQ), Diabetes Prevention program and for taking action toward better health and well-being. Rewards emphasize participating in programs that have shown to have a positive impact on health risk, including health coaching and the Virgin Pulse activity program. In addition, to the HealthFlex wellness benefits, the Conference also provides additional holistic wellness benefits for clergy and Conference lay employees, including spiritual, mental, emotional and physical care components funded by grants from Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas. In 2021 and 2022 the HealthFlex provider will be Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) National Network.

2021 HEALTHFLEX PLAN

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

The 2021 HealthFlex Exchange offers six distinct plan choices for participants:

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

	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
<i>Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum (OPP)</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Individual</i>
	<i>\$10,000 Family</i>	<i>\$10,000 Family</i>	<i>\$10,000 Family</i>	<i>\$10,000 Family</i>	<i>\$10,000 Family</i>	<i>\$12,000 Family</i>

HRA - Health Reimbursement Account, HSA - Health Savings Account

2022 HEALTHFLEX EXCHANGE INDIVIDUAL PREMIUM CREDIT (PC)

The 2022 HealthFlex Exchange design includes a non-taxable premium credit (PC) of **\$925**. The PC is a fixed dollar amount provided to each HealthFlex full-time clergy and Conference lay employee participant. Participants will use the allocated PC amount to select a health plan in the HealthFlex Exchange and pay for some or all premiums for the plan of their choice.

- The 2022 PC amount will be \$925 per month and direct invoiced.
- The PC will appear as a “credit toward purchase” when choosing a HealthFlex plan from all available HealthFlex Exchange 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 who choose a plan costing more than the PC credit amount, including the cost to cover dependents will contribute the additional amount by a payroll deduction from their church to cover the cost difference between the PC amount they receive and their higher cost for monthly premiums (the participant’s share of the premium cost).

HEALTHFLEX DIRECT INVOICING FOR ALL FULL-TIME CLERGY

To ensure the Plan is efficient and sustainable for the benefit of all participants and churches with clergy appointed full-time, any church where a clergy has chosen to not participate in HealthFlex will continue to be invoiced the PC through direct billing effective January 1, 2019 at the current amount as approved by the Conference.

HEALTHFLEX TRANSITIONAL GRANT

The Board of Pensions believes that Health Benefits should not be a hindering factor in equipping a congregation with the excellent clergy it needs for ministry. The Board established a grant program in 2019 with funds received from churches with non HealthFlex participating clergy to help clergy with families’ transition between churches. We recognize that this can be a financial burden for both the church and clergy and believe this assistance will help ease the transition. Upon District Superintendent's approval, the program will provide grants of up to \$5,000 for clergy assistance with six months of health care coverage as part of a clergy's transition to a new church when the sending and receiving church have adopted differing contributions for dependent coverage.

FAMILY HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE GRANT FUND

The Board of Pensions recognizes that affordable health care coverage is an essential component of an attractive employee benefits package. In the current health care environment, it is evident that some clergy’s health care family coverage premium payroll deductions make up a significant portion of their salaries. To assist, the Board of Pensions has established a grant fund using the 2016 HealthFlex dividend to assist clergy whose salaries are near the minimum threshold and paying for a significant portion of their salaries as a payroll deduction to provide healthcare for their families. This fund will provide grants to align healthcare costs for the clergy with the current P+1 tier cost based on the default plan (C2000, Vision Exam Core, and Dental PPO Plan). For example, in 2021 the amount is \$600 per month or \$7,200 annual (the difference of the family rate at \$2,231/month and the P+1 rate of \$1,631/month). These grants require a District Superintendent’s approval and application grant request demonstrating need-based eligibility.

2022 CHURCH HEALTH BENEFITS DIRECT BILLING

Effective January 1, 2021, churches began being directly invoiced for eligible active clergy participants under full-time appointment and eligible enrolled lay employees:

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

2022 HEALTHFLEX INDIVIDUAL PREMIUM CREDIT

2022 Individual Premium Credit (PC)

	Monthly Contribution	Annual Direct Bill
Active Clergy	\$ 925	\$ 11,100
Pre-65 Retiree or Spouse	\$ 925	\$ 11,100
Medical Leave with CPP (Max 24 Months)	\$ 925	\$ 11,100
Conference Lay Employees	\$ 925	\$ 11,100

Each eligible active full-time clergy will receive a monthly individual Premium Credit in the HealthFlex plan of \$925 (funded through their Rio Texas Conference church) and will choose from six HealthFlex plan options.

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

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.

2022 HEALTHFLEX RATES – Blue Cross Blue Shield National PPO Network

2022 HealthFlex Plan Options

MEDICAL PLANS	B1000	C2000	C3000	H1500	H2000	H3000
Participant	\$ 935	\$ 898	\$ 782	\$ 874	\$ 792	\$ 690
Participant + 1	\$ 1,777	\$ 1,706	\$ 1,486	\$ 1,661	\$ 1,505	\$ 1,311
Participant + Family	\$ 2,431	\$ 2,334	\$ 2,033	\$ 2,272	\$ 2,060	\$ 1,793

DENTAL PLANS	HMO	Passive PPO	Dental PPO
Participant	\$ 14	\$ 41	\$ 34
Participant + 1	\$ 26	\$ 82	\$ 67
Participant + Family	\$ 45	\$ 123	\$ 101

VISION PLANS	Exam Core	Full Service	Premier
Participant	\$ 0	\$ 7.96	\$ 14.16
Participant + 1	\$ 0	\$ 12.86	\$ 22.94
Participant + Family	\$ 0	\$ 20.34	\$ 36.38

1 **2022 DEFAULT PLAN**

2 The HealthFlex exchange is a passive enrollment. Participants who are currently enrolled in the HealthFlex exchange for 2021
3 will automatically be enrolled in the same medical, dental and vision plans for 2022 if no elections are made during the Annual
4 Election Period. Full-time clergy and Conference lay employees new to the Conference will be enrolled in the following default
5 plans for all of 2022 if no elections are made. All participants are encouraged to annually evaluate their current and
6 anticipated health care needs and enroll in the plan choices that best match their individual requirements.

7
8

9 **2022 Default Plan** – If no plan selection is made for new enrollees during the Annual Election Period

Medical	C3000
Dental	Dental PPO
Vision	ExamCore

10 ***HealthFlex Flexible Spending Accounts***

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

14 **ANCILLARY BENEFITS**

15 ***Optional Term Life Insurance***

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

19

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

21 A Retiree Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) is provided by One Exchange for eligible retirees and funded by
22 apportionments. The HRA is based on the stipend amount received by eligible retirees before December 31, 2013. As of
23 January 1, 2021, there are 57 retirees eligible for an HRA. Eligible retirees must be enrolled in a Medicare Supplement or
24 Advantage plan through Via Benefits (formerly One Exchange) to receive the HRA. To provide sustainability of the HRA benefit
25 and not increase conference benefit plan liabilities and apportionments, the HRA is a fixed amount per eligible retiree and
26 does not increase from year to year.

27

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

33

**REPORT VII
2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

34 The 2020 financial statements of the Río Texas Conference are in the process of being audited. The 2020 audit will be included
35 in the 2021 Río Texas Conference Journal.

**REPORT VIII
2022 PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS BUDGET
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

	2020 Approved	2020 Actual (Unaudited)	2021 Approved	2022 Preliminary	% Change 2021 vs. 2022
Pension & Benefits Apportionment	400,000	383,693	380,000	345,000	-9.2%
Pension Administration and Grants					
Sources: Apportionment	400,000	383,693	380,000	345,000	-9.2%
Uses:					
Office	40,000	18,265	38,000	36,500	-3.9%
Audit	30,294	24,002	28,500	28,500	0.0%
Post Retiree HRA Actuarial Requirement	-	-	5,000		
D&O Fiduciary	25,000	23,215	26,250	31,897	21.5%
Legal Fees	27,000	13,624	27,000	30,000	11.1%
Interim Pastoral Support - Disability	24,095	4,597	22,000	22,000	0.0%
LTD-Medical Leave Grants	58,113	5,976	47,000	43,146	-8.2%
Basic Life	13,014	12,458	12,250	12,957	5.8%
Delinquent Direct Billing	80,000	4,293	75,000	60,000	-20.0%
Retiree HRA	102,484	74,790	99,000	80,000	-19.2%
Total Uses	400,000	181,220	380,000	345,000	-9.2%
Excess/(Deficit)	-	202,473	-	-	
Benefit Plans					
Sources: HealthFlex	5,239,000	4,189,848	4,782,000	4,463,000	-6.7%
HealthFlex Waiver	-	92,263	-	77,700	
CRSP - CPP, DC, DB	2,771,742	2,634,246	2,651,052	2,641,383	-0.4%
UMPIP / UMPIP-PT	971,600	1,013,954	920,000	1,082,731	17.7%
Flex Plan/HSA	380,000	377,934	380,000	389,272	2.4%
Optional Life	47,000	38,554	43,000	39,325	-8.5%
COVID-Wespath HealthFlex Relief	-	398,670	-	-	
COVID-Wespath CPP Holiday Relief	-	139,386	-	-	
Total Sources	9,409,342	8,884,855	8,776,052	8,693,410	
Uses: HealthFlex Premiums	5,239,000	4,626,467	4,782,000	4,463,000	-6.7%
HealthFlex Transitional Grant		1,667		30,000	
CRSP - CPP, DC, DB	2,771,742	2,681,094	2,671,145	2,641,383	-1.1%
UMPIP / UMPIP-PT	971,600	1,009,249	920,000	1,082,731	17.7%
Flex Plan- HSA	380,000	378,702	380,000	389,272	2.4%
Optional Life	47,000	39,489	43,000	39,325	-8.5%
Total Uses	9,409,342	8,736,668	8,796,145	8,645,710	-1.7%
Excess/(Deficit)	-	148,187	(20,093)	47,700	
Other Matters					
Sources: Investment Income					
Wespath -RGC Legacy	361,087	1,449,272	379,141	401,889	6.0%
Wespath- RTC Invest/Benefit Reserve	127,325	691,336	133,691	141,712	6.0%
Wespath - RTC Deposit Account	70,593	291,488	74,122	78,570	6.0%
Total Investment Income	559,004	2,432,096	586,954	622,172	6.0%
Uses:					
RGC Legacy - Benefits	398,112	389,303	402,984	415,074	3.0%
Clergy Family Medical Grant	200,000	41,500	\$ 158,500	79,200	
Pre-82 Past Service Rate (PSR)	672	672	682	689	1.0%
Adv. Contribution Past Service Rate	-	-	-	-	

CABINET REPORT *FOR INFORMATION ONLY*

1 ***COVID crisis and creativity***

2 At the time of this writing, we are just past the one-year anniversary of shutdowns of various sorts, due to the COVID-
3 19 pandemic. Our pastors and laity have experienced fatigue, hardships, the loss of loved ones and cherished
4 practices, and grief that feels both protracted and delayed. Even so, this past year has also been one of unexpected
5 learning and blessing for our churches. We have embraced technology for worship and meetings, reaching a mission
6 field not bound by geography and avoiding costs and challenges associated with travel. We understand more deeply
7 than before the value of staying connected, even if virtually. We also cherish the hope of being back in each other's
8 physical presence, as increasing numbers of people are vaccinated. We will strive not to forget what a gift it is to
9 gather in person.

10
11 Many of our churches have responded to the difficulties of this time with a spirit of creativity and innovation.
12 Outdoor worship, drive-in worship using FM radio, worship indoors with masks and distancing; services in people's
13 front yards; activity packages sent to homes to support interactive worship—all communicated a spirit of undaunted
14 hope and possibility. Outreach took on new forms, too, in response to the needs of the community. Food pantries
15 quintupled their output; church facilities became Wi-Fi hotspots; preschools stayed open under strict protocols, to
16 care for the children of frontline workers. Online Bible studies and other small groups became invitational
17 opportunities for people who would never have entered the church building.

18
19
20 Bishop Schnase and members of the Cabinet recognize and give God thanks for the extra work and sacrifice our laity
21 and clergy have made to live out the good news of Christ during this extended crisis. We support every effort for our
22 leaders to seek rest, renewal, and any emotional and spiritual help they may need. We also seek to encourage the
23 ongoing learning and experimentation made possible in our ministries by this disruption.

24

25 ***Anti-racism***

26 2020-21 has also been a year marked by new conversation and learning regarding racism, its role in our communities
27 and church, and the ways we as individuals and systems keep it in place. Bishop Schnase's letter in September 2020
28 proposed a series of actions now in progress, designed to move us toward antiracism. As a Cabinet, along with other
29 conference staff, we developed a [Covenant on Antiracism](#) and invited others in Rio Texas to join us in signing and
30 adopting it. We helped draft the membership of the Bishop's Task Force on Race and Culture, representing a broad
31 range of backgrounds from among our faithful. We look forward to a Biblically-based training alongside the Board
32 of Ordained Ministry, to develop a common language and understanding of our context. Conference clergy and laity
33 in conference leadership will participate in a broad organizational assessment, to give us data on our perspectives
34 on issues of racial equity, diversity, and inclusion. As these and other initiatives move forward for learning,
35 conversation, and action, we commit to continuing to learn and act in antiracist ways and to lead our churches in
36 doing the same.

37

38

39 ***Local church reality***

40 Finally, we reaffirm the local church as the place where the gospel of Christ meets the world. We were living through tremendous
41 transition even pre-COVID, and the pandemic has accelerated this time of change. Many of our churches face the continued
42 reality that the people inside them don't look like the people around them, and some places that were fragile before have had
43 to ask hard questions about what a faithful future looks like. Others have found new, unexpected strength and a spirit of
44 possibility and hope. As restrictions lift, we will need continued courage and willingness to risk trying new things. And as we wait
45 for our denomination to be able to proceed with important decision making, God calls us to continue doing ministry that serves
46 our diverse contexts.

47 We give God thanks and praise for the people called Methodist in the Rio Texas Conference.

48 Respectfully submitted,

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

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 Bishop Schnase, sisters and brothers of the Río Texas Annual Conference, greetings in the name of our Lord and
2 Savior Jesus 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. As has been true for all of us, we have undertaken our
4 task within the confines and creative possibilities of Covid restrictions. These obstacles have allowed new pathways
5 for gathering, discerning, and engaging one another in productive ways. We thank God for the grace that has enabled
6 us to continue our work. Where we have been weakened, we have, through that grace, been strengthened all the
7 more.

8 The purpose of our credentialing work is to identify persons that have demonstrated the five qualities of a missional
9 leader: ethnic and cultural proficiency; a heart for evangelism; faith in their calling from God; ability to develop and
10 equip missional leaders; and catalytic capacity. A year ago we implemented a new structure that allowed for more
11 intentional periods of prayer and discernment into our full membership interview process. In this our second year
12 of using that structure we have seen again the benefits of that woven pattern of discussion and discernment.

13

14 This year we recommend the following candidates for commissioning as provisional Elders: Kristie Crisp, Curtis Davis,
15 Matthew Edison, Jacqueline Freeman, Jennifer Kelley and Jason Surdy;

16 and the following candidate for commissioning as Deacon: Randolph Knighten;

17 and the following candidates for full membership and ordination as Deacons: Kelly Duke and Abel Stewart; and as
18 Elders: Matthew Cardona, Wesley Craig, Reed McNitzky, and John Meande.

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

21 Grace and peace,

22 Rev. Paul Escamilla, Chairperson

23

UNITING TABLE REPORT

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

24 The Psalmist says “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.” (Psalm 139:23). The
25 Uniting Table has spent some time reflecting and discerning God’s direction for the Annual Conference. In that
26 process we are transitioning from being a reporting body of conference ministries to a discerning body that actively
27 seeks governance that leads to action on behalf of the Annual Conference, the Local Church, and the Mission Field.

28

29 Because of COVID, we spent the year meeting virtually and not in person. The Uniting Table met on November 14,
30 2020; January 9 and 23, 2021; and March 20, 2021. While there are limits on this type of meeting, we were able to
31 take time to listen, dream, share our stories, and re-capture the vision that created the Río Texas Annual Conference.
32 In sharing our history we dreamed to recapture the uniqueness of our Annual Conference and the vibrant mission
33 field God has laid before us. We are in consensus to seek a shift in priorities to listen and hear as we reach out to
34 new people and connect them to Christ. Because of COVID, the changes in technology have, in many ways, forced
35 us to connect with people in ways that we never dreamed of a year ago. It has been a trying year, but we continue
36 to hear stories of vibrant ministries flourishing throughout our mission field. The People of the Río Texas Conference
37 are staying faithful to our mission and vision.

38

39 That faithfulness has manifested itself in some of the following ways:

- 40 ▪ Ministries across the conference reached out to people during a massive winter storm where even without
41 power or water people were fed and cared for.
- 42 ▪ FUMC Cotulla (membership 108), began a food distribution ministry named “Amanda’s pantry”. Starting out
43 with a 2x8 closet space, the ministry now occupies the entire downstairs of the church. Over 2,350 families
44 have been served.
- 45 ▪ Impacto is a collaborative ministry of 4 pastors/churches. During pandemic, the 4 pastoras sponsored food
46 distributions, online access for job applications and city assistance programs, a free laundry, vaccination
47 clinics, and launched an online worship service (Impacto Virtual!) which now has between 500-1,000 weekly
48 views.

- 1 ▪ Coker UMC in San Antonio held massive food distribution events during COVID - -all drive through: first stop:
2 prayer with a pastor and financial needs; second stop: clothing needs; third stop: open your trunk and food for
3 at least one week was placed in your trunk. In this format, recipients were often through the line within 15
4 minutes.
- 5 ▪ A similar activity has been occurring through Los Ninos Children’s center with Lupita Ecoff and Bulverde UMC.
6 They never stopped during COVID with food distribution, and when water at a nearby “colonia” near Bulverde
7 UMC was declared unpotable, water supplies were arranged for residents.
- 8 ▪ The El Valle district is still building and blessing homes, involving many churches and pastors as they reach out
9 to the community.

10 These are just a few of the stories happening in our mission field. Yes, we have many challenges to face, and perhaps
11 we may not know the future, but we know who holds the future, and that gives us hope.

12

13 Rev. Dr. Ralph D. Mann
14 Chair, Uniting Table Rio Texas Conference

15

UNITED METHODIST MEN

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

16 Brothers and Sisters of the Rio Texas Annual Conference,
17 Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior. I bring you greetings and prayers from the Leadership of the Rio Texas
18 Conference of United Methodist Men.

19 Recent events in the world challenge us to be creative when it comes to spreading the word and teachings of Jesus
20 Christ. (2 Timothy 4:2) As churches and ministries are starting to do more in person, we must continue to be creative
21 in order not to leave those who are still isolated behind. We as a body of believers should continue the mission of
22 spreading Christ’s teachings in deeds and actions. (Romans 10:14-15)

23

24 We will be holding our men’s annual retreat during the summer. The retreat will be virtual and free of charge. Our
25 goal is to inspire, offer the tools needed for men’s ministries and making disciples of men. (Matthew 28:19-20) We
26 believe by doing so will help grow churches as well as making positive changes in households and communities.

27

28 Please check www.riotexasumm.org for updated information regarding the event.

29 We look forward seeing you in the future.

30 God Bless You

31 Charles E. McGarity, Jr, President

32 Rio Texas Conference United Methodist Men

33

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

34 During most of 2020 the Rio Texas Conference United Methodist Women, like everyone else, experienced personal
35 and organizational change. Starting in March, we were unable to meet safely in person, canceled several major
36 events, lost friends and loved ones, saw our giving for mission decline, experienced job losses and family disruptions,
37 and struggled through our first experiences with Zoom.

38

39 Yet we persisted – and had a great year. By the end of 2020 we had successfully pivoted from meeting in person to running
40 virtual events and meetings, we welcomed a new and re-energized team of elected and appointed leaders, and, most important,
41 we met our entire Pledge to Mission. We raised and sent \$160,000 to the United Methodist Women’s National Office for national
42 and international mission, in addition to the amount that we raised and spent for mission right here in our conference, our seven
43 districts, and our local units. Five years into unification, we have a strong and thriving organization.

44

45

1 For 2021-2022, our conference Leadership Team includes
2 President – Sandy Wilder
3 Vice President – Annye Jones
4 Secretary – Mary Jo Villalobos
5 Treasurer – Dianne Rumfield
6 Chair, Committee on Nominations – vacant
7 Secretary of Program Resources – Linda Franke
8 Communications Coordinator – Ann Marie Cantu
9 Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth – Tammy Brite
10 Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach – Linda Brown Armwood
11 Mission Coordinator for Social Action – Dr. Debra Johnson
12 Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation – Esther Rivera
13 Capital District President – Mary Faye Randolph
14 Coastal Bend District – Bertha Castañeda
15 Crossroads District President – Kathy Hunt
16 El Valle District President – Priscilla Patterson
17 Hill Country District President – Billie Rowell
18 Las Misiones District President – Yolanda Rivera
19 West District President – Charlene D. Bustos
20 National Program Advisory Group member – Abby Gutierrez
21 Historian – Alicia Garcia
22 Language Coordinator – Minerva Briones
23 Ex officio – Bishop Robert Schnase

24 We started our 2021 programming year with a well-attended virtual Leadership Development training event in
25 January for district officers. Our other conference-wide events will be a virtual UMW Luncheon during Annual
26 Conference in June, Mission u in July, our Conference Annual Meeting in October, and Leadership Development 2022
27 in November. The study topics for Mission u, which is open to anyone interested in attending, are “Finding Peace in
28 an Anxious World,” “Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools,” and “Bearing Witness in the Kin-Dom:
29 Living into the Church’s Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship.”

30 More than 125 members and friends of the Rio Texas UMW attended an outstanding virtual Texas Legislative Event
31 in January, jointly planned and conducted by the six conference United Methodist Women organizations in the states
32 of Texas and New Mexico and by Texas Impact. We are looking forward to gathering with thousands of other women
33 at the quadrennial UMW Assembly in May 2022 in Orlando, FL.

34 Additionally, we launched a new website and a new e-newsletter, renewed our connections with the deaconesses
35 in our conference, and re-started our racial justice work. Our Language Coordinator has sent out newsletters and
36 organized Zoom meetings to reach out to our Spanish-speaking members and keep them connected and encouraged
37 during the pandemic. Our Program Advisory Committee member reported that "The Program Advisory Group met
38 March 11-13 2021, virtually. UMW National is lifting up two main priorities this quadrennium: Climate Justice
39 and Criminalization of Communities of Color/Mass Incarceration. UMW Assembly 2022 will be held in Orlando,
40 FL, May 20-22, 2022 and we will be heavily promoting the event to encourage participation from first-time
41 attendees. We have a very diverse group of leaders and are excited to see the amazing work and commitment
42 from our UMW as we come out of this pandemic eager to do the work!"

43 According to the statistics in the 2020 Conference Journal, our membership stands at approximately 4,980 and in
44 2019 we raised and spent over \$500,000 for local, district, conference, and national mission work.

45 The pandemic shifted our way of operating but not our reason for being. We are still committed to being faith,
46 hope, and love in action for women, children, and youth down the block and around the world. We welcome women
47 of any age who are committed to this mission to join us in the work.

48 Sandy Wilder
49 President, Rio Texas Conference United Methodist Women

50

OFFICE OF CREATING/VITALIZING CONGREGATIONS AND DEVELOPING LEADERS

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 **“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore,**
2 **as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers”**
3 Galatians 6:9 -10

4 I am not sure how you feel, but being weary is real. And yet...laity, pastors, churches, students, and campus
5 ministries have continued to do good in their community and beyond in the name of Jesus. Our churches and the
6 leaders in them have offered hope and Good News to so many during these dark and uncertain times...and for that
7 we give God thanks and praise.

8 With the continued focus on fruitfulness and innovations, both in congregational vitality and leadership
9 development, it has been a busy year. Rio Texas has started 1 new faith community initiative and 4 other new church
10 plants continued their second year during a pandemic. And many have been working to activate new ways to
11 empower leadership development in both cohorts and training through our Lay Servant Ministry. Finding ways to
12 learn together, innovate and ideate together, to try and fail and try again...all of these are strategies so that churches
13 and leaders can learn, grow, and reach new people for Christ. And many churches are now reaching people in their
14 local community and in zip codes well beyond their community. Thanks be to God!

15 16 Creating Congregations

17 The world is changing, and the church needs to look beyond the “traditional” ways of reaching new people for Christ
18 and the attractational models of only expecting people to come to them. While traditional church starts and multi-
19 site/satellite church plants are still very important (and we need more of them), they are also expensive and clergy
20 centric as they start. We have begun teaching and dreaming about newer, more organic and less cost prohibitive
21 ways to connect with those not attending local congregations like Fresh Expressions, Focused Worship in the
22 community, and we are exploring ways to train laity and others to gather people in “house churches”.

23
24
25 In July 2020, four Latina Pastoras were appointed to four local congregations in San Antonio and to a cooperative
26 imitative they named Impacto Comunitario. This creative venture has already proven fruitful because of the gifts
27 and talents of the four pastoras: Lilibian Padilla, Maribel Vazquez, Laura Dorantes, and Daisy San Jorge, and their
28 desire to serve the larger community. They serve the community in so many ways including food distribution, access
29 to internet and computers, guitar lessons and other enrichment programs, ESL classes, access to laundry, connection
30 to city and community resources and excellent on line worship reaching 2000+ views a week. God has blessed this
31 creative venture and we pray God’s continued blessing as these women continue to learn and follow God’s path.

32
33
34 I am excited that 3 new church starts pastors appointed in June 2019 have continued to work and make new
35 connections even during the pandemic: Valley Praise UMC Mc Allen, under the leadership of Rev. Kevin Hardin, has
36 begun worship in the space at the Ministry Center of the El Valle District offices. Starting on line, they have been
37 able to have some community gathering events, and limited in person worship. At the writing of this report (April
38 1) they are expecting wonderful Easter attendance. This is the third campus for Valley Praise UMC. Rev. Ray Altman
39 continues to do the deep work of creating intentional faith communities with New Wineskins and has expanded his
40 reach during the pandemic as he is leading clergy cohorts teaching others how to reach deep into their
41 neighborhoods. This cohort work has multiplied the neighborhoods being reached. Rev. Jay Cooper and his team
42 at Violet Crown City Church have continued both weekly worship (on-line) as well as the construction of the physical
43 property. The church renovations are nearing completion at the writing of this report, and the hope is that Easter
44 will be celebrated on site.

45 Finally, Austin New Church also launched a new Hispanic Community called Amor Original with Pastor Cesar Soto in April 2020.
46 The pandemic created both opportunity and challenges that Pastor Cesar and his team overcame in creative ways. Now that
47 Austin is opening up some, I believe that all of their creative endeavors will be blessing both in the local Austin area as they also
48 stay connected virtually in over 6 Central American countries they connected with during the pandemic.

49
50 Two other churches that are not yet chartered, The Rock UMC and The Journey UMC, have both begun building projects during
51 the last year. At the writing of this report (April 2021) The Rock will be pouring their foundation soon and The Journey will be in
52 their new space in April 2021. As they move into their more permanent spaces, we anticipate they will be strengthened enough

1 to charter in the next conference year. Windsong UMC is also continuing to raise funds to complete a building without debt. It
2 is hopeful they, too, will be chartering after the building is complete.

3 **Lay and Clergy Leadership Development**

4 With the onset of Covid-19 the seminary visits could not happen, and yet the relationships have continued. Our
5 conference has a Perkins student doing his internship at Coker UMC and we will have one student from Wesley
6 Theological Seminary doing her internship starting in Aug. 2021. As things open up, we hope to continue not only
7 Seminary visits, internships but also teaching seminary students again about ministry on the border.

8
9 In January 2021, we began our second year-long preaching cohorts with an event led by Dr. Alyce McKenzie of
10 Perkins School of Theology. 48 pastors / lay speakers attended the virtual event. A second event is scheduled for
11 October 2021 and the 21 cohort participants will complete their work in November. This year we were able to have
12 both a Bi-lingual and English only group. We hope to continue this work again in 2022.

13
14 Besides the preaching event, Jozlin Parker and Karen Horan hosted the Hybrid Church event in August with over 100
15 participants followed by a cohort of 20 churches for 5 months. We also hosted Nona Jones with her help utilizing
16 Facebook as a means to create disciples in October 2020 (85 participated in that event), Jason Moore hosted the
17 Both/And event in January 2021 (50 participated in that event). Ray Altman has continued with clergy learning
18 groups as well. We hope to expand our lay leadership development this conference year as well.

19 20 **Lay Servant Ministries**

21 Scott Maderer is the Conference Lay Servant Ministry Director and offers this report.

22 During 2020 the Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) program has continued to face challenges like so many of our church
23 programs. The current conference LSM committee made a decision to find ways to continue to offer training and
24 Christian conferencing through online programs so that we can continue to work within and across the districts of
25 the conference. This year districts and the conference held several successful online trainings for several of the Lay
26 Servant Ministry courses for the first time. Each has had well over 50 attendees who came together for training and
27 to learn from and support each other in their leadership development.

28 The Book of Discipline recognizes that to have effective ministry within our conference we must develop and
29 encourage leadership from the laity, and this is the explicit goal of LSM. The current district directors and conference
30 lay director are working together with a focus on: Increasing communication and cooperation across all districts
31 within the conference, building effective tools that we can all utilize, identifying new classes in both online and offline
32 methodology, and Encouraging Lay Ministry both in Lay Servants and Certified Lay Ministers to be creative in
33 identifying their own mission fields.

34 The District Directors continue meeting regularly now via Zoom for a quarterly update so that we can share effective
35 methodology and information about upcoming courses and what we are all trying in our own districts. In this way
36 we are seeing directors share information and learn best practices and encouraging and allowing experimentation
37 and new visions to arise in each district. We are still early in the process and have had many challenges and changes,
38 but the team is committed to continuing in regular communication.

39 Each District continues to hold their own courses, but we are also working together to try to bring back effective
40 conference lay ministry courses. At the same time, we are looking for what the needs of the laity is and identifying
41 resources from a variety of sources that would fill those needs effectively. The focus is on building effective lay
42 leadership, rather than just getting a "certification."

43 Within this larger picture we are anticipating an increased need for effective lay leadership within the conference.
44 So, we are attempting to proactively work with those called to unique mission fields to provide the tools and
45 resources that they need to be effective. This includes being more involved in the Certified Lay Ministry program
46 and working closely across districts to effectively use limited resources to provide the needed support, across the
47 entire conference. In this way districts don't have to reinvent the wheel or provide resources for a limited number
48 of laity while they can still encourage the laity with support and training by working across districts within the full
49 conference.

1 If you are interested in getting involved as a lay servant or just helping outreach out first to your district director of
 2 lay servant ministries or the conference director listed below. May God continue to bless and grow the lay leadership
 3 across the Rio Texas Conference.

4

District	Name of Director	Email Address
Conference Director	Scott Maderer	csmaderer@gmail.com
Capital District	Cary Boddeker	cboddeker@austin.rr.com
Coastal Bend District	Emily Canales/Linda Morrow	canales621@yahoo.com
Crossroads District	Fritzi Simon/Sue Kratochvil	fritzi.simon@yahoo.com / suekrat@icloud.com
El Valle District	Larry and Mary Reser	mreser0120@gmail.com
Hill Country District	Scott Maderer	csmaderer@gmail.com
Las Misiones District	Tom White	thomasjwhite1@gmail.com
West District	Louise Whitson/Ken Wadley	lwhitsoncen@gmail.com westkenw@suddenlinkmail.com

5 **College / Campus Ministry:**

6 Like our churches, Campus Ministry struggled during the pandemic, and yet God continues to move and keep our
 7 college students connected and growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. Ten Campus Ministries are on nine campuses
 8 during most of the last conference year. The ministry at University of Houston Victoria closed over the summer but
 9 will be re-connecting with students in the fall of 2021 with FUMC Victoria taking on this endeavor. Rev. Lizzie Wright
 10 and Rev. Wes Cain are coordinating the campus ministries along with Rev. Karen Horan in the conference center.
 11 Campus Ministers are connecting more regularly with each other, with their District Strategy Teams and are asked
 12 to submit regular reports to the conference office. While Covid19 threw all universities to online learning, your
 13 campus pastors have done a fantastic job staying connected in worship, prayer, study and even outreach as college
 14 students who don't all attend the same school can gather virtually to be connected to each other and Jesus Christ.
 15 There is still a need for individual churches to connect with students and campus ministries in your area. Please
 16 prayerfully consider how your church can support this important work. Rio Texas has campus ministry leadership at
 17 UT Austin – The Texas Wesley (Rev. David McMinn) and University UMC Austin (Megan Otto), UTSA via University
 18 UMC San Antonio (Sarah Reiter), SAC and Trinity University (SA Campus Ministry staff and Rev. Valerie Vogt), TLU
 19 via FUMC Seguin (Rev. Melissa Lind), UTRGV Wesley Center (TBD), Texas State – United Campus Ministry (Rev. Todd
 20 Salmi), U of H Victoria, (TBD) and Huston-Tillotson University (Rev. Don Brewington). A video will be created and
 21 shared as we gather for Annual Conference.

22

23 **Vitalizing Congregations:**

24 Most of the work of vitalization has been via larger learning events named above and at the district events. Many
 25 churches have been so creative in how to reach others on-line and have worked with our Director of Technical
 26 Ministries to get even better. While our New People New Places Grants do not normally do technology grants,
 27 during the pandemic it was the ONLY way to reach new people. So many smaller grants were given via the cohorts
 28 as well as through the technology grants and other NPNP grants. Since July 1 2020, 41 churches were granted
 29 \$89,000 for technology and outreach to reach new people for Christ. Of these 41 churches 14 were Hispanic
 30 congregations (who received \$43,500) and 5 were historically Black congregations (who received \$14,000).

31 What a joy to partner with this many churches as they reach new people to become more vital in their area! These
 32 grants are offered 3 times a year, we pray the funds can be used to the fullest.

33 Respectfully Submitted,

34 *Rev. Karen Horan*

35 *Director of Creating /Vitalizing Congregations and Developing Leaders*

36 *Rio Texas Conference*

37

RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE DISASTER RESPONSE COMMITTEE

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 The Disaster Response Ministry has had an active year: the conference area was hit by two major disasters,
2 Hurricane Hanna and Winter Storm 2021; the massive recovery effort to Hurricane Harvey was wound down;
3 recovery work from 2018 and 2019 floods in the Valley continued; ERT and chain saw teams were deployed to
4 Louisiana along with a skid steer and several electric generators; and, over 3000 hygiene kits were shipped from
5 the Martinez Disaster Response Center to groups serving migrants along the southern border. Every action
6 taken during the year was influenced by concern for avoiding spread of the COVID 19 virus. The positive side of
7 the need to adjust to the pandemic is that several new protocols have been developed that may make the future
8 work of the ministry more efficient.

9 Winter Storm 2021 was unusual in that it impacted every part of the Conference. A program was developed to
10 assist churches as they reached out to their communities. Churches could apply for assistance on behalf of
11 families that needed assistance.

12 Hurricane Hanna resulted in damage to thousands of homes in the Willacy, Cameron, Hidalgo and Starr Counties.
13 This marked the third straight year that disasters struck the same area. Because of the COVID pandemic,
14 relatively few volunteers have been able to deploy resulting in a backlog of work that needs to be completed.
15 UMCOR has provided more than \$600,000 to assist in the effort and an additional \$50,000 was provided by
16 Lowe's through a National VOAD grant. Churches are urged to plan now to send mission teams to be a part of
17 the ministry to families who have waited too long for help.

18 The massive effort following Hurricane Harvey was wound down this year. Rio Texas Disaster Response
19 launched a Hurricane Harvey long term recovery in October 2017 with plans that included case management,
20 construction services, volunteer coordination and unmet needs financial assistance. An initial vision grew beyond
21 all expectations, resulting in an approximate \$13.5M budget with two regional offices supported by multiple
22 satellite offices, all based in United Methodist Churches. This historic program for Rio Texas Conference Disaster
23 Response leveraged more than \$20M in direct assistance for over 1100 Rio Texas clients.

24
25 In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Rio Texas Disaster Response Ministry has developed a strategy for
26 deploying a Disaster Response Resource and Information Center and a strategy for using spontaneous
27 volunteers to assist with muck out and cleanup.

28 The Resource center will distribute brief printed instructions for use by families who have the capacity to do their
29 own response phase work. The center will distribute UMCOR cleaning and hygiene kits and material such as
30 tarps, furring strips and trash bags. Presently, the instructions include: Safety; Debris Removal; Muck and Gut,
31 and Mold: Dangers, Protection Cleaning. A "how to" video on tarping a roof has also been prepared. All printed
32 material is available in English and Spanish.

33
34 The second major initiative adopted has been protocols for using spontaneous volunteers even after the COVID
35 19 pandemic subsides. A thirty minute training curriculum has been developed for the volunteers. Training will
36 be directed at the tasks appropriate for the specific disaster and will give explicit attention to safety procedures
37 and concerns. The protocols call for each team to be led by two trained ERT leaders. Early Response Teams will
38 continue to be used but the new protocols also allow spontaneous volunteers to serve.

39 The Martinez Disaster Response Center continues to serve as a collection center for UMCOR kits assembled by
40 churches in the Conference as well as storage for disaster response equipment. UMCOR now receives only
41 school kits, hygiene kits, and cleaning kits (flood buckets). The center serves as a collection site for all kits, but
42 the main inventory is cleaning kits and hygiene kits. Volunteer opportunities are available at the center in Kerrville
43 for groups to verify cleaning kits before they are delivered to flood survivors. Contact warehouse coordinator
44 Larry Altman at warehouse@riotexasresponse.org for more information or to schedule a time for your team.

45 The Disaster Response Ministry has enjoyed tremendous support from the conference. We hope this can
46 continue through support of the Advance 2050 and by joining in the effort as volunteers. Please visit the Disaster
47 Response Ministry webpage at riotexasresponse.org for more information. Groups interested in helping with
48 the recovery in the Rio Grande Valley should contact Susan Hellums at shellums@mcfirst.com.

49 Eugene Hileman

50 Rio Texas Disaster Response Coordinator

MISSIONARIES AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT 2020

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 The Rio Texas Conference is well-represented by people responding to God's call to serve in mission. The conference
2 is also well-represented in missionary support: in 2020, congregations gave \$49,776.31 to support Global Ministries
3 missionaries who are bringing the Good News across the country and around the world (an increase over 2019 of
4 \$3,891.21)

5 Many Rio Texas congregations support one of the nearly 244 Global Ministries missionaries serving in over 60
6 countries. One of those 244 missionaries is from the Rio Texas Conference: Rev. Anna Troy, serving as Director of
7 Open-Heart Ministries in Clarksburg, WV (<http://openheartwv.weebly.com/>).

8 We anticipate virtually hosting missionary Dr. Tendai Manyeza during his itineration in the annual conference in
9 2021, and we hope to host other missionaries, like Rev. Anna Troy, as well.

10 Your congregations have also faithfully supported Global Ministries Advance projects by giving \$87,982.90 in 2020,
11 with Bethany UMC donating \$20,181.63. You also supported Global Ministries and UMCOR Special Focus projects
12 in 2020 totaling \$170,359.34. These totals along with missionary support totaled giving of \$308,118.55 in 2020 and
13 we give thanks for giving hearts.

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

17 United Methodist Women note there are currently six active deaconesses from and serving in the Rio Texas
18 Conference. They are:

- 19 ▪ Kristen Bowdre, Director of Operations Youth Justice Programs, at Southwest Key Programs, Austin
- 20 ▪ Tara Carnesi; Direct Care, Sunnyside Children's Home. San Benito
- 21 ▪ Sonia Cruz; Bus Operator at VIA Metropolitan Transit, San Antonio
- 22 ▪ Cindy Johnson; Consultant for La Posada Providencia, San Benito, Texas
- 23 ▪ Julie Smith; Clinic Coordinator at Smithville Community Clinic, Smithville, Texas
- 24 ▪ Diana Woods; Social Services Coordinator, Buda UMC

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

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

31 Becky Wright

32 Conference Secretary for Global Ministries

33

HARVEST SUNDAY 2021 RESOLUTION

FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

34 The Harvest Sunday Initiative Group recommends the following for approval by the 2021 Annual Conference:

35 **That**, Sunday, November 7, 2021, be recognized as the date of participation by local congregations in the Harvest
36 Sunday Offering,

37 **That**, we acknowledge the 1 in 7 Texans (14%) currently experiencing food insecurity

38 <https://www.feedingtexas.org/learn/what-is-food-insecurity>,

39 **That** we acknowledge the 11% of our world's population who are undernourished,

40 <https://ourworldindata.org/hunger-andundernourishment>,

41 **That**, as followers of Christ we understand our calling to respond with extravagant grace, to relieve suffering, and
42 to bear one another's burden,

43 **That**, 2021 Harvest Sunday offering funds shall be distributed in the following manner:

- 44 ▪ 1/3 of proceeds shall be allocated for hunger initiative projects along the Texas-Mexico border areas that are
45 situated, and served within the El Valle, Hill Country, Las Misiones, and West Districts.

- 1 ▪ 1/3 of proceeds shall be returned to **participating districts**. Funds shall be distributed, in consultation with
2 district mission committees, and the District Superintendent, focusing on projects that seek ministry With, and
3 addressing root causes of food insecurity.
- 4 ▪ 1/3 of proceeds shall be equally allocated among the following 5 Global Ministry Advance Projects with focus
5 on food security and economic empowerment:

- 6
- 7
- 8 ❖ Advance #3021566 Indigenous Women Vegetable Gardening and Leadership Project Guatemala
- 9 ❖ Advance #07629A Give Ye Them to Eat - Mexico
- 10 ❖ Advance #2016 Rio Texas Methodist Border Friendship Commission
- 11 ❖ Advance #1428 El Valle District Border Refugee Ministries
- 12 ❖ Advance #1530 Mission Border Hope

13 The Harvest Sunday Initiative Group, with guidance by the Transforming Communities Vision Team, will coordinate
14 promotion and publicity for the 2021 Harvest Sunday Special Offering.

15

UMCOR SUNDAY 2020

FOR INFORMATION

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

20 In 2020, the total UMCOR Sunday offering from Rio Texas churches was \$27,768.75, a decrease of \$25,232.12 from
21 the amount collected in 2019.

- 22 Capital District – 13 churches; \$3,381.48
- 23 Coastal Bend District – 24 churches; \$5,108.91
- 24 Crossroads District – 43 churches; \$3,714.12
- 25 El Valle District – 8 churches; \$1,060.01
- 26 Hill Country District – 21 churches; \$4,249.93
- 27 Las Misiones District – 30 churches; \$8,382.44
- 28 West District – 15 churches; \$1,871.86

29 Special thanks to St. Matthew’s San Antonio for giving the largest single congregational offering: \$2,749.35.

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

37

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

41

42 Thanks to all the congregations that supported this vital offering in 2020 and made it possible for the United
43 Methodist Church to reach out in caring to our neighbors in need.

44 Becky Wright

45 Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

ADVANCE GIVING 2020 AND THE FIVE-STAR PROGRAM
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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

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

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

16
 17 In 2020, 118 Rio Texas Conference churches achieved Five Star mission giving status. They are:

18
 19 **Capital District**

20	Austin: Bend	25	Austin: St. Luke	30	Leander
21	Austin: Berkeley	26	Austin: Tarrytown	31	
22	Austin: Bethany	27	Austin: University		
23	Austin: Northwest Hills	28	Cedar Park: First		
24	Austin: Oak Hill	29	Dripping Springs		

32 **Coastal Bend District**

33	Beeville	38	Goliad: Fannin Street	43	Pettus
34	Bruni	39	Hebbronville: First	44	Portland: First
35	Corpus Christi: First	40	Ingleside	45	Refugio
36	CC: Island in the Son	41	Kingsv. El Buen Pastor	46	Skidmore
37	George West	42	Lolita	47	Three Rivers

48
 49 **Crossroads District**

50	Bastrop	63	Hope	76	Seguin: First
51	Belmont	64	Louise	77	Shiner: First
52	Bloomington: First	65	Luling: First	78	Smiley
53	Columbus: First	66	Luling: William Taylor	79	Smithville: First
54	Dewville	67	Lytton Springs	80	Telferner
55	El Campo: First	68	Manor	81	Victoria: First
56	Evan’s Chapel	69	Monthalia	82	Webster Chapel
57	Fentress	70	Mossy Grove	83	Weimar: First
58	Freyburg	71	Port Arthur: Getsemani	84	Winchester
59	Ganado: First	72	Prairie Lea	85	Yoakum: First
60	Gonzales: First	73	Richardson-Brown Chpl		
61	Henson Chapel	74			
62	Hallettsville: First	75	Runge		

86 Yorktown: First

87 **El Valle District**

88	Edcouch: First	90	La Feria	92	Mission: First
89	Edinburg: First	91	McAllen: St. Mark		

1	Hill Country District				
2	Bandera	8	Kerrville: St. Paul's	14	Uvalde: First
3	BD: Highland Lakes	9	Montell	15	Walnut
4	Buda	10	New Braunfels: First	16	Wimberley
5	Carrizo Springs	11	New Fountain	17	
6	Center Point	12	North Shore		
7	Hondo	13	Sabinal: First		
18					
19	Las Misiones District				
20	Bulverde	28	Pleasanton: First	36	Sant: Resurrection
21	Devine: First	29	San Antonio: Chapel Hill	37	Sant: Sanford Chapel
22	Floresville	30	Sant: Epworth	38	Sant: St. Andrew's
23	Floresville: El Mesias	31	Sant: : Ernest T. Dixon	39	San Antonio: St. John's
24	Helotes Hills	32	Sant: Jacob's Chapel	40	San Antonio: Westlawn
25	Jourdanton	33	Sant: : La Trinidad	41	San Antonio: Windcrest
26	La Vernia	34	Sant: Laurel Heights	42	Somerset
27	Laredo: La Trinidad	35	Sant: Pollard Memorial	43	
44	West District				
45	Art	50	Miles	55	Sonora
46	Barksdale	51	Paint Rock: First	56	Sterling City: First
47	Brackettville	52	Rankin	57	Veribest
48	Del Rio: First	53	San Angelo: Sierra Vista		
49	Mason: First	54	Sang: Wesley Trinity		
58					
59	We are grateful to each of these congregations for their generous mission giving in 2020.				
60	As of March 2021, the following Rio Texas district and conference projects are approved to receive Advance				
61	contributions -- and local churches will receive Five Star credit for their gifts -- through December 31, 2021. The				
62	projects are listed in the online catalog under the "Admin Services" tab on the conference website.				
63					
64	<u>Capital District</u>				
65	Huston-Tillotson University				
66	Wesley Foundation of Austin				
67	Caritas of Austin				
68	Austin Habitat for Humanity				
69	<u>Coastal Bend District</u>				
70	Corpus Christi Metro Ministries				
71	Mission of Mercy				
72	Wesley Community Center, Corpus Christi				
73	Wesley Community Center, Robstown				
74	<u>Crossroads District</u>				
75	Cathedral Oaks Worship and Retreat Center				
76	Crossroads District Missions				
77	Lighthouse 2911				
78	Golden Age Home				
79	<u>El Valle District</u>				
80	Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.				
81	Women Together Foundation, Inc.				
82	Good Neighbor Settlement House (GNSH)				
83	El Valle Ramp Project				
84	El Valle District Border Refugee/Immigration Ministries				

- 1 **Hill Country District**
- 2 The Helping Center of Marble Falls Area, Inc.
- 3 Barnabas Connection
- 4 United Campus Ministry, San Marcos
- 5 **Las Misiones District**
- 6 San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Inc. (SAMM)
- 7 Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio
- 8 Mobility Worldwide-San Antonio (formerly PET Project)
- 9 Wesley Foundation of San Antonio
- 10 Texas Diaper Bank/Diaper Assistance
- 11 Magdalena House
- 12 Holding Institute
- 13 San Antonio Region Justice for Our Neighbors
- 14 **West District**
- 15 Wesley Trinity Daily Bread Program aka Soup Kitchen
- 16 **Rio Texas Conference**
- 17 Methodist Children’s Home in Waco (MCH)
- 18 Kingdom Kamp
- 19 Mission Service Project
- 20 Academy for Spiritual Formation Scholarship
- 21 Methodist Border Friendship Commission
- 22 U.M. Army
- 23 Project Transformation
- 24 Russia/Eurasia Initiative
- 25 Southside Community Center
- 26 Rio Texas Conference Disaster Response Fund

27 All district and conference Advance projects must re-apply for listing every quadrennium. As of January 1, 2021, the
 28 new Rio Texas Advance catalog for the 2021-2024 quadrennium is online on the conference website, and approved
 29 projects are ready to receive contributions from generous congregations across the annual conference.
 30 Becky Wright
 31 Secretary of Global Ministries
 32

METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOME
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

33 Greetings from Methodist Children’s Home (MCH) and the children, youth and families we serve. Thank you to all of
 34 the churches of the Rio Texas Conference for your ongoing prayers, gifts and actions that empower MCH to find
 35 effective and innovative ways to fulfill our mission and exceed best practice standards for childcare established by
 36 the states of Texas and New Mexico and the Council on Accreditation (COA).
 37 I invite each member of the annual conference to visit our website at MCH.org. There you can explore in more detail
 38 the services we offer. You can also download stories, identify resources to help educate your congregation on our
 39 ministry, view a transparent listing of our financial resources and services delivered, find out how you can refer a
 40 child for placement, or learn more about a call to join our ministry as a home parent, foster parent or in another
 41 capacity.
 42 When MCH launched its new organizational strategic plan, no one could have imagined we would be dealing with a
 43 global pandemic threatening every aspect of our society. Thanks to God’s care, the dedication of our staff, the
 44 resiliency of those we serve and the resources you have entrusted to us, MCH has done much more than endure the
 45 COVID-19 crisis – we have flourished. We have a long history of adapting in crisis and finding ways to continue
 46 meeting the needs of those in our care across Texas and New Mexico. During COVID-19, we have been mindful to

1 frame our planning and contingencies in light of the graciousness God has shown throughout our 130 years of
2 ministry.

3 We have approached this challenging time as another opportunity to make innovative moves and develop strategies
4 that empower services to continue uninterrupted. As a ministry, we are focused on continuous improvement to
5 better meet the needs of those we serve. The expertise and resources provided by you, along with strong
6 stewardship, have enabled MCH to confront challenges and embrace new opportunities as we work to strengthen
7 individuals in Texas and New Mexico.

8 The vision of MCH is to empower all we serve to experience life to the fullest; our mission is to equip children, youth
9 and families to flourish by offering hope through Christ-centered relationships, services and support. We live these
10 out by providing the care, programs and talented individuals needed to positively impact the lives of those we serve.
11 This is happening every day in residential programs as well as through 13 MCH Family Outreach offices, including San
12 Antonio and Corpus Christi.

13

14 Here are some of the things you helped MCH accomplish for God’s glory and those we serve:

15

- 16 ▪ Launched the Staff on Standby (SOS) program. The SOS program is designed for employees who do not serve
17 in direct childcare roles to lend their support by assisting with short-term projects and childcare needs. The
18 goal is to alleviate additional burdens placed on childcare staff during COVID-19 and to provide employee
19 engagement opportunities that support our mission. The SOS Program was a 2020 COA Innovative Practices
20 Award Nominee.
- 21
- 22 ▪ As shelter-at-home protocols were ordered in many areas, staff from MCH Family Outreach offices across
23 Texas and New Mexico served families as they would in the event of a natural disaster. Case managers
24 increased their visits to client families to provide essential supplies.
- 25
- 26 ▪ Opened the fourth and fifth new homes on our Waco campus as part of the Building Hope capital campaign
27 and began construction of four new homes. The state-of-the-art homes are designed with our trauma-
28 informed research in mind.
- 29 ▪ Graduated 22 seniors from high school and supported additional MCH alumni pursuing higher education at
30 community colleges, trade schools or four-year institutions.
- 31
- 32 ▪ Achieved designations of the Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar and a four-star charity rating from
33 Charity Navigator. Less than 1 percent of nonprofits listed on Guidestar have achieved the Gold level. These
34 designations recognize our commitment to excellence and efforts to conduct our work with the utmost
35 integrity and transparency.
- 36 ▪ Named as a TBRI® Ambassador Organization by the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas
37 Christian University. TBRI® is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention designed to meet complex
38 needs of vulnerable children. Ambassador Organizations are key partners with long-term relationships with
39 the Purvis Institute.
- 40 ▪ Entered into a collaborative partnership with One Heart Project (OHP) to provide holistic, evidence-based
41 mentoring for youth in the MCH residential and aftercare programs in Waco. The One Heart Project is a
42 national organization headquartered in Southlake, Texas, and has a history of producing positive change in
43 youth through mentoring, life and gap-skill training, social and emotional intelligence, and job training.
- 44
- 45 ▪ Strengthened our collaboration with The Cove – Heart of Texas, Inc., who moved its operations to the first
46 floor of the MCH Family Outreach Center in Waco. The Cove serves high school-aged youth without access to
47 housing by providing access to resources they need to thrive. With a common focus to equip and empower
48 youth, this collaboration will strengthen both nonprofits and the Waco community at large.

49

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

53 Mr. Bill Bingham, Austin

54 Mrs. Candy Mallonee, San Antonio

55 Mr. Mario Olivarez, Corpus Christi

1 I am excited for what is next for MCH and trust the future for our ministry is bright. May God continue to bless MCH
2 and the ministries of the Rio Texas Conference.
3 Trey Oakley
4 President/CEO
5

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

6 The following are individuals elected as members of the Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 Board year (June to
7 June). These names are submitted for election by the Annual Conference:
8

Rev. James Amerson
Karen A. Angelini
Douglas W. Becker
Bonnie K. Berry
Raymond Chacon, M.D.
Sam G. Dawson
Susan Hellums
Ashley Hixon
John E. Hornbeak
Alan C. Kramer

Ashley Landers
Michael J. Lane, M.D.
Barbara J. Lyons
Lott McIlhenny
Kerwin L. Overby
Michael F. Porter, Jr.
Jim Rice
Thomas E. Sanders
John Stoll, M.D.
Rev. Virgilio Vázquez-Garza

1 Ex Officio Members with Vote:

2 Bishop of the Rio Texas Conference: Bishop Robert Schnase
3 Assistant to the Episcopal Office: Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez
4 District Superintendent of Las Misiones District: Rev. Greg Hackett
5 Two Persons Representing Transformation Communities Vision Team:
6 ■ Rev. Javier Leyva
7 ■ Rev. Cynthia Engstrom
8 MHM Board Chair-Elect: Lavonne Garrison
9 MHM Immediate Past Board Chair: Alice Gannon
10 Submitted by Methodist Healthcare Ministries
11
12

PROVIDENCE PLACE
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

13 On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and the people that we serve in our many residential and outreach
14 programs, I thank you, Bishop, and the members of the Rio Annual Conference for your dedication in partnership
15 with the ministry of Providence Place. By God's grace, we celebrated our 125th anniversary in 2020 during a Pandemic
16 and have continued to provide and expand our services thanks to the committed support from individual donors and
17 United Methodist Churches. We have been able to be a blessing to our community and to continue our important
18 work despite these difficult times, and we couldn't have done it without you.

19

20 Providence Place started in 1895 as a refuge for women and children who were the neediest in our community, and
21 back then the Methodist churches and the Methodist Conference joined with us to provide food, shelter and adoption
22 services to our most vulnerable women. After 125 years, we are still providing adoption services and have placed
23 over 6000 babies in loving, forever homes. We have expanded our adoption services to include foster care adoption
24 and foster care and in 2020, we opened a residential program for young women who are aging out of foster care.

1 They live with us in an apartment setting and practice independent living and employment skills until they are ready
2 to transition into the community successfully and independently.

3 Our Parenting with a Purpose outreach program has expanded to serve over 2000 women and young children each
4 year in the San Antonio and surrounding rural areas. We provide free diapers, formula, counseling, case management
5 and parenting classes to help families during difficult times and to strengthen them to face their many challenges.
6 Our goal is to support women, children and families whether they choose adoption or parenting.

8 Our residential program for women survivors of trafficking, sexual or domestic violence, My Mariposa Home, is going
9 strong. We are celebrating our two-year anniversary offering this program, and our first group of survivors have
10 graduated and are moving out into the community to live their lives as God intended, safe and feeling supported and
11 loved.

12 And this year, 2021, we are opening up a short-term shelter serving homeless youth, providing services to them to
13 stabilize their lives and reintegrate them into our community. Our commitment to vulnerable women, children and
14 families continues as does our partnership with our Methodist congregations and supporters...serving together to
15 end trauma and to spread God's love. We are so lucky to have so many dedicated partners who support our work
16 and want to see it thrive for future generations in need.

17 I encourage you to schedule a tour of our beautiful 25-acre campus, arrange a speaker for your congregation or
18 church group, and request offering materials for an annual church offering. We couldn't continue these ministries
19 without you and we would love to come and share the stories and history of Providence Place with your congregation.
20 If we could be a resource to you, contact our Advancement Team at (210) 696-2410 or at
21 mission.advancement@provplace.org.

22 Also, please visit our website at www.provplace.org to learn more about these special ministries and to hear first-
23 hand stories from those we have served or follow us on Facebook to see what we are doing every day. We would
24 love for you to be a part of our network!

25 Respectfully,

26 Dr. Judith Bell, President and CEO

27
28
AFRICA UNIVERSITY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

29 The opportunity to update and thank the Rio Texas Conference as a partner in ministry with Africa University is truly
30 a joy.

31 Africa University is deeply grateful to the local congregations of the Rio Texas Conference for investing 80.24 percent
32 of the asking to the Africa University Fund apportionment in 2020. Thank you for supporting the ministry of Africa
33 University with such faithfulness and generosity. By giving as you do, even in difficult times, Rio Texas United
34 Methodist congregations are a source of inspiration and strength.

35 The upheaval and multilayered challenges associated with the coronavirus pandemic have brought about profound
36 and lasting adjustments how we live, work, serve and connect. For Africa University, these included:

- 37
- 38 ▪ **A shift to online-only teaching and learning from late March through to December 2020.** As the only
39 university in Zimbabwe accredited to offer online degrees, Africa University had the infrastructure and
40 expertise to transition smoothly and break new ground with competence-based student assessment tools.
 - 41
 - 42 ▪ **Gifts totaling more than \$300,000 from across the United Methodist connection that were designated for**
43 **COVID-19 relief efforts.** These second-mile gifts enabled Africa University to house, feed and encourage close
44 to 300 international students who were stranded on its campus between March and late July 2020.
 - 45
 - 46 ▪ **Excellent student retention and modest enrollment growth,** with a more than 99% uptake of online learning
47 by students. More than 3,000 students enrolled for the 2020-2021 academic year—a 16% increase over the
48 previous year—with 2,395 studying full-time. Fifty-seven percent of the full-time students were female and
49 24% were international.
- 50

- 1 ▪ **Innovation, outreach and service** through:
 - 2 ○ The development and distribution of masks and hand sanitizer (*of its own design/formulation*),
 - 3 that have now been certified and cleared for commercial production.
 - 4
 - 5 ○ The launch, via a web application, of farm to household delivery of fresh produce, meat and
 - 6 poultry products by the Africa University Dream Farm Trust.
 - 7 ○ Two student-led initiatives—***Feed a Family*** and ***Ben Hill UMC Women’s Residence Girl Child***
 - 8 ***Support Program***—that provided medical care, food and school fees assistance to vulnerable
 - 9 families in the wider community. Campus-based and home-based students raised resources,
 - 10 procured supplies and organized safe distribution to families.
 - 11
- 12 ▪ The successful completion of two new buildings—the Highland Park UMC-funded student union facility and a
- 13 dormitory for female students. A new solar farm powers the Highland Park women’s dormitory.
- 14

15 Africa University’s online campus is here to stay, thanks to infrastructure upgrades and the lesson learned while
 16 staying on mission in 2020. Going forward, Africa University is committed to growing its pan-African presence and
 17 impact through new programs, partnerships, and an effective blend of in-person and online learning options.

18

19 Thank you, Rio Texas United Methodists, for helping to prepare young leaders to be “an aroma that brings life” to a
 20 world that is crying out for justice, compassion, healing and wholeness (2 Cor. 2:14-16). Your prayers and gifts provide
 21 a strong foundation for the efforts of the students, lecturers and administrators as they engage in disciple-making by
 22 example. In a fragile and interconnected world and family of faith, your deep commitment, loving concern and
 23 steadfast support matter greatly.

24 Thank you for aiding Africa University in transforming lives and growing vibrant, worshipping communities. In
 25 journeying alongside Africa University in ministry and mission, Rio Texas United Methodists are the church in the
 26 world—seeding hope and sharing the love of Christ. **Rio Texas Conference, your faithfulness affirms that when we**
 27 **are all in it together, God’s grace is indeed sufficient.** To God be the glory.

28

29 *James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement*
 30 *Africa University Development Office*

31

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

32 **Dear Colleagues in Ministry:**

33 I am grateful for my first opportunity to thank you for your moral, prayerful, and material support of the Boston
 34 University School of Theology (BUSTH). Like many institutions, this past year at BUSTH has been largely influenced by
 35 the COVID-19 pandemic, outrage over enduring racial injustices in our country, and concern over rising white
 36 supremacy in our nation. Our work at BUSTH is to prepare religious leaders to encounter and engage complex
 37 challenges such as these. A year like 2020 makes the School’s historic and ongoing commitments to social justice even
 38 more relevant. Below are some BUSTH highlights from 2020. We remain hopeful in our continued partnership with
 39 you in the work and witness of the School toward advancing social justice, fostering compassionate communities,
 40 and shaping wise leaders for a hurting world.

41

42 **BREAKING NEWS:**

- 43 ▪ **Virtual Learning:** Our faculty, staff, and library successfully pivoted to fully remote learning in Spring 2020 upon
- 44 the COVID-19 lockdown, which continued through the summer terms. Fall 2020 offered a hybrid approach to
- 45 learning, due to Boston University’s “Learn *from* Anywhere” initiative, which included a comprehensive on-
- 46 campus testing program and strict COVID-19 precautions to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff.

1 Students were given the most flexibility, with allowances to learn in-person in socially distanced and masked
2 classes or in the comfort of their own homes via Zoom. The redirection to online learning served as an
3 opportunity for BUSTH faculty to develop new online pedagogical proficiency and positions the School for
4 greater engagement with current conversations concerning best practices in distance, hybrid, and online
5 learning options for students worldwide.

- 6 ■ **Students:** We continue to increase and celebrate diversity in our student body, creating opportunities for in-
7 depth exchanges and a rich virtual community life. Our Fall 2020 entering class was among our largest classes
8 ever, with 128 new students enrolling in September, despite the fact that recruitment had to transition to be
9 fully online.
- 10
- 11 ■ **Faculty:** We celebrated *dean emerita* Mary Elizabeth Moore’s 12-year service to the School as she stepped
12 down on December 31, 2020. The institution will be forever grateful for her historic tenure as its dean. The new
13 dean G. Sujin Pak began her appointment on January 1, 2021. Dean Pak is known for her commitments to
14 academic rigor, social justice, and United Methodism, which made her a wonderful fit for the deanship of
15 BUSTH at this time. In the coming months, the School plans to appoint a new Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor
16 of Ethical Leadership.
- 17 ■ **Lilly Endowment Grant for Thriving Congregations Initiative:** BUSTH was awarded a nearly \$1 million, four-
18 year grant to work with urban congregations responding to trauma. The project will be focused on responding
19 to congregants who are continually shaped by and reacting to compounding domestic and global traumatic
20 events, such as systemic racism, gun violence, homelessness, or immigration stressors.
- 21
- 22 ■ **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry. Building
23 student scholarships and housing opportunities remain key priorities. BUSTH also offers leadership fellowships
24 to support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies: Raíces Latinas, Sacred Worth, Indigenous Studies,
25 Korean Studies, Women in Leadership, and Black Church Studies.
- 26
- 27 ■ **Online Lifelong Learning:** Through a generous grant from BU’s Digital Education Incubator, BUSTH began to
28 offer online mini-courses, workshops, and reading groups for interested professional and spiritual enrichment
29 of alumni and other religious leaders. Inaugural groups covered topics such as religious Afro-futurism,
30 spirituality through the writings of Howard Thurman, and rituals and practices of grief in a time of pandemic.
31 To learn about or participate in the next BUSTH Lifelong Learning offerings, visit bu.edu/sth/oll.
- 32
- 33 ■ **Theology and the Arts Initiatives:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our traditional exhibits moved to an online
34 space. The art of John August Swanson is available at [https://butheoartsgallery2020.wordpress.com/john-](https://butheoartsgallery2020.wordpress.com/john-august-swanson-social-justice-artist)
35 [august-swanson-social-justice-artist](https://butheoartsgallery2020.wordpress.com/john-august-swanson-social-justice-artist).
- 36 ■ **Development:** BUSTH’s “On a Mission” campaign surpassed all expectations when it concluded in September
37 2019, raising \$29.4 million—well beyond the \$15 million goal set in 2010. These funds reflect broad support
38 from alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students, with a far-reaching impact on the School’s ability to pursue its
39 mission. More than 2,800 donors, including 1,927 alumni (a 50% alumni participation rate), contributed to our
40 campaign.

41 PARTNERING FOR MINISTRY AND TRANSFORMATION:

- 42 ■ **Doctor of Ministry:** The DMin in Transformational Leadership flourishes with lively student cohorts that are
43 interfaith, broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and
44 faculty mentoring.
- 45 ■ **Ecumenical partnerships:** We now have four denominational Communities of Learning: Wesleyan/Methodist,
46 Episcopal/Anglican, United Church of Christ, and Unitarian Universalist.
- 47 ■ **Partnership with Hebrew College:** Together we are able to enrich interreligious learning through joint courses
48 and public events, and also co-sponsor *The Journal of Interreligious Studies* and the *State of Formation* for
49 emerging leaders.
- 50 ■ **Chaplaincy education:** BUSTH and the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab received a grant to support the joint project
51 “Innovations in Chaplaincy Education,” which will seek to redesign courses on chaplaincy in higher education,
52 and centralize education for chaplaincy curricula, including competencies needed for chaplains or other
53 professionals in spiritual care.

54

1 **TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:**

- 2 ▪ **Campus action:** Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing. BUSTH is the
3 first certified Green School in BU and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative.
4 ▪ **Internships in global service and peacemaking:** Students participate in apprenticeship ministries across the
5 world.

6 **COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE:**

- 7 ▪ Faculty, staff, and students are active in #BlackLivesMatter efforts to seek racial equality, and in collaborative
8 services to support people suffering the consequences of immigration practices or disability inequities.
9
10 ▪ In Town Hall meetings, the community has deep conversations on issues that divide, seeking to develop
11 capacities for relating across difference and to create a community based on the dignity of all.
12

13 BUSTH celebrates transformational leaders of the United Methodist Church. Your legacy and witness and your
14 partnership give us hope and courage for the future.

15 Blessings and gratitude,

16 G. Sujin Pak, Dean
17

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

18 Since our founding in 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated more than 10,000
19 students, shaping thoughtful, principled, and courageous leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of
20 Jesus Christ. We continued our work even through this most difficult year, with the coronavirus continuing its march
21 around the world, a reckoning for racial injustice rolling across our nation, and a toxic, divisive political atmosphere
22 challenging our civic life. Perhaps there has been no better year than this to underscore the importance of faithful
23 and creative leaders for the church’s ministries throughout the world—the type of leaders we form at Candler.

24

25 Though our mission remains unchanged, the pandemic has necessitated many changes in how we undertake that
26 mission: We have shifted classes online, redesigned syllabi to support optimal online learning, developed new ways
27 to worship and experience community together in the virtual sphere, and discerned which new habits and modalities
28 have promise for enriching our work even after the pandemic ends. Through these efforts, we and our students have
29 gained deep experience in being flexible, adaptable, and creative as we respond to the demands of ever-changing
30 contexts—experience that not only serves us well now, but will continue to serve us and our ministries far into the
31 future.

32

33 Candler is one of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, yet true to the Methodist tradition of
34 ecumenical openness, we enthusiastically welcome students from 44 denominations, with 46% of MDiv students
35 coming from the Wesleyan tradition. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful,
36 with an enrollment of 483 from 12 countries and 37 states, 44 percent persons of color (U.S.), and a median age of
37 27 among MDivs. This diversity is a rich blessing, and this year we created a new staff position of assistant director of
38 student life for diversity, equity and inclusion to foster understanding and ensure we are responsive to the needs of
39 our diverse student body.

40 We offer six single degrees (MDiv, MTS, MRL MRPL, ThM, DMin) and ten dual degrees. Our Doctor of Ministry degree
41 is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry while completing their degrees. Our new
42 Chaplaincy concentration is now among our most popular, and our Teaching Parish program enables students to
43 serve as student pastors in local churches throughout the southeast, learning firsthand about shepherding a
44 congregation; this year, there were 36 participants.

45

46 Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid remains among our top priorities. In 2019-2020, we awarded
47 nearly \$6.6 million in financial aid, with 100% of MDiv and 98% of all students receiving support. All MDiv students
48 who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS,

1 and master of religious leadership students who are enrolled part-time or more receive a scholarship covering at least
2 50% of tuition for the length of their program.

3 The demands of the pandemic did not diminish Candler’s robust schedule of events. Candler’s Black Church Studies program
4 celebrated its 30th anniversary with a yearlong slate of online lectures and panel discussions, now available at vimeo.com/candler.
5 We also launched The Candler Foundry to make theological education accessible to all, through short and semester-length courses
6 taught by Candler faculty, videos and discussion guides to spark conversation in groups or one-on-one, and Facebook Live panel
7 discussions connecting theology with current issues in the world. View the latest offerings at candlerfoundry.emory.edu.

8 Candler’s ability to fulfill our mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries throughout
9 the world depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this
10 vital ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us online at candler.emory.edu.

11 —Jan Love

12

13

DREW THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

14 As with most other schools in the northeast of the U.S., Drew University evacuated its campus in early spring 2020 in
15 response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Drew Theological School faculty and staff adapted to this challenge with
16 resilience, compassion, and creativity. The Theological School faculty put their courses all online, led development
17 workshops for faculty across the university, and, in order to accommodate our many international admits who would
18 not be able to enter the United States for fall 2020, designed an asynchronous Master of Divinity program. As a result
19 of this work, the Theological School welcomed 147 new students, its largest entering class in a decade, with an
20 enrollment of 380 for the current academic year. Our chapel team has also led the way in creating online worship
21 experiences that connect the Drew community now across the globe. All degree programs at the Theological School
22 include interdisciplinary courses that demand out-of-the-box thinking, apprenticeship training that addresses real-
23 world issues, and modes of learning that promote adaptability and innovation. Our MDiv and MATM degrees include
24 a required gateway year, vocational pathways, and experiential learning that develops and deepens adaptive
25 leadership skills. The curriculum features a team-designed and taught interdisciplinary sequence of core courses
26 reflecting the integration of the theological disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith. The faculty have
27 also articulated shared values that are infused across the teaching and learning at Drew: a commitment to anti-
28 racism; gender and sexual-identity equality; eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and interfaith
29 understanding and cooperation. Drew cultivates pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, and thought leaders
30 who go all over the world to take their place as the next generation of faith leaders and change agents.

31

32 Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Interim Dean

LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

33 It is my honor to submit a report of the only institution of the South Central Jurisdiction to your conference. It is my wish to thank
34 the Bishop and the members of the conference for the committed support to Lydia Patterson in the past year.

35

36 The year 2020, has been one unlike any other in my 36 years serving this ministry. We have endured many crises before such as
37 drug wars, violence, peso devaluations, border and immigration issues, and other pandemics but none as terrifying as COVID-19.
38 This time the lives of our students and staff were threatened. This time, we knew not how to attack it.

39

40 In early March, we closed our doors in order to keep our students and staff safe. By God’s grace and not knowing that He had a
41 hand in what was to come, we had computerized our classrooms about 4 years prior. Going from on-site to on-line was done
42 within 24 hours. We encountered some glitches, like students without internet or computers at home. We moved fast to provide
43 them with tablets and “hot spots” so that no student would be left behind. The plan, of course was to return to the classroom in

1 a few weeks. The few weeks turned into months and months to a year. We did manage to celebrate the Class of 2020 with 69
2 graduating seniors. Of the 69 seniors, 69 are in college today.

3
4 We began the fall semester with a drop in enrollment. Parents were struggling to pay tuition. By then, many were unemployed
5 and had lost loved ones to the pandemic. Our job was to see that our students returned and that we were there to make it
6 possible. We moved swiftly to raising more scholarships. The uncertainty of the situation was alarming and many parents opted
7 to keep their children home.

8
9 Teachers and staff are heroes and heroines. They have done an amazing job of keeping the students focused and on
10 course. A few students may be falling behind, but they will receive extra help during the summer to catch up. This
11 administration will seek funds so that these students can attend tuition free and jump back on board.

12 The past twelve months have been a test to our faith. We, at Lydia Patterson, did not lose faith. While in the middle
13 of the pandemic, we completed a soccer practice field with green grass and colorful pergolas to welcome the students
14 when they return. We remodeled the music room so that the students would have something positive and with
15 optimism to return to. The students, parents, teachers, have all endured such pain, that we moved to bring back
16 hope. We have all lived through horrifying times, but it is our faith that will get us through. While we went to virtual
17 learning, we maintained our weekly devotionals on Zoom. For the past year, the staff has gathered to pray every
18 single day.

19
20 We look forward for when the students can return to some type of normalcy. We look forward for the students to
21 enjoy sports again and participate in extracurricular activities. The lay ministry students anxiously await the time to
22 go out and serve in the local churches. We look forward to a normal graduation when we can celebrate the amazing
23 student body that Lydia Patterson has. We look forward to your visit to our campus, whether it be on a mission trip
24 or simply to experience firsthand the sanctity of this ministry.

25 God is good all the time. We have received many good wishes and prayers from our supporters together with financial
26 support for our students. We will survive. My most sincere appreciation to all those kind people that have thought
27 about us while trying to keep their own house safe. My gratitude goes out to all our supporters on behalf of every
28 student at "La Lydia".

29 Respectfully,

30 Socorro de Anda, President

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

31 Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Southwestern University continues to provide our undergraduates
32 with a distinctive residential educational experience. Thanks to meticulous planning and collaboration across campus
33 departments and offices, the university successfully maintained a relatively low COVID-19 positivity rate in spring and
34 fall 2020 while still engaging students in the rigorous inquiry-based courses and high-impact learning experiences
35 that prepare our undergraduates for successful lives and careers beyond graduation.

36
37 For the fourth year in a row, a record-breaking number of students applied for admission, and in August, we
38 welcomed 361 first-year and 50 transfer students, bringing the total enrollment to 1,506. Approximately 63% of the
39 new class was in the top 25% of their graduating class, and 27% were in the top 10%. Altogether, 21 states and four
40 countries are represented in the class. Underrepresented students constitute 39% of the class, and 18% are first-
41 generation students. Southwestern's class of 2024 was also the most diverse in university history, with 25% of the
42 incoming class identifying as Hispanic or Latinx.

43
44 Our 2020 accolades include *Washington Monthly* ranking Southwestern the #1 Liberal Arts College in Texas. The
45 university also tied for the #1 National Liberal Arts College in Texas according to the *U.S. News and World Report*. Our
46 Center for Career & Professional Development ranks #3 in the nation and #1 in Texas, according to *The Princeton*
47 *Review*, which also ranked Southwestern #2 in the nation and #1 in Texas among its Impact Schools.

1 Among our award-winning scholar-teachers, eight were awarded Sam Taylor Fellowships from the United Methodist
2 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In just 52 weeks, Michael Cooper (music) published 56 source-
3 critical, world-premiere editions of compositions by Florence B. Price (1887–1953), the first African-American woman
4 to have her music performed by a major U.S. orchestra. Therese Shelton (mathematics) serves as a copincipal
5 investigator on a grant awarded by the National Science Foundation titled “Building Community through Systemic
6 Initiative for Modeling Investigations and Opportunities with Differential Equations (SIMIODE).” And three of our
7 faculty members published scholarly books last year: Bob Bednar (communication studies) published *Road Scars:
8 Place, Automobility, and Road Trauma*; Jessica Hower (history) published *Tudor Empire: The Making of Britain and
9 the British Atlantic World, 1485–1603*; and Allison Miller (art history) published *Kingly Splendor: Court Art and
10 Materiality in Han China*.

11 Last academic year saw 31 students inducted into Southwestern’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. German and physics
12 major Claire Harding ’20 was awarded a Fulbright Award to teach English in Germany and interned at the NASA Glenn
13 Research Center with a program focusing on space communications and navigation. Art major and business minor
14 Mattie Mint, class of 2022, interned with the Chicago Metropolitan Planning Council as a Kemper Scholar. Three
15 psychology majors, three alumni, and Professor Fay Guarraci (psychology) published new research investigating the
16 long-term effects of soy on rats’ reproductive physiology and behavior in the journal *Behavioural Pharmacology*.
17 Kalliopi Caldwell and Shay Salunkhe, both class of 2022, earned prestigious Sumners Scholarships to engage in
18 conferences and internship opportunities focusing on public policy and civic engagement. Two education majors and
19 three recent alumni, along with Professor Michael Kamen (education), coauthored a chapter in the textbook *Affective
20 Movements, Methods, and Pedagogies* dramatizing preservice teachers visiting innovative schools.

21
22

23 In high-impact learning experiences, for the 20th consecutive year, the King Creativity Fund supported significant,
24 innovative, and visionary student projects across the disciplines. Twenty-five students participated in 11 different
25 Summer Collaborative Opportunities and Experiences

26 (SCOPE) as part of a student-faculty collaborative research program. Although SCOPE 2020 transitioned to a remote
27 format and faculty found new ways to mentor their student researchers, the mission of SCOPE remained the same:
28 to foster a culture of research at Southwestern; to promote student investigative learning, persistence, self-efficacy,
29 and success; and to create an inclusive and diverse research community.

30

31 In a pandemic-shortened school year, Southwestern finished third for the SCAC President’s Trophy. The Pirates
32 garnered 60 all-conference selections, including 16 First Team selections, 21 Second Team selections, nine Third Team
33 selections, and 14 Honorable Mention selections. The Pirates also claimed six SCAC Elite 19 awards. Southwestern
34 finished the year with three All-Americans and five All-Region selections. Women’s soccer won its first SCAC
35 Championship in program history, earning its first NCAA Tournament berth. Three programs finished the season
36 nationally ranked, with the men’s and women’s tennis programs earning the highest national rankings in program
37 history. Five student-athletes finished the season in their sport’s individual national rankings. Before their seasons
38 were cut short, men’s lacrosse opened the season with the best start in program history at 4–0, women’s lacrosse
39 had individual leaders at the top of every major SCAC offensive statistical category, softball was 14–5, baseball’s and
40 softball’s top pitchers each threw no-hitters, and women’s tennis was the highest-ranked team in the SCAC for the
41 first time in school history.

42
43

44 In 2020, Southwestern welcomed David Pilgrim, human-rights activist and founder of the Jim Crow Museum of Racist
45 Memorabilia, as guest speaker during the university’s Martin Luther King, Jr., Dream Week celebration. The Center
46 for Career & Professional Development hosted its first annual Skills, Opportunities, Action, and Results (SOAR)
47 summit, with keynotes delivered by industry leaders Chad Littlefield, cofounder of We and Me, Inc.; Diane Gottman,
48 nationally recognized etiquette coach; John Grimshaw, digital marketing expert; and Daron K. Roberts, former NFL
49 coach. The 20th annual Research and Creative Works Symposium took place online April 20–24, 2020, and featured
50 more than 80 projects by 128 student presenters mentored by faculty and staff from across the university.

1 ***Ratification of Trustees***

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

5

6 The following names are submitted to the Rio Texas Conference for election or re-election:

- 7 ■ Mr. Henry C. Joyner, nominated by the Board of Trustees for election to a one-year term concluding 2022.
- 8 ■ Mr. Kenneth Snodgrass, nominated by the Board of Trustees for election to a three-year term concluding 2024.

9 ***Conclusion***

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

12 Respectfully yours,

13 Laura E. Skandera Trombley, President

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

14 Saint Paul School of Theology, a seminary of the United Methodist Church, is committed to the formation of people
15 for innovative, creative ministry. We are one institution, online and on-campus, in Kansas and Oklahoma.

16

17 This past year, we have all faced new challenges amid these unsettled times. Saint Paul School of Theology began the
18 2020-2021 academic year offering students an online option for all courses. With many students choosing to attend
19 class solely online, our Student Council created a monthly "Chat & Chew" where students, faculty, and staff come
20 together to eat lunch and talk about life, seminary, and ministry. In addition, Rev. Rod Newman, our Oklahoma
21 Campus Chapel Coordinator, crafts a weekly Community Prayer to provide encouragement and faithfulness as the
22 school seeks to provide spiritual formation in new ways.

23

24 Kansas Campus Chapel Coordinator Dr. Casey Sigmon took worship to new technological levels by introducing our
25 weekly online worship service via Zoom, bringing our separate campus chapel services together for one service where
26 all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from wherever they are. Along with our featured alumni worship
27 preachers, the community was blessed this fall by the presence of Musician in Residence Hannah Rand, from The
28 Many, who led the music each week for worship. In Spring 2020, Odell Talley, Director of Music for Swope Parkway
29 United and organist for Zion Travelers Missionary Baptist, served as Musician in Residence. For those who cannot
30 join us live, chapel recordings are available on the Saint Paul YouTube channel.

31

32

33 Saint Paul staff and faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society. This year, we have added new
34 adjunct professors, including Rev. Dr. Carol Cook-Moore and Rev. Dr. Tiffany Nagel Monroe both of the OKUMC, Rev.
35 Dr. Robert Turner of Vernon Chapel AME, UMC Deaconess Cindy Johnson of Rio Grande Conference, Rev. Adam
36 Hamilton and Debi Nixon both of Church of the Resurrection, Rev. Chebon Kernell of the UMC Native American
37 Comprehensive Plan, and Rev. Dr. Shannon Fleck of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches.

38

39 The faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology continue to maintain high standards of scholarship, research, publication,
40 and engagement. Their many activities and publications over the past year are so numerous that space permits only
41 the sharing of selected highlights.

- 42 1. Dr. Jim Brandt, Professor of Historical Theology, will publish "Schleiermacher's Christian Ethics" in the
43 forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Schleiermacher, which will appear in 2022 from the Oxford University
44 Press.

- 1 2. Dr. Nancy Howell, Professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion and Oubri A. Poppele Professor of Health
2 and Welfare Ministries, continues her service on the Executive Committee of the International Society for
3 Science and Religion, working on several committees advancing the aims of the Society.
- 4 3. Rev. Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, Associate Professor of New Testament Studies, will see the publication of his
5 book, Reading and Interpreting the Bible with Global South Christians: A 21st Century Model for Europe and
6 North America Christendom, by Wipf and Stock Publishers this summer. He has also written four
7 Commentaries on 2 Corinthians and Ephesians which appeared on WorkingPreacher.org in April.
- 8
- 9
- 10 4. Dr. Hal Knight, Donald and Pearl Wright Professor of Wesleyan Studies, continues his work as a contributing
11 writer in *The Missouri Methodist* magazine.
- 12 5. Dr. Kristen E. Kvam, Professor of Theology, serves as co-chair for the American Academy of Religion's
13 Program Unit "Martin Luther and Global Lutheran Traditions." Over the last several months, she has
14 conducted invited presentations to the Great Plains UMC Clergy and its Clergy Excellence in Liminal Time
15 Conversations and the Fall Theological Conference of Central States Synod (ELCA) on October 14, 2020.
- 16
- 17 6. Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual Education,
18 continues to contribute regularly to WorkingPreacher.org and served as the keynote speaker at the
19 Wesleyan Liturgical Society in Kansas City in March 2020. Her scholarly writing will appear in the Preaching
20 the Manifold Grace, Vol. 2, edited by Ronald J. Allen and published by Wipf and Stock.

21 This year, we have faced several challenges that turned into opportunities for new recruiting spaces and partnerships
22 to enhance students' seminary experience. With the change from in-person to virtual events, Rev. Shannon Hancock,
23 Director of Admissions and Communications, has expanded her reach to prospective students by participating as a
24 virtual exhibitor at online conferences. Rev. Hancock engages with prospective students via apps such as Whova and
25 HopIn to highlight Saint Paul's unique course delivery system and formative community.

26

27 In February, Saint Paul held the 2021 Slater-Willson Lecture online featuring Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre. His
28 lecture, "Why Do They Come?" explored the political, economic, and social causes of our current immigration crisis.
29 Before the lecture, Rev. Dr. De La Torre participated in a student-led forum, entering a conversation centering around
30 the practical aspects of ministry and immigration. Later in April, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Hal Knight,
31 hosted a lecture given by Dr. Sammy G. Alfaro, Associate Professor of Theology at Grand Canyon University and Pastor
32 of Iglesia Nuevo Dia (New Day Church), on the "Pastoral Strategies for Ministering Among Latinx Immigrant
33 Communities." And for the first time, on May 22, Saint Paul held a virtual commencement celebration with videos,
34 cap and gown photos, online congratulatory messages from friends and family, and a commencement address by
35 Rev. Chebon Kernell. The class of 2021 had 22 graduates, including 16 Master of Divinity and 1 Doctor of Ministry
36 graduates. Due to the pandemic, for safety concerns, Saint Paul has postponed our 60th Anniversary Celebration.
37 However, we have rescheduled the event for Friday, October 22 and look forward to coming together as a community
38 for a safe, in-person gathering.

39

40 For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 255 individual students, 40 of which
41 were new students, with a total registration of 520 classes and offering a total of 51 courses. Due to Covid-19, the
42 school quickly pivoted its course offerings and delivered lessons in both asynchronous and synchronous online
43 formats. In Winter 2019, Saint Paul began a hybrid (online and on-campus) schedule for six courses. Although for
44 2021, this went fully online, plans to increase the number of hybrid course offerings are in development.

45 Saint Paul Board of Trustees added three new members to their ranks: Bishop James D. Tindall, Sr., Pastor Emeritus
46 at Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ Kansas City; Ms. Sharon Cleaver, Senior Director of Marketing,
47 Communications, and PR for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City; and Mr. Rogers Strickland, Founder/CEO
48 of Strickland Construction.

49

50 Through a Board initiative related to diversity and inclusion, Saint Paul created a working group on Native American
51 theology and ministries comprised of Native theologians and church leaders. Their efforts are focused on how the
52 church and academy can work together toward healing generational trauma related to the spread of Christianity and
53 the genocide of Indigenous North Americans.

1 As we have happily reported in past years, Saint Paul is financially sound and operates with a balanced budget. The
2 changes made these last years have established a solid financial foundation for years of sustainability. We continue
3 to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and emergency assistance to
4 students. Our significant investments in technology have recently allowed our staff, faculty, and students to
5 transition to a fully hybrid educational delivery model providing a safe learning environment during the pandemic.
6 Our faculty was uniquely adept at managing technology in the classroom before the pandemic, making the transition
7 to all online courses a smooth process.

8
9
10 With the Board's assistance, led by Board Chair Rev. Dr. Tex Sample, the seminary focuses on its mission. Our trustees
11 work to continuously enhance and evaluate the strategic plans in place to guide us into the future. Perhaps most
12 importantly, we have learned much and grown closer as a community due to the pandemic.

13
14 Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking more to answer the
15 call. We are a seminary that offers online and on-campus classes with a flexible schedule to help our students
16 manage pastoral leadership demands in the 21st century. We are grateful for your support of our students and our
17 seminary. May we continue to live into the call of Jesus Christ to be faithful witnesses for healing in these unsettled
18 times and for generations to come.

19
20 President Neil Blair, Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students thank you for your prayers and support.
21

TEXAS UNITED METHODIST COLLEGE ASSOCIATION
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

22 This has been a year of distance. Those things that generally bring us together have been severely impacted by the
23 spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Life in our churches and on college campuses now requires that we maintain
24 social distance, do distance learning, and otherwise call for the separation of our fellowship.

25 Yet, the support of young men and women in our universities through church-related scholarships continues. Not
26 only does it provide an avenue for the next generation of United Methodist students to study at our institutions, it
27 also provides hope that an education is still possible, even in the face of hard economic times brought on by the
28 pandemic.

29 The total distribution to our Texas United Methodist College Association colleges this past year was \$162,000.
30 These funds that were granted to McMurray University, Southern Methodist University, Southwestern University,
31 and Texas Wesleyan University are restricted to scholarships for deserving students from United Methodist
32 congregations in Texas. As always, no funds are used for brick and mortar. Many of our students continue to be
33 first-generation college students.

34 While the support from any one congregation may be small, the impact of those funds in combination with all the
35 other Texas congregations is enormous. TUMCA scholars continue to receive hope, affirmation, encouragement,
36 and the development of servant-leadership skills that will serve well the church-at-large while individual churches
37 chart new ways to close the theological, social, and medical distances that challenge us today.

38 TUMCA continues to be an extension of our United Methodist congregations' mission, and we are grateful for their
39 support. We are continually blessed to work with our scholars and the supporting congregations in the
40 transformation of the world.

41 Respectfully Submitted,
42 Dr. Darrell M. Loyless, President

43

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” — Isaiah 43:19

It appears God is doing some new things at United Theological Seminary, even in the midst of health, racial, and political crises.

God is doing a new thing at United financially. United continues to make progress toward its goal of becoming debt-free by the Seminary’s 150th anniversary on October 11, 2021. Thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of alumni/ae and donors, less than \$1 million remains of the original \$4 million mortgage debt. After the mortgage is paid in full, the Seminary plans to convert those mortgage payments into money for student scholarships.

God is doing a new thing in enrollment. Over the last five years, United’s Doctor of Ministry program has grown by 48%, from 170 students in the 2016-17 academic year to 251 in 2020-21. In Fall 2021, Dr. Elvin Sadler, General Secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, will become the Associate Dean for Doctoral Studies, upon the retirement of Dr. Harold Hudson who has been a vital leader at the Seminary for 17 years.

God is doing a new thing with partners in church renewal. In the 2020-21 academic year, United has partnered with Fresh Expressions US and the Mosaix Global Network to introduce two new Houses of Study. These houses oversee specialized tracks in the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Divinity programs. Rev. Dr. Michael Beck is director of the Fresh Expressions House of Studies, and Dr. Harry Li is director of the Mosaix House of Studies.

In collaboration with the Northwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church, United also introduced Rooted/Enraizados, a certificate program for coaches and mentors of Hispanic/Latino church planters. In 2020-21, the program served students from more than five annual conferences.

God is doing a new thing with the establishment of The Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center. Beginning in 2021, the Innovation Center honors the ministry of Bishop Bruce Ough by providing a hub of learning for church leaders seeking the framework, support, and courage to introduce the Gospel of Jesus Christ in new and creative ways.

Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey joins United as the inaugural director of the Innovation Center.

United’s prayer is that United Methodists will perceive the new things that God is doing in our communities, congregations, and ministries as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Grace and peace,
Dr. Kent Millard, President

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

For the world, 2020 was a year like no other. In the midst of a global pandemic, plus resurgent racism, mass unemployment, and politically challenging times in the US, Wesley remained committed to fostering wisdom and courage, preparing graduates to lead innovative ministries while remaining grounded in our biblical and theological traditions for the sake of God’s inbreaking kingdom. The mode of educational delivery changed overnight, as we became an all-online seminary on March 15, 2020 and have remained so to keep students, faculty, staff and all members of the Wesley community safe from COVID-19 exposure on campus. This is simply Wesley modelling what we teach our students: to be committed to our God-given mission while being innovative and responsive in the delivery of ministry. Here are some of the ways we are accomplishing that with our many partners in this mission, as we seek to faithfully minister to the world in the future.

Research projects support congregational community engagement and envision future ministry

Wesley is pleased to announce new opportunities for UMC congregations to explore, clarify, and pursue thriving in their communities.

1 Through **The Source Collaborative**, Wesley will work with three cohorts of regional congregations in a two-year
2 process of prayer, community engagement, congregational visioning, and coaching, with the goal of following Jesus
3 in mission and ministry. Interested congregations can contact innovation@wesleyseminary.edu for more
4 information. This work, funded by a \$1 million Lilly Endowment, Inc, grant, raises Wesley's role as a leading research
5 and development seminary for the whole church and complements Wesley's other Lilly Endowment-funded projects
6 focused on congregational vitality.

7 The [Religious Workforce Project](#) is an expansive study of the current and future nature of religious work,
8 particularly in local congregations, so as to understand what opportunities and constraints may exist in the future
9 and to adapt resources and training accordingly. Through the [Wesley Innovation Hub](#), the seminary has worked
10 with 18 congregations in the greater Washington area to experiment with ministries with young adults outside the
11 church. Together, these projects forge insight into future ministry and local church development, influencing the way
12 students are trained in master's, doctoral, and course of study education, but also informing workshops, podcasts,
13 articles, and training for church leaders working in their communities across the country.

14 We invite you to discover the latest research and conversations generated by the Wesley community through our
15 new web portal, #EngageInTheseTimes, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/#engage.

16 ***Using research and partnerships to reach and equip the next generation of ministers***

17 Research shows that the primary way people learn about and begin to consider seminary options is through their
18 pastor or an alumnus. Whether you feel called or you know someone who does, **Wesley is ready to work with you**
19 as we make theological education more accessible and relevant to the realities of ministry today—for laity and clergy,
20 for those seeking a degree or certification or continuing education, and for ministry from within or beyond the church.

21
22 Wesley offers an 81-hour Master of Divinity, a 36-hour Master of Arts, and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies,
23 any of which can be focused around specializations in public theology, urban ministry, arts and theology, missional
24 church, children and youth ministry and advocacy, or African American church leadership.

25 For full-time students, we offer a modern and affordable residential community in the nation's capital. Our
26 **Community Engagement Fellows** program prepares students to engage in entrepreneurial, community-based
27 ministry. Generous stipends are available for each Fellow while they complete their MDiv degree. Our **3+3 Fast Track**
28 **BA/MDiv program with Shenandoah University** allows students to complete both degrees in six years, entering
29 ministry more quickly and with less debt.

30 For people with work, ministry, and family commitments, **Wesley's Master of Divinity degree can now be completed**
31 **via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years.** Check out upcoming flexible course
32 offerings for Summer and Fall 2021 at www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3.

33 Wesley works with each student to make seminary affordable. Thanks to the consistent support of graduates,
34 congregations, and friends, Wesley provides more than \$2 million annually in scholarships. In addition to our regular
35 merit awards, ranging from 25% to 100% tuition with stipends, Wesley has released special additional scholarships:
36 **full-tuition scholarships** for people recommended by Wesley alumni, campus ministers, or Christian camping or
37 service ministries who feel called to leadership in the church as it is becoming; **Next Call in Ministry scholarships** for
38 students who have worked in a non-ministry setting for at least 10 years; and **Generación Latinx Scholarships** for
39 emerging Latinx/Hispanic leaders for ministries both within and beyond the church.

40 41 42 43 44 45 46 ***Take your ministry to the next level***

47 In addition to full master's degrees, Wesley offers graduate certificates for those preparing for specialized ministry!
48 The new **Certificate for Children and Youth Ministry and Advocacy (CYMA)** is designed for people who work with
49 and advocate for children and young people, whether in churches, schools, or non-profit organizations. The **non-**
50 **residential certificate can be completed in 12 to 15 months** through online coursework and up to two residential
51 sessions. For more information, visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/cyma-3. The **Certificate in Faith**

1 **and Public Life** explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse through graduate
2 courses. For more information, visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/

3
4 Wesley is a leader in **Doctor of Ministry programs** in specialized tracks that can include international study. Wesley
5 is pleased to announce three new Doctor of Ministry tracks for 2022: Ministry in a Digital Age, a timely new track
6 exploring the new opportunities and challenges of online ministry; Justice, Compassion, and Witness in a Turbulent
7 World, hosted in Cambridge, England; and a program focused on Latinx ministry. As well, new 2022 cohorts for our
8 popular DMin areas of focus will be offered for Military Chaplains and CPE chaplains, our international mission-
9 focused Global Church Leadership program, and Wesley's premiere DMin program in innovative church
10 administration "**Church Leadership Excellence.**" Find out more or apply
11 at www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/.

12
13 ***Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry***

14 The **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** continues to be on the leading edge of research for the local church. The
15 Lewis Center's **Leading Ideas e-newsletter** is the go-to source for over 20,000 people in ministry each week. Stay on
16 top of their latest developments by subscribing to their podcast or newsletter at www.churchleadership.com.
17 Also look for new practical online courses at www.lewisonlinelearning.org.

18
19 The **Community Engagement Institute** embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-
20 based organization engaging their communities. The innovative online **Health Minister Certificate Program** prepares
21 congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact Dr. Tom Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for
22 more information or to register for future certificate classes.

23
24 The **Center for Public Theology** equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil
25 dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. For more information, visit
26 <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>.

27 **The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion** works with students, religious communities, artists, and scholars
28 exploring the intersection of the arts and theology. By engaging in innovative research, staging challenging
29 exhibitions in our Dadian Gallery, and hosting visiting artists in our on-campus studio, the Luce Center seeks to
30 promote dialogue and foster inspired creativity. For information on upcoming workshops and shows at the Dadian
31 Gallery, visit www.luceartsandreligion.org.

32 ***Faculty leading the way***

33 Our internationally regarded faculty are the heartbeat of transformative education at Wesley. Our faculty continue
34 to advance theological scholarship with new research, publications, and courses. During this past year, we
35 celebrated the ministries of retiring faculty member Dr. Sondra Wheeler. We also welcomed New Testament
36 professor Dr. Laura C. Sweat Holmes to the Wesley community.

37
38 ***Stay connected***

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

41
42 Ready to join in our mission? Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley
43 at www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/. Join the Wesley Community online via Wesley's social media,
44 www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary, on Instagram @wesleyseminary, and on Twitter @WesTheoSem , or sign
45 up for our electronic newsletter, *eCalling*, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.

TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

46 The pandemic brought great hardships to United Methodists in Texas and New Mexico in 2020, but it also provided
47 great opportunities to be in mission with the most vulnerable among us. Since relationships have always been at the
48 center of TMF's ministry, we were encouraged by all the ways churches and nonprofits creatively maintained,

1 developed, and strengthened their relationships with their communities in spite of unprecedented and prolonged
2 challenges. To support their work, TMF created a Microloan Program, offered special grants through the COVID-19
3 Response and Recovery Fund, moved Leadership Ministry opportunities online, and made a Loan Assistance Program
4 available to loan clients. We were grateful to extend these resources and walk alongside so many agents of change
5 in an unpredictable year.

6 Tom Stanton, TMF Senior Area Representative for the Rio Texas Conference, is the primary contact and bridge
7 between congregations (clergy and laity) and TMF. As a partner in ministry, he connects members of the Rio Texas
8 Conference to relevant resources unique to their goals for missional growth within congregations and communities.

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

12 13 **Within the Rio Texas Conference:**

- 14 ■ Loans to churches in the Rio Texas Conference totaled \$53.7 million at the end of 2020.
- 15 ■ Three churches in the Rio Texas Conference participated in the TMF Microloan Program, seeking \$30,000 in
16 microloans.
- 17 ■ Churches and agencies, not including individuals, within the Rio Texas Conference had \$48.6 million invested in
18 the Methodist Loan Fund.

19 **Throughout Texas and New Mexico:**

- 20 ■ As of December 31, 2020, **total assets** under management by TMF were \$709.7 million.
- 21 ■ **Methodist Loan Fund investments** ended the year at \$334.9 million, and our loan portfolio at \$305 million.
- 22
- 23 ■ TMF's **Undesignated Endowment** ended the year at \$68 million.
- 24 ■ Highlighting a significant year of financial support for TMF was a grant of **\$1 million from Lilly Endowment, Inc.**
25 **The Lilly grant to TMF's Leadership Ministry will launch the Courageous Congregations Collaborative (C3).**
- 26
- 27 ■ In response to the global pandemic, **TMF established the COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund.** The COVID
28 Fund **received \$492K in donor support** highlighted by two separate challenge grants of \$100K and \$125K.
- 29
- 30 ■ Gifts to TMF, including our Leadership and Grants Ministries and the undesignated endowment, totaled
31 \$2.15M.
- 32
- 33 ■ TMF continued its planned giving work with individuals and families to support their family philanthropy. In
34 2020, donors directed \$1.445M in gifts (endowments, donor-advised funds, charitable gift annuities, and
35 trusts) to support their most cherished churches and nonprofits.
- 36
- 37 ■ TMF distributed, or had available for distribution, approximately \$3,165,000 from 470 permanent endowments
38 to named endowment beneficiaries. There was approximately \$1,363,000 available for grants from 93
39 endowments.
- 40 ■ During 2020, the TMF **Grants Ministry funded approximately \$2.1 million in support of 124 grant awards** to
41 churches and nonprofits. Of that total, \$1.2 million came from restricted endowments and the remainder from
42 TMF Operations, and funds raised for the newly established COVID-19 Fund. A new COVID-19 Committee was
43 formed to determine grant awards related to the pandemic. Unlike any other year, all funds that could be
44 awarded toward COVID-19 efforts were released without restrictions. This amount was estimated at \$825,000.
45 The Grants Committee of the TMF Board of Directors determines distribution decisions for the discretionary
46 funds.
- 47
- 48 ■ TMF's Leadership Ministry works to equip leaders for deep change through facilitating conversations of
49 courage, learning, and innovation. Some of these conversations take the form of on-going peer groups and
50 others as stand-alone conversations around an adaptive issue. These peer relationships offer fresh
51 perspectives, renew their sense of calling and embolden them for courageous leadership. **During 2020, TMF's**
52 **Leadership Ministry joined the rest of the world in pivoting to online gatherings. Our cohorts have continued**
53 **meeting in the digital space, staying connected to each other for support, learning and**
54 **encouragement.** Remarkably, we also launched two new cohorts through the Courageous Leadership
55 Imperative (CLI). As a complement to our CLI initiative that works with leaders, TMF received a grant from the

1 Lilly Endowment for their Thriving Congregations initiative. In this project, which we are calling the Courageous
2 Congregations Collaborative or C3, we will gather teams to exercise and flex five adaptive muscles needed for
3 this post-pandemic season. Additionally, in July of 2020, TMF welcomed the Rev. Dr. Blair Thompson-White as
4 the Director of Leadership Ministry and the Rev. John Thornburg as the Director of Learning.

- 5 ■ Though this year of COVID has brought substantial loss, it has also provided great opportunity for
6 improvement and innovation. Fueled by the desire to encourage and support, the **TMF team of Area**
7 **Representatives** has continued to remain steadfast and loyal to those they serve. As walk-beside partners
8 in ministry, the team equips and empowers faith communities as they live into their God-appointed
9 mission. Though grounded by the pandemic, the eight representatives, who normally travel Texas and
10 New Mexico, making over 2500 visits, found a way to pivot. A pivot that led to the nurturing of deeper
11 relationships and the provision of much needed services. All within the virtual space. By providing
12 financial best practices, cultivating legacy generosity plans, and nurturing cultures of generosity the
13 improvement work flourished. Churches who desired to nurture purpose and innovation leaned on the
14 process of discernment guided by this question, “What difference is God calling us to make in this time
15 and in this place?” Engaging both informal conversation and contracted services church leadership used
16 Holy Conversations (4-6 months with a team of 7-9) and Holy Excavations (half-day workshop with 20-25
17 people). The TMF Area Representatives remain excited by the mission, inspired by God’s call into the
18 future and poised to walk the journey with you no matter where the path may lead.

19
20
21 **TMF Board members**

22 TMF has submitted the following candidate for re-election to the TMF Board of Directors from the Rio Texas
23 Conference:

24 Mrs. Amy Thomas, Layperson, 3-year term (Austin)

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

26 Rev. Scott Heare, Clergy, currently serving through Annual Conference 2021 (Austin)

27 Rev. Dr. Daniel Flores, Clergy, currently serving through 2022 (Fort Worth)

28 Rev. Thelma Flores, Clergy, currently serving through 2022 (Fort Worth)

29 Rev. Taylor Fuerst, Clergy, currently serving through 2023 (Austin)

30 Rev. Laura Merrill, Clergy, currently serving through 2023 (San Antonio)

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

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

34 Mr. Henry Joyner, Senior Member (Austin)

35 Mrs. Teresa Keese, Layperson, TMF Chair (Brady)

36 Bishop Robert Schnase, Advisory (San Antonio)

37 Mr. Robert C. Scott, Emeritus (San Antonio)

38 Submitted by,

39 Tom Locke, President