

Rio Texas Conference Light House Congregation Covenant

A number of local congregations in Rio Texas Conference have already or are currently disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church and many United Methodists members find themselves alienated or excluded through the actions of disaffiliating congregations. As a result, many remaining United Methodist Churches are committed to be a “Lighthouse Congregation” declaring itself to be a safe haven and refuge for individuals who seek to remain United Methodist.

A United Methodist Lighthouse Congregation is steadfast in remaining United Methodist with a commitment to hospitality, welcoming all people with respect, hospitality, love and grace consistent with the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

​​​​​As a Light House Church, we understand that adopting this resolution means we will elevate hospitality to others to become a core vision of our congregation. We understand that, while we welcome all wishing to worship with us, the individuals seeking safe harbor may be connected to our congregation for a short time or a life time. We commit to intentionally listening to those people left without a UMC home so they may help guide our response to and ministry with them. We commit to work with other Light House Church congregations, our district, and our conference to form a network that may serve all those in the Rio Texas Conference who have been displaced by the disaffiliation of their home churches, often the only UMC congregations in their communities.

We have completed the video training to be a Light House Congregation (please attach completion certification), had open discussions with the leadership of our church and have voted or come to a consensus to sign the resolution below.

Resolution: Therefore, the Church Council of \_\_\_\_\_\_ UMC declares \_\_\_\_\_ UMC of \_\_\_\_\_, Texas to be a “Light House Congregation” of the Rio Texas Conference and offers its love, prayers, fellowship, and ministry to faithful United Methodists, or anyone else, who has been harmed, alienated, or stranded by the disaffiliation process.

Signed....