

2014 Pre-Conference Report



Open Hands ... Manos Abiertas



June 12-14, 2014
American Bank Center
Corpus Christi, Texas

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PRELIMINARY AGENDA

THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION OF METHODIST CONFERENCES IN THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS

BISHOP JIM DORFF, PRESIDING

Southwest Texas Conference

Thursday, June 12

Time	Event	Location
11:00 AM	Registration	Lobby in front of Exhibit Hall A&B, ABC
1:30 PM	Clergy Session	Henry Garrett A&B, ABC
1:30 PM	Joint Laity Session	Selena Auditorium, ABC
2:45 PM	General and Jurisdictional Delegate Nominee Talks	TBA
3:30 PM	First Joint Conference Session Call Session to Order, Bishop Jim Dorff Organization of the Conference and Adoption of the Agenda State of the Church Address Consideration of Reports for Information Only Joint Standing Rules Committee Preliminary Nominations Joint Finance Table Report	Exhibit Hall B
5:15 PM	Break	
7:00 PM	Opening Worship Gathering	Selena Auditorium, ABC
7:30 PM	Opening Worship and Communion <i>Reception hosted by the Corpus Christi District immediately following</i>	Selena Auditorium, ABC Henry Garrett A&B, ABC

Friday, June 13

Time	Event	Location
8:30 AM	Second Joint Conference Session Spiritual Centering Board of Ordained Ministry Report Nominations Report Transitional Uniting Table Report	Exhibit Hall B, ABC
11:00 AM	Bible Study	Exhibit Hall B, ABC
12:00 PM	Lunch Break	
2:00 PM	Third Joint Conference Session Current Delegation Report Joint Board of Pensions Report Lydia Patterson Report Methodist Healthcare Ministry Report	Exhibit Hall B, ABC

3:00 PM	Recess Joint Session	
3:15 PM	First Southwest Texas Conference Session	Exhibit Hall B, ABC
	Election of General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates	
	Other Business	
TBA	Memorial Service	Selena Auditorium, ABC
6:00 PM	Break	
7:30 PM	Second Southwest Texas Conference Session	Exhibit Hall B, ABC

Saturday, June 14

Time	Event	Location
8:30 AM	Retirement Service	Exhibit Hall B, ABC
9:15 AM	Fourth Joint Session	Exhibit Hall B, ABC
	Opening Hymn and Prayer	
	Personnel Committee Report	
	Other Business	
10:30 AM	Rio Texas District Organizational Meetings	TBA
	Capital District	Henry Garrett, B, ABC
	Coastal Bend District	225 C, ABC
	Hill Country District	225 D&E, ABC
	El Valle District	101-102, ABC
	West District	225 A&B, ABC
	Las Misiones District	Watergarden B, ABC
	Crossroads District	Selena Rehearsal Hall
<i>12:00 PM</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
1:30 PM	Ordination/Fixing of Appointments Gathering	Selena Auditorium, ABC
2:00 PM	Ordination Service/Fixing of Appointments	Selena Auditorium, ABC
	<i>Reception hosted by the Unified Valley District Immediately following</i>	Henry Garrett A&B, ABC
4:30 PM	Third Southwest Texas Conference Session(Tent.)	Exhibit Hall B, ABC

Rio Grande Conference

Thursday June 12

Time	Event	Location
11:00 AM	Registration	Lobby in front of Exhibit Hall A&B, ABC
1:30 PM	Clergy Session	101-102, ABC
1:30 PM	Joint Laity Session	Selena Auditorium, ABC
3:30 PM	First Joint Conference Session Call Session to Order, Bishop Jim Dorff Organization of the Conference and Adoption of the Agenda State of the Church Address Consideration of Reports for Information Only Joint Standing Rules Committee Preliminary Nominations Joint Finance Table Report	Exhibit Hall B, ABC
5:30 PM	Celebration Dinner	Watergarden A, ABC
7:00 PM	Opening Worship Gathering	Selena Auditorium, ABC
7:30 PM	Opening Worship and Communion <i>Reception hosted by the Corpus Christi District immediately following</i>	Selena Auditorium, ABC <i>Henry Garrett A&B, ABC</i>

Friday, June 13

Time	Event	Location
8:30 AM	Second Joint Conference Session Spiritual Centering Board of Ordained Ministry Report Nominations Report Transitioning Uniting Table Report	Exhibit Hall B, ABC
11:00 AM	Bible Study	Exhibit Hall B, ABC
<i>12:00 PM</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
2:00 PM	Third Joint Conference Session Current Delegation Report Joint Board of Pensions Report Lydia Patterson Report Methodist Healthcare Ministry Report	Exhibit Hall B, ABC
3:00 PM	Recess Joint Session	

3:15 PM	Memorial Service	Watergarden A, ABC
4:00 PM	First Rio Grande Conference Session	Watergarden A, ABC
	Group Photo Moment	
	Election of General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates	
	Other Business	
6:00 PM	Break	
7:30 PM	Service of Celebration & Closure	Kelsey Memorial, Corpus Christi

Saturday, June 14

Time	Event	Location
9:15 AM	Fourth Joint Session	Exhibit Hall B, ABC
	Opening Hymn and Prayer	
	Personnel Committee Report	
	Other Business	
10:30 AM	Rio Texas District Organizational Meetings	TBA
	Capital District	Henry Garrett, B, ABC
	Coastal Bend District	225 C, ABC
	Hill Country District	225 D&E, ABC
	El Valle District	101-102, ABC
	West District	225 A&B, ABC
	Las Misiones District	Watergarden B, ABC
	Crossroads District	Selena Rehearsal Hall
<i>12:00 PM</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
1:30 PM	Ordination/Fixing of Appointments Gathering	Selena Auditorium, ABC
2:00 PM	Ordination Service/Fixing of Appointments	Selena Auditorium, ABC
	<i>Reception hosted by the Unified Valley District Immediately following</i>	Henry Garrett A&B, ABC
4:30 PM	Second Rio Grande Conference Session (Tent.)	Watergarden A, ABC

OTHER SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

1	9:00 AM	Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Meeting	106, ABC
2	TBA	Equitable Compensation	103, ABC
3	10:00 AM	Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting	106, ABC
4	10:00 AM	First Time Appointees and Spouses Seminar and Luncheon	107, ABC
5	11:00 AM	Joint Finance Table and Luncheon	104, ABC
6	12:00 PM	Extension Ministries Luncheon	FUMC, Corpus Christi
7	12:00 PM	Order of Deacons Luncheon	FUMC, Corpus Christi
8	1:00 PM	Clergy Spouse Meet and Greet	FUMC, Corpus Christi
9	5:30 PM	Asbury Seminary Dinner	Henry Garrett Pre-Function, ABC
10	5:30 PM	Perkins Alumni Dinner	Selena Rotunda, ABC
11	5:30 PM	Duke Reunion	Tango Team Room, 505 S. Waterstreet, CC
12	5:45 PM	Austin Seminary Alumni Dinner	Rooms 101-102, ABC
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FRIDAY, JUNE 13

14	6:00 AM - 9:00AM	Wellness Lab Screening for Health Benefit Plan Participants	Henry Garrett C&D, ABC
15	6:00 AM - 9:00AM	Breakfast provided after screening for participants and their families	
16	7:00 AM	Methodist Renewal Movement Breakfast	Henry Garrett Pre-Function, ABC
17	7:00 AM	McAllen and Southern Districts Breakfast	FUMC, Corpus Christi
18	7:00 AM	RGC Laity Breakfast	FUMC, Corpus Christi
19	11:00 PM	Clergy Spouse Luncheon	Selena Rotunda, ABC
20	12:00 PM	Peace & Justice Luncheon (MFSA)	Henry Garrett Pre-Function, ABC
21	12:00 PM	Texas Wesley Foundation Lunch	U&I Restaurant, Corpus Christi
22	12:00 PM	RGC District Superintendents & Council Directors Luncheon	102-102, ABC
23	6:00 PM	Rehearsal for Commissioning/Ordination Service	Selena Auditorium, ABC

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

24	6:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Wellness Lab Screening for Health Benefit Plan Participants	Henry Garrett C&D
25	6:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast provided after screening for participants and their families	
26	7:00 AM	RGC United Methodist Women's Breakfast	FUMC, Corpus Christi
27	7:00 AM	RGC United Methodist Men's Breakfast	FUMC, Corpus Christi
28	7:00 AM	Mission Ministries Breakfast	FUMC, Corpus Christi
29	7:30 AM	Conference Reconciling Worship Service	FUMC, Corpus Christi
30	12:00 PM	RGC Clergy Spouse Luncheon	FUMC, Corpus Christi
31	12:00 PM	Emmaus Luncheon	FUMC, Corpus Christi
32	12:00 PM	Order of Deacons Luncheon	FUMC, Corpus Christi
33	12:00 PM	Clergy Women's Luncheon	Selena Rotunda, ABC
34	12:00 PM	United Methodist Women's Luncheon	Water Garden A, ABC
35	12:00 PM	Retirees Luncheon	Henry Garrett Pre-Function, ABC
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SOUTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON STANDING RULES

REPORT I CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Standing Rules for the Southwest Texas Conference are proposed as presented in Report II below. These are the Standing Rules which will remain in effect for the Southwest Texas Conference through the end of 2014. There are no changes being proposed to these rules.

As reported to you last year, three members of this committee have worked with three members of the Río Grande Conference Committee on Standing Rules as a Technical Team throughout the year to create a new set of rules for the new unified conference. This team has worked very hard to present to you their report, found elsewhere in this Pre-Conference Report.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to be of service.

Barbara Mobley, Chairperson

REPORT II SOUTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE STANDING RULES FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

Membership of the Annual Conference

1. Lay membership shall equal clergy membership.
2. Clergy members are those defined by The 2012 Book of Discipline, ¶ 602.1. The Conference Secretary shall determine the total number of clergy members of the Annual Conference as of the close of Annual Conference Session each year.
3. The lay members of the Annual Conference shall be elected by their respective Charge Conferences annually, with four years of consecutive service suggested.
4. The lay members of the Annual Conference shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.
5. The lay membership of the annual conference shall be:
 - a. A professing member elected by each charge, as provided for in ¶ 602.4 of The 2012 Book of Discipline;
 - b. Diaconal ministers, active deaconesses and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Speaking Ministries, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the conference scouting coordinator, the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, one young person between the ages of twelve and seventeen and one young person between the ages of eighteen and thirty from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference as provided in ¶ 602.4 and ¶ 32 of The 2012 Book of Discipline;
 - c. An additional lay member assigned to each charge for each additional clergy member who is appointed to the charge as provided for in The 2012 Book of Discipline, ¶ 602.4;
 - d. Other members as defined by the Annual Conference to include: Chancellor, District Presidents of United Methodist Women, District Presidents of United Methodist Men, the two district youth representatives to the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, Conference Emmaus Lay Director, Conference Associate Lay Leaders, the chairperson of any Conference agency or standing committee that Reports directly to the Annual Conference; one lay member for each unchartered new church start elected by the District Council on Ministries of the district in which the new church start is located;
 - e. An additional lay member assigned to each church that does not have a lay member as provided for in 5a and 5c above; and
 - f. Additional lay members required to equalize lay and clergy membership, selected using the formula: $A = \frac{C * (D - E)}{F}$; Where A is the number of additional lay members to be assigned to a charge on the basis of membership; Where B is the total number of lay members to be assigned on the basis of membership, being equal to the total number of clergy members, less the number of lay members already assigned under Standing Rule 5a and 5b and 5c and 5d and 5e; Where C is a variable required to correct for rounding error; Where D is equal to number of

members in a Charge; Where E is the total membership of the Conference divided by the total clergy membership; Where F is equal to the combined membership of only Charges who have more members than the value of E (E= the total membership of the Conference divided by the total clergy membership).

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

Pre-Conference Procedures

6. Proposals and Reports from Conference agencies shall be compiled in a Pre-Conference Report that shall be made available as an electronic document or in printed form to all Conference members at least three weeks prior to the Annual Conference Session. At least one printed copy of the Pre-Conference Report will be sent to every local church. The Editor of the Conference Journal shall notify all Conference agencies of the publication deadline and procedures in consultation with other Conference professional staff. The Assistant to the Episcopal Office shall be responsible for receiving, coordinating and editing the proposals and Reports to be published in the Pre-Conference Report in consultation with the Editor of the Conference Journal.
7. Reports to the Annual Conference fall into two classifications: those For Conference Action and those which are For Information Only. When there is more than one Report requiring action, the first Report will be a list of the Reports requiring action and shall be marked "For Conference Action." Each Report shall be marked "For Conference Action" or "For Information Only."
8. Reports which have previously been adopted and constitute a continuing policy of the Annual Conference will not be reprinted each year in the Pre-Conference Report or the Journal, but will be published separately as a Policy Manual. The Conference Secretary will make these available as an electronic document and in printed form.
9. When any body or officer shall be responsible for furnishing information in answer to Disciplinary questions, they shall do so on prescribed forms so that the answers fall in proper order. These forms are to be furnished by the Secretary of the Conference.
10. The Pre-Conference meeting of district clergy and lay members of the Annual Conference or the spring session of the District Conference shall have the right to address the Annual Conference following the procedures established in the Standing Rules.
11. The Agenda Committee shall state on its agenda the amount of time to be allowed for each approved Report.
12. No institutional representatives shall be allowed to speak, except within the time allotted to an Annual Conference agency, or as specifically scheduled by the Agenda Committee. Institutional representatives may be presented to the Conference.

Conference Session Procedures

13. The Bishop may appoint a Floor Manager to assist in the handling of the agenda. The Floor Manager will work with the Conference Secretary, the Bishop and the Agenda Committee to respond to changes in the agenda necessitated by agenda items which take more or less time than scheduled.
14. The Conference Secretary shall nominate, and the Annual Conference elect, the persons needed to assist in the proceedings of the Conference. These include the Timekeeper, Tellers, Associate Secretaries, and the Minutes Committee.
15. The Committee on Courtesies shall be made up of the Conference Lay Leader as chairperson, and the host pastor, the Presidents of United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, and a representative from the Worship Committee. The Committee is responsible for writing a formal recognition for the Journal of those who have assisted in the Conference Session, and to respond to requests for personal greetings of the Conference. The Committee is authorized to respond to such requests without formal action of the Conference.
16. The Conference procedures will be governed by the following in order of precedence: The Book of Discipline, the Standing Rules, any special rules adopted by the Annual Conference, and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

17. Debate on any issue will include not more than three speeches of three minutes each on each side of the question. Additional time may be granted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Annual Conference.
18. The Standing Rules may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Annual Conference.
19. Additional or supplementary Reports to the Pre-Conference Report shall be in the hands of the Conference Secretary before the Report is reached on the agenda. The Report shall be typed and double-spaced and shall include the name of the Reporting body and, if applicable, the page of the corresponding Report in the Pre-Conference Report. If the Report contains action items, it must be in the hands of the Conference Secretary early enough to allow for printing and distribution to the Conference twenty-four (24) hours before the Report is considered by the Conference. The Conference Secretary is responsible for ensuring that an announcement is made to the Conference notifying the Conference that the Report has been distributed and when the Report is to be considered. This provision does not include action which is germane to the deliberations of the Conference at the time it is introduced. Motions made from the floor must be presented in writing to the presiding officer and the Conference Secretary at the time the motion is made.
20. Consent Agenda 1 consists of Reports from Conference agencies which are not for action, but are "For Information Only." The Conference acts only to receive these Reports and print them in the Journal.
21. Consent Agenda 2 consists of action Reports about which there is believed to be little or no dissent. The items included in Consent Agenda 2 are determined by a task force composed of the Assistant to the Episcopal Office, the Conference Secretary, and the Floor Manager. The action of the Annual Conference is to adopt these Reports as a group. Any member of the Annual Conference may move the deletion of any of the items from Consent Agendas. With a second, and a one-minute explanation by the maker of the motion, it will be voted on by the Conference without debate. If 20% of the members vote that the item be removed, it will be removed and brought to the floor as a non-consent item at a time to be determined by the Agenda Committee.
22. Resolutions shall reach the floor of the Conference only after consideration and action of the appropriate Conference agency. Proposals may be presented to the Conference floor by minority Report if that minority consists of at least five members or one-third of the total membership of that agency, whichever is less.
23. Any motion being made to the Annual Conference creating a committee, task force, etc., for any purpose which is within the area of concern of any existing agency shall be referred to the proper agency for consideration and action. After due consideration, this agency may request the formation of a special task force or committee. The motion creating a new committee or task force shall include the source and amount of funds necessary to accomplish the task.
24. If a dispute arises regarding the contents of the Journal, the Bishop or the Assistant to the Episcopal Office may appoint a Journal Committee of no more than three persons to resolve the dispute.
25. Should the Annual Conference adopt any Report that approves action or sets policy contrary to the Standing Rules in effect at that Session, unless the Standing Rule is suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, the Standing Rule prevails and invalidates the conflicting action.
26. The critical importance of full understanding and participation by all members of Annual Conference is hereby recognized. They are therefore called upon to make known their questions and opinions during its Sessions, and the Bishop and program leaders or Reporting officers shall seek to involve laypersons in the deliberations and to encourage broad participation.

Conference Agencies

27. In accordance with ¶ 659 of The 2012 Book of Discipline, the District Conferences will be composed of all members of Annual Conference as set forth in Standing Rules 1-5 who are related to churches within the bounds of their respective districts and currently elected to office. In addition, it shall include the chairperson of each District agency or standing committee. Any other members of the standing committees are entitled to voice without vote.
28. An individual member of any agency elected by the Annual Conference shall not serve more than eight consecutive years, no more than four of which shall be as chairperson. Filling a vacancy in an unexpired term of two years or less is considered interim service and is not counted as part of the eight consecutive year limit. Filling a vacancy of an unexpired term of more than two years is considered to be a full term and shall count the same as four years. This rule does not apply to members of the Conference Board of Trustees, Board of Pensions, and Board of Ordained Ministry whose terms are established in The 2012 Book of Discipline ¶ 2512.1, ¶ 639.2 and ¶ 635.1 respectively.

29. No individual shall be an elected member of more than one Conference agency at a time. The Committee on Nominations may make exceptions to this rule in order to increase inclusiveness.
30. No District Superintendent or Conference staff person shall be eligible to serve as an elective member of any Conference agency. If a member at the time of appointment or hire, he/she shall be considered to have resigned such membership.
31. Unless otherwise provided by The Book of Discipline or by law, the members present at any duly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum.
32. Any elected member of a Conference agency who does not attend any meetings of that agency during the Conference year without excused absence shall be deemed to have vacated the membership, and the chairperson of that agency shall Report this to the Annual Conference Committee on Nominations.
33. Any elected position on a Conference agency which is vacant at the end of the Annual Conference Session, or which becomes vacant during the Conference year, may be filled by the Conference Committee on Nominations unless other provision is explicitly made by The Book of Discipline.
34. The Committee on Nominations will seek to provide equitable district representation in the agencies of the Conference as a whole, recognizing that size limitations make it impossible to have district representation on each agency.
35. The Committee on Nominations will work toward the goals of inclusiveness as set forth in ¶ 610.5 in The 2012 Book of Discipline which states: "...special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth (¶ 256.2 [sic] [Ed. Note: should be ¶ 256.3]), young adults, older adults, persons from churches with small memberships, people with disabilities, and racial and ethnic persons, in keeping with policies for general Church agencies. It is further recommended that the membership of such agencies, except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, include one-third clergy, one-third laywomen, and one-third laymen, who are professing members of local churches." In the Southwest Texas Conference, the exception for the Board of Ordained Ministry would likewise apply to the Conference Board of Laity.
36. Meetings of the full membership of Conference agencies are limited to two meetings during the year at times other than Annual Conference Session. Any agency that fails to meet during any Conference year is disbanded unless otherwise required by The Book of Discipline.
37. For the sake of economy and efficiency the size of Conference agencies is limited to those listed below:

Conference Agencies	Number of Elected Members
Administrative Review Committee.....	5
Agenda Committee	(see Rule 46)
Annual Conference Council on Ministries	(see Rule 44)
Council on Finance and Administration	10
Board of Church and Society	12
Board of Discipleship (including the Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries)	18
Board of Global Ministries.....	21
Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministries	18
Board of Laity	(See Rule 49)
Board of Ordained Ministry	40
Board of Pensions	16
Board of Trustees	12
Commission on Archives and History	10
Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns	14
Commission on Communications	8
Commission on Equitable Compensation & Moving Expense	12
Commission on Hispanic Ministries.....	9
Commission on Religion and Race.....	16
Commission on Small Membership Church	7
Commission on Status & Role of Women	15
Commission on Stewardship	10
Committee on the Episcopacy.....	16

1	Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns	13
2	Committee on Investigations	13
3	Committee on Nominations	(See Rule 39)
4	Committee on Standing Rules.....	7
5	Charles T. and Ruby Hardt Fund for Peace Committee	Not less than 6
6	Futures Committee.....	(See Rule 48)
7	Joint Review Committee	6
8	New Church Development Commission	16
9	Program Priority Funding Committee	(See Rule 47)
10	Staff Conference Relations Committee	(See Rule 45)
11	Council on Children's Ministries.....	12
12	Council on Older Adult Ministries	12
13	Council on Family Ministries	8
14	Council on Youth Ministries	24
15	Council on Young Adult Ministries	12
16	Ex officio members	
17	38. An ex officio member is one who holds membership in a Conference agency by virtue of another office because of	
18	provisions in The Book of Discipline or the Standing Rules. They have both voice and vote unless otherwise provided in	
19	the paragraph that grants membership. A Conference agency may invite an individual or group to attend their	
20	meetings as observer or consultant. Only elected and ex officio members authorized by the Annual Conference are	
21	entitled to vote.	
22	39. The Conference Committee on Nominations shall be composed of the Bishop, the District Superintendents, the	
23	Assistant to the Episcopal Office, the Conference Lay Leader, one additional clergywoman elected from the floor of the	
24	Annual Conference and one layperson elected by each District Conference. If at least two laypersons elected by	
25	districts are not women, two laywomen shall be elected from the floor of Annual Conference; if none of the elected	
26	members is an ethnic person, an ethnic person shall be elected from the floor of Annual Conference. The Bishop may	
27	designate a member of the Conference professional staff to be a member of the Committee on Nominations and to	
28	serve as chair or secretary of the Committee at the Bishop's discretion.	
29	40. Lay members of the Committee on Nominations may serve as a consultant group to suggest names for the Conference	
30	Lay Leader nomination. The outgoing Lay Leader may convene the lay members of the Committee for this purpose	
31	prior to the Committee's consideration of the Lay Leader nomination.	
32	41. When the Committee on Nominations meets for the purpose of selecting lay persons for nomination to the various	
33	agencies, they shall invite the Conference United Methodist Women President, Conference United Methodist Men	
34	President, and chairpersons of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, Commission on Religion and Race and	
35	Commission on Status and Role of Women to be present for consultation. These leaders are charged with the	
36	responsibility of having inclusive lists of persons willing to serve.	
37	42. The Report of the Committee on Nominations will be presented on the second day of the Annual Conference Session.	
38	43. The Committee on Nominations will nominate chairpersons for election by the Annual Conference for all agencies	
39	elected by the Annual Conference where The Book of Discipline does not make other provisions for the election of	
40	chairpersons.	
41	44. There shall be an Annual Conference Council on Ministries. Its chairperson shall be elected by the Annual Conference	
42	upon nomination of the Committee on Nominations. Ex Officio members include: the Bishop, Assistant to the	
43	Episcopal Office, District Superintendents, Conference Secretary, Conference Lay Leader, the chairpersons of each of	
44	the Conference Program Agencies, the Presidents of the United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, and	
45	United Methodist Youth, a lay representative from each district, and any member of the General Conference Council	
46	on Ministries.	
47	45. There shall be a Staff Conference Relations Committee (SCRC). The Committee shall serve as the personnel committee	
48	of the Conference mentioned in ¶ 613.13 of The 2012 Book of Discipline. The SCRC will function as a Pastor-Parish	
49	Relations Committee, including the responsibilities for multiple staff, and will have similar authority and	
50	responsibilities in relation to consulting with the Bishop and Cabinet. The Committee will provide for the annual	
51	evaluation of all Conference staff. To the extent any such evaluation relates to or touches on the Conference	

1 Treasurer, the SCRC shall consult with and periodically meet with the Council on Finance and Administration, which
2 has personnel responsibilities for that office under ¶ 613.11 of The 2012 Book of Discipline. The SCRC shall be
3 responsible for the drafting and adoption of all personnel policies for all Conference staff. The budget for salaries and
4 other compensation of all Conference staff, unless otherwise dictated by The Book of Discipline, shall be
5 recommended by the SCRC to the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. There shall be twelve (12)
6 members elected to serve a term of four years. The SCRC shall be composed of two members each of the Annual
7 Conference Council on Ministries, the Council on Finance and Administration, the Board of Laity and the Board of
8 Ordained Ministry and one member of the Conference Committee on Episcopacy, plus three at large members. At
9 least six members shall be laity.

10 46. The Agenda Committee (¶ 605.2 of The 2012 Book of Discipline) shall be the Bishop, the District Superintendents, the
11 Floor Manager, the Conference Lay Leader, the Conference Secretary, the chairperson of the Annual Conference
12 Council on Ministries, the President of the Conference Youth Organization, the Assistant to the Episcopal Office, the
13 President of United Methodist Women, the President of United Methodist Men, the chairpersons of the Worship
14 Committee and the Music Committee of the Conference Board of Discipleship, and the host pastor of the Annual
15 Conference Session. The Bishop may designate a member of the Conference professional staff to be a member of the
16 Agenda Committee and to serve as chair or secretary of the Committee at the Bishop's discretion.

17 47. There shall be a Program Priority Funding Committee that shall receive all budget requests from agencies related to
18 the Annual Conference Council on Ministries (ACCOM). It shall prioritize, rank, and approve funding proposals against
19 the Conference priorities of Evangelism and Congregational Vitalization and any annual special emphasis. The Program
20 Priority Funding Committee will include the ACCOM chairperson as chair, the Bishop, Conference Lay Leader,
21 Conference President of United Methodist Women, Conference President of United Methodist Men, and the
22 chairpersons of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Commission on Religion & Race. The Committee serves in an
23 advisory role to the Assistant to the Episcopal Office.

24 48. There shall be a Futures Committee whose purpose is to examine the overall ministry and outreach of the Conference
25 and make recommendations to the Annual Conference. The Committee is composed of eight members elected to
26 serve a term of four years, with two members elected each year.

27 49. There shall be a Conference Board of Laity, which shall provide for the ministry of the laity. The Board shall relate to
28 the organized lay groups in the Conference, shall support their work, and shall help them coordinate their activities.
29 The membership of the Board shall be: Conference Lay Leader, Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries,
30 Associate Conference Lay Leaders, Conference President of United Methodist Men, Conference President of United
31 Methodist Women, chairperson of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, District Lay Leaders, leader of the
32 General Conference Lay Delegation, an additional layman, laywoman, youth, young adult, an older adult and two at
33 large members to be nominated by the Committee on Nominations, a District Superintendent, a staff person assigned
34 by the Assistant to the Episcopal Office, and the Bishop.

35 50. There shall be a New Church Development Commission which shall report directly to the annual conference. The
36 Commission will be composed of 16 elected members. The Presiding Bishop and the Conference Lay Leader will be ex-
37 officio members. The Executive Director of New Church Development and Transformation will be an ex-officio
38 member without vote.

39 51. The term of the Conference Lay Leader shall be four years, beginning with the Annual Conference Session following
40 the meeting of the General Conference. No person shall serve more than two terms or portions thereof.

41 **Personnel**

42 52. The Conference Treasurer is elected by the Annual Conference upon nomination by the Council on Finance and
43 Administration (CFA). The Treasurer will serve as Director of Administrative Services performing such duties as
44 assigned by the CFA and The 2012 Book of Discipline ¶ 619. The Director shall be directly amenable to the CFA.

45 53. There shall be an Assistant to the Episcopal Office to provide assistance in the administrative tasks of the Episcopal
46 Office and with responsibility for the programming and administration of the Conference. This clergy position has no
47 tenure limitation.

48 54. The Assistant to the Episcopal Office shall be the Conference Director of Connectional Ministries with all of the duties
49 and responsibilities set forth in ¶ 608 of The 2012 Book of Discipline. The Assistant to the Episcopal Office has
50 personnel responsibility for all the staff of the Conference. All staff positions except the Assistant to the Episcopal
51 Office can be either lay or clergy and have no tenure limitations.

- 1 55. The Secretary of the Conference and the Editor of the Conference Journal shall be a member of the Conference
2 professional staff.

3 **Finance**

- 4 56. For the sake of economy and efficiency the Conference Treasury shall serve as a depository for funds designated for all
5 Conference agencies receiving Conference funds. The Conference Treasurer shall render a complete operating
6 statement of all agencies for the calendar year just ended to the Conference during its Annual Session.
- 7 57. The fiscal year of the Southwest Texas Annual Conference shall be January 1 through December 31. However, the
8 books will be held open for funds delivered to the Treasurer's Office by noon on the 11th day of January, or the
9 following Monday if the 11th falls on a weekend. Funds received after this date will be reported in the following fiscal
10 year. Disbursements will be made from the budgets of agencies through December 31. Disbursement requests
11 received after December 31 will be paid from and allocated to the budget of the following year.
- 12 58. No Conference fund-raising campaign shall be entitled to the cooperation or assistance of the pastors, laity or the
13 Conference organization until it shall have been first recommended by the Council on Finance and Administration and
14 then placed on the Conference Calendar by the Annual Conference. This shall not preclude emergency appeals
15 pursuant to The 2012 Book of Discipline or appeals by the Bishop or the Cabinet for causes not reasonably foreseeable
16 at the prior session of the Conference. (See The 2012 Book of Discipline ¶ 614.5.)
- 17 59. Audited Financial Statements (not reviews) must be reviewed by Council on Finance and Administration for the
18 following agencies: districts; any agency having income or total assets in excess of \$100,000 and receiving any
19 Conference funds; any agency receiving \$20,000 or more of support from Southwest Texas Conference
20 Apportionments or Conference Advance Specials. The Audited Financial Statements must be received by the
21 Treasurer's Office no later than six months after the close of the agency's fiscal year and shall include a Balance Sheet
22 and a Statement of Income, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances. Receipt of each audit shall be noted in the
23 Conference Journal. This rule does not relieve the agency/recipient from its responsibility under civil law. Each
24 agency/recipient must assure its compliance with state and federal tax law. It is the responsibility of the agency to
25 ensure that internal controls, financial statements, etc., meet the requirements of laws governing their 501 (c) (3)
26 status.
- 27 60. There will be a line item in the World Service/Conference Benevolences apportionment to fund task force meetings.
28 This will be managed by the Assistant to the Episcopal Office who will determine if the cost of a particular task force is
29 appropriately paid from an agency budget or this line item.
- 30 61. Statistical Table II in the Journal shall reflect only those amounts which have been received by the Conference
31 Treasurer, provided that credit may also be given for Advance Special Vouchers issued by the General Board of Global
32 Ministries of The United Methodist Church and sent to the Conference Treasurer by December 31, preceding the
33 Conference Session. This Rule does not apply to purely local matters reported under "All Other Benevolences."

34 **Other**

- 35 62. Election of General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates shall be by secret ballot. Computerized counting of ballots
36 will be used whenever possible.
- 37 63. The Board of Laity will develop a form for persons interested in being elected to General and/or Jurisdictional
38 Conference. This form will be included in the Charge Conference materials at the Charge Conference immediately
39 preceding the Annual Conference Session when delegates are to be elected. Candidate(s) must be endorsed by their
40 local Church in a Church or Charge Conference, or a Church Council or its equivalent. It is the responsibility of the
41 candidate to transmit the completed form to the Conference Secretary no later than February 1 of any election year.
42 Copies of the completed forms will be published by the Conference Secretary and mailed to all Conference members
43 at least three weeks prior to the Annual Conference Session. This procedure is the only way that the Annual
44 Conference will assist in publicizing the lay candidates.
- 45 64. Any minister of the Southwest Texas Conference who conducts the funeral or memorial service of a fellow minister or
46 a minister's spouse shall provide the Conference Secretary with a memorial for that person within one month, in
47 accordance with the Guidelines on Memoirs to be furnished by the Conference Secretary.
- 48 65. Pastor's Reports shall be in the hands of the Conference Statistician no later than January 20. The Local Church Report
49 to the Annual Conference will be presented by the pastor at a district checkout on a date set by the District
50 Superintendent in consultation with the Conference Statistician.

- 1 66. Gifts to retiring District Superintendents shall not be presented in open Conference.
2 67. The Committee on Standing Rules shall Report to the Annual Conference during the first business Session of each
3 Annual Conference. Any proposed revisions or amendments to the Standing Rules from the Committee must be
4 included in the Pre-Conference Report. Revisions or amendments must be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the
5 Annual Conference. Revisions or amendments become effective immediately upon their adoption, unless otherwise
6 stated in the enabling legislation.

JOINT STANDING RULES TECHNICAL TEAM

REPORT I CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

7 The Standing Rules Technical Team was created in June 2013 to create a set of rules for the new unified
8 conference. The team has included three members from each of the parent conferences' Committees on
9 Standing Rules, plus a staff support person from each conference. The co-chairpersons of the Unification
10 Implementation Team have worked with us as well throughout the process. The Team has met approximately
11 monthly throughout the year to accomplish this assigned task.

12 From the beginning, we have been aware that Standing Rules should reflect the needs of the conference;
13 should express decisions made by the conference in matters for which the Book of Discipline gives us a choice;
14 and should express lasting decisions, rather than decisions which change annually. We have tried to avoid
15 simply patching together the sets of rules from the two parent conferences, but have been aware that these
16 two sets of existing rules contain much that can help us move forward. We began by becoming familiar with
17 both sets of rules, and with the Disciplinary requirements and options. We decided which rules should be
18 included, and which rules depended on the decisions of others before being able to be included. We followed
19 the guidance of the Plan of Action as presented at the called session in February. We looked at what other
20 annual conferences have done, and we considered carefully the reaction of the Judicial Council to attempts by
21 some annual conferences to re-structure themselves. Throughout the whole process, we have tried to be
22 attentive to concerns that voices not be lost: that we give increased attention to young persons; that we
23 consider the effects of our decisions on smaller, poorer churches; and that we celebrate the coming together
24 of cultures and traditions as we unify the two conferences.

25 We decided to emphasize the Mission, Vision, and Mission-focused structure of the annual conference by
26 putting them first. Therefore, the new structure of the conference is spelled out clearly in the first section,
27 followed by sections on membership and on procedures. There are a few places where the structure defined
28 in these rules differs slightly from the Plan of Action previously approved. All of these changes are due to
29 details accidentally overlooked in the Plan of Action, but which are necessary according to the Book of
30 Discipline, or to other portions of the Plan of Action.

31 Significantly new is the proposed process for determining the lay members of annual conference. After
32 considerable discussion of alternatives, we are recommending that the additional lay members needed to
33 equalize lay and clergy membership be assigned to each district based upon district membership. Each district
34 would then determine the method of electing these additional members. This is consistent with the emphasis
35 in the Plan of Action that the role of the district organization be increased, as the district is closer to the
36 Mission Field. The district could choose to elect these additional members at a district conference, or assign
37 them to churches based on a formula, or some other method. By not arbitrarily assigning additional lay
38 members to our larger churches, we open up possibilities for increased inclusiveness in many areas.
39 Provisions are made for these additional lay members to include persons from both parent conferences, and
40 to include persons under age 30.

41 During the called session in San Antonio on 8 February 2014, a question was referred to the joint committee
42 on Standing Rules: what does "at least two" mean on page 57/58 line 40 of the Plan of Action? This specific
43 line refers to the Board of Higher Education and Ministry program area and the Developing Leaders Vision
44 Team, but has implications for other program areas and other Vision Teams. We learned from the Unification
45 Implementation Team that their intention was to have the entire Vision Team work in each of the program
46 areas placed within that Team's area of focus. This typical language is used throughout: "The membership of
47 the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry shall be the two persons elected by the annual
48 conference whose specific responsibility is Higher Education and Campus Ministry, plus all the other members
49 of the Developing Leaders Vision Team." In addition, there is also this provision to further explain: "The

1 Uniting Table and the four Vision Teams will be expected to recruit and engage lay and clergy persons across
2 the conference to serve on task forces to assist in their responsibilities.” Therefore, “at least two” means
3 those two persons, plus other members of the Vision Team, plus whatever task forces are formed for specific
4 portions of the task. It also leaves open the possibility that other members of the Vision Team may also be
5 highly interested in that particular program area.

6 Report II contains a set of Special Standing Rules for use during the Joint Business Sessions of this June 2014
7 Annual Conference. These are very similar to those adopted during the 8 February 2014 called session in San
8 Antonio.

9 Report III contains the proposed Standing Rules for the Río Texas Conference, to take effect on the same date
10 as the official beginning of the conference.

11 Thank you for allowing us to serve you in this way.

12 José A Torres, Co-Chairperson Barbara Mobley, Co-Chairperson

13 Bertha Castañeda Gerald Goodridge

14 Elva Garza Abigail Herrera

15 Abel Vega, Staff Liason David Seilheimer, Staff Liason

REPORT II
SPECIAL STANDING RULES
FOR JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

16 ***Proposed Rules for Joint Sessions June 2014:***

17 *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* will be used when an issue is not covered by these rules.

- 18 1. The bar of the conference is established as the stage and the tables and chairs in the exhibit hall
19 devoted to members.
- 20 2. When a speaker arises to speak, she/he should self-identify using name and church and conference.
- 21 3. The members of each conference will be given a colored card to identify the conference when there
22 is a vote by a show of hands.
- 23 4. If there is a written ballot, the ballots will also be color coded to determine the conference.
- 24 5. The tellers elected by each conference will count the votes for that conference.
- 25 6. Each speech will be limited to 3 minutes. There will be a timekeeper who will inform the Bishop
26 when the time has expired.
- 27 7. Both conferences must adopt any action item by a simple majority in order to be adopted by the
28 whole.

REPORT III
STANDING RULES
RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

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

32 **STRUCTURE AND AGENCIES**

33 1. There shall be a Uniting Table whose function is to coordinate mission and ministry in the Río Texas Conference
34 through the four Vision Teams focused on the four pillars of the conference Vision: Uniting Peoples, Vitalizing
35 Congregations, Developing Leaders, and Transforming Communities. The Uniting Table and the four Vision Teams
36 are responsible for focusing on the Mission Field. The membership of the Uniting Table shall be: the Bishop (ex officio
37 without vote); the dean of the cabinet; the lay leader; the chairpersons of the Uniting Peoples, Vitalizing
38 Congregations, Developing Leaders and Transforming Communities Vision Teams; the chairperson of the
39 Administration Team; one representative each from the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Committee on the Episcopacy,
40 and the Council on Children’s Ministries; the presidents of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, the
41 Council on Youth Ministries, and the Council on Young Adult Ministries; and the chairperson. There shall also be

seven (7) members at large and a mission field advocate, nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. All references in the Book of Discipline to a conference council on ministries will be fulfilled by the Uniting Table. The Uniting Table is accountable to, and funded by, the Annual Conference.

- a. The Uniting Table and the four Vision Teams will be expected to recruit and engage lay and clergy persons across the conference to serve on task forces to assist in their responsibilities.
- b. Each Vision Team will have funding through the Annual Conference budget. Meetings of the Team will be funded through the amount budgeted to that Team. Appointed task forces also will be funded through the amount provided in the Annual Conference budget assigned to that Team.
- c. The Committee on Nominations shall nominate, and the Annual Conference shall elect, the chairpersons of the Uniting Table, each of the four Vision Teams, and the Administration Team. None of these chairpersons shall have any other specific ministry responsibilities on the Uniting Table or any of the Vision Teams, nor shall they be chairperson of any other conference agency.
- d. The Constitutions for United Methodist Women (§ 647) and United Methodist Men (§ 648) are included in the 2012 Book of Discipline. United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men are independent organizations which nominate and elect their own leaders. Each of these organizations is represented by the president and/or another designated person on various agencies of the Annual Conference, including the Uniting Table. United Methodist Women relates to the national organization of United Methodist Women. United Methodist Men relates to the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

Uniting Peoples Vision Team

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

- a. There shall be a Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (the commission) whose function is defined in § 642 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, plus all the other members of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission relates to the Council of Bishops, and to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.
- b. There shall be a Commission on Religion and Race (the commission) whose function is defined in § 643 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Religion and Race, plus all the other members of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission relates to the General Commission on Religion and Race, and to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.
- c. There shall be a Commission on the Status and Role of Women (the commission) whose function is defined in § 644 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is the Status and Role of Women, plus all the other members of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team, plus a member named by the conference United Methodist Women. The chairperson of this commission shall be a woman, and a majority of its members shall be

women. The commission relates to the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.

- d. There shall be a Commission on Communications (the commission) whose function is defined in ¶ 646 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Communications, plus all the other members of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission relates to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.
- e. There shall be a Committee on Disability Concerns (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 653 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Disability Concerns, plus all the other member of the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. Membership shall include persons with physical disabilities and persons with mental disabilities. The committee relates to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Uniting Peoples Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Uniting Peoples Vision Team portion of the budget.
- f. There shall be a Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 655 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. This committee relates to each of the four Vision Teams, and is represented on each of the Vision Teams by two persons whose specific responsibility is Hispanic/Latino Ministries. The membership of the committee shall be these eight persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Hispanic/Latino Ministries on each of the Vision Teams. Each of the Vision Teams, led by the committee, has the responsibility for Hispanic/Latino Ministries within its area of interest. At least one-third of the members shall be Hispanic/Latino persons. The committee is accountable to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vision Team portion of the budget.

Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team

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

- a. There shall be a Board of Discipleship (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 630 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Discipleship, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The board relates to the General Board of Discipleship, and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The board is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.
- b. There shall be a Committee on Congregational Development and Revitalization (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 633.5e of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Congregational

- Development and Revitalization, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee relates to the General Board of Global Ministries and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.
- c. There shall be a Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 632 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Ethnic Local Church Concerns, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee relates to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.
- d. There shall be a Committee on Parish and Community Development (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 633.5 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Parish and Community Development, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee relates to the General Board of Global Ministries and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.
- e. There shall be a Commission on the Small Membership Church (the commission) whose function is defined in ¶ 645 and ¶ 633.5i of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the commission shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is the Small Membership Church, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The commission relates to the General Board of Global Ministries and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The commission is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.
- f. There shall be a Committee on New Church Development (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 633.5e-h and ¶ 630.3 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is New Church Development, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee relates to the General Board of Global Ministries, the General Board of Discipleship, and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.
- g. There shall be a Council on Children's Ministries (the council) whose function is to plan, vision and advocate for children within the conference. The membership of the council shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Children's Ministries, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The council relates to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The council is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.
- h. There shall be a Council on Older Adult Ministries (the council) whose function is defined in ¶ 651 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the council shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Older Adult Ministries, plus all the other members of the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The council relates to the General Board of Discipleship, and to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team. The council is accountable to the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.
- i. Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries: see rule #2.f.
- j. There shall be a Council on Youth Ministries, or other equivalent structure, whose function is defined in ¶ 649 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. There shall be a Council on Young Adult Ministries, or other equivalent structure, whose function is defined in ¶ 650 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. Each of these organizations is

represented by the president and/or another designated person on various agencies of the Annual Conference, including the Uniting Table. The Council on Youth Ministries and the Council on Young Adult Ministries relate to the General Board of Discipleship's Division on Ministries with Young People. The Councils are accountable to the Annual Conference, and are funded through the Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team portion of the budget.

Developing Leaders Vision Team

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

- a. There shall be a Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 634 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Higher Education and Campus Ministry, plus all the other members of the Developing Leaders Vision Team. The board relates to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and its Division of Higher Education, and to the Developing Leaders Vision Team. The board is accountable to the Developing Leaders Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Developing Leaders Vision Team portion of the budget.
- b. Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries: see rule #2.f.
- c. There shall be a Board of Ordained Ministry (the board) whose function, membership and organization are defined in ¶ 635 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The members of the board shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Annual Conference. The board shall relate to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The board is accountable to and reports to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Developing Leaders Vision Team portion of the budget.
- d. There shall be an Administrative Review Committee (the committee) whose function and membership are defined in ¶ 636 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. There shall be three (3) members of the committee and two (2) alternates, nominated by the Bishop and elected by the clergy session of the Annual Conference. The committee is accountable to the clergy session of the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Developing Leaders Vision Team portion of the budget.
- e. There shall be a Board of Laity (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 631 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the conference lay leader as chairperson and the district lay leaders, plus all the other members of the Developing Leaders Vision Team. The board is represented by one or more of its members on various agencies of the Annual Conference. The board relates to the General Board of Discipleship, and to the Developing Leaders Vision Team. The board is accountable to and reports to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Developing Leaders Vision Team portion of the budget.

Transforming Communities Vision Team

5. There shall be a Transforming Communities Vision Team whose function is to equip, educate and support congregations around the areas of mission and The Advance, specific ethnic concerns, and justice issues. The membership of the Transforming Communities Vision Team shall be: two persons whose specific responsibility is Church and Society, two persons whose specific responsibility is Global Ministries, two persons whose specific

responsibility is Native American Ministries, two persons whose specific responsibility is The Advance Program, two persons whose specific responsibility is the Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, two persons whose specific responsibility is Hispanic/Latino Ministries, and a chairperson; all nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. The Peace with Justice Coordinator shall also be a member. The entire Vision Team has the full responsibility for each of the areas of focus represented by its members. The Transforming Communities Vision Team relates to the General Board of Church and Society, the General Board of Global Ministries, and to the Uniting Table. The Transforming Communities Vision Team is accountable to, and funded by, the Annual Conference.

- a. There shall be a Board of Church and Society (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 629 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Church and Society, plus all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision Team, plus a member named by the conference United Methodist Women. The board relates to the General Board of Church and Society, and to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The board is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget. The board shall name the Peace with Justice Coordinator.
- b. There shall be a Board of Global Ministries (the board) whose function is defined in ¶ 633 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the board shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Global Ministries, plus all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision Team, plus a member named by the conference United Methodist Women. The board relates to the General Board of Global Ministries, and to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The board is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.
- c. There shall be a Committee on Native American Ministries (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 654 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Native American Ministries, plus all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee relates to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.
- d. There shall be a Committee on The Advance (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 656 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is The Advance, plus all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee relates to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.
- e. There shall be a Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (the committee) whose function is defined in ¶ 657 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. The membership of the committee shall be the two persons elected by the Annual Conference whose specific responsibility is Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, plus all the other members of the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee relates to the Transforming Communities Vision Team. The committee is accountable to the Transforming Communities Vision Team and to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the Transforming Communities Vision Team portion of the budget.
- f. Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries: see rule #2.f.

Administration Team

6. There shall be an Administration Team whose function is to provide ongoing administrative support to the conference through the agencies represented among its members. The membership of the Administration Team shall be one representative each from the Finance Table, the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Standing Rules, the Agenda and Worship Committee, the Committee on the Episcopacy, the Episcopal Residence Committee, the Board

1 of Pensions, the Commission on Archives and History, and the Committee on Nominations, plus a chairperson. Each
2 of these functions will be carried out by a separate and independent agency whose members are nominated by the
3 Committee on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference. Each of these agencies is directly accountable to
4 the Annual Conference, reports to the Annual Conference, and is funded through the budget of the Annual
5 Conference.

- 6 a. There shall be a Finance Table whose function is defined in ¶¶ 611-628 of the 2012 Book of Discipline, and
7 which will fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Council on Finance and Administration. The
8 Finance Table will also fulfill all references in the Book of Discipline to the Commission on Equitable
9 Compensation, whose function is defined in ¶ 625 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. There shall be sixteen
10 (16) members of the Finance Table. The Finance Table relates to the General Council on Finance and
11 Administration. There shall also be a Personnel Committee to carry out those functions of the Finance
12 Table in ¶ 613.13 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. There shall be four (4) members of the Personnel
13 Committee plus a representative of the Finance Table and a district superintendent.
- 14 b. There shall be a Board of Trustees whose function is defined in ¶ 2512 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. There
15 shall be twelve (12) members of the Board of Trustees, who will be elected in four classes of three
16 members each. The first Board of Trustees will have three persons elected by the Southwest Texas
17 Conference whose terms end in June 2015, three persons elected by the Rio Grande Conference whose
18 terms end in June 2016, three persons elected by the Rio Grande Conference whose terms end in June
19 2017, and three persons elected by the Southwest Texas Conference whose terms end in June 2018.
- 20 c. There shall be a Committee on Standing Rules whose function is to oversee the rules of the Annual
21 Conference, as permitted in ¶ 604.1 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. There shall be six (6) members of the
22 Committee on Standing Rules.
- 23 d. There shall be an Agenda and Worship Committee whose function is defined in ¶ 605.2 of the 2012 Book of
24 Discipline. The members of the Agenda and Worship Committee shall be the Bishop and the Bishop's
25 agent (title to be determined); the seven district superintendents; the presidents of United Methodist
26 Women, United Methodist Men, the Council on Young Adult Ministries, and the Council on Youth
27 Ministries; the conference lay leader; the conference treasurer; the conference secretary; the chairperson
28 of the Uniting Table; and a Worship Team Coordinator recruited by the committee.
- 29 e. There shall be a Committee on the Episcopacy whose function is defined in ¶ 637 of the 2012 Book of
30 Discipline. There shall be twelve (12) members of the Committee on the Episcopacy.
- 31 f. There shall be an Episcopal Residence Committee whose function is defined in ¶ 638 of the 2012 Book of
32 Discipline. There shall be six (6) members of the Episcopal Residence Committee.
- 33 g. There shall be a Board of Pensions whose function is defined in ¶ 639 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. There
34 shall be sixteen (16) members of the Board of Pensions who will serve eight-year staggered terms, with
35 two members being elected each year. The first Board of Pensions will have two persons whose terms
36 end in June 2015, and two persons whose terms end in each succeeding year through June 2022 in order
37 to establish the staggered terms. The 2014 conferences will each elect one person for each class to make
38 up the first Board of Pensions. The Board of Pensions relates to the General Board of Pensions and Health
39 Benefits.
- 40 h. There shall be a Commission on Archives and History whose function is defined in ¶ 641 of the 2012 Book of
41 Discipline. There shall be eight (8) members of the Commission on Archives and History. The Commission
42 on Archives and History relates to the General Commission on Archives and History.
- 43 i. There shall be a Committee on Nominations (the committee) whose function is to identify nominees for each
44 elected leadership position for which the Book of Discipline does not specify another method of
45 nomination. The members of the committee shall be the Bishop and the Bishop's agent (title to be
46 determined); the seven district superintendents; one person from each parent conference representing
47 United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, the Council on Young Adult Ministries, and the Council
48 on Youth Ministries; the conference lay leader; and six (6) at large members nominated by the Committee
49 on Nominations and elected by the Annual Conference to ensure equal representation on the committee

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

Applying to All Agencies

7. The Committee on Nominations shall work toward the goals of inclusiveness as set forth in ¶ 610.5 in the 2012 Book of Discipline which states: "...special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth (¶ 256.2 [sic] [Ed. Note: should be ¶ 256.3]), young adults, older adults, persons from churches with small memberships, people with disabilities, and racial and ethnic persons, in keeping with policies for general Church agencies. It is further recommended that the membership of such agencies, except for the Board of Ordained Ministry, include one-third clergy, one-third laywomen, and one-third laymen, who are professing members of local churches." The Committee on Nominations shall also strive for equal representation from the districts; and, to the extent possible, the diversity of those nominated should reflect the diversity of the Mission Field. It will be important at least through 2028 that both the parent conferences be equally represented on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Pensions, and that both be well represented on the Uniting Table and the Vision Teams.

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

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

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

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

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

Conference Staff and Resources

13. There shall be a Mission Vitality Center which has four primary functions: Congregational Vitality, to empower and equip all those working with existing congregations; New Faith Community Vitality, to assist and support those starting new faith communities; Leadership Vitality, to offer leadership development to lay and clergy leaders, partnering elders and congregational coaches; and Outreach Vitality & Connectional Ministry, to mobilize all of us to transform communities through missional opportunities and engagement. The Mission Vitality Center will support the Board of Ordained Ministry and its clergy wellness initiatives, conference centers offering retreats and learning experiences, youth and young adults ministries, Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis programs, and registration services for such events. The Mission Vitality Center shall be accountable to, and funded by, the Annual Conference. There shall be a Director of the Mission Vitality Center and other staff persons as determined by the Personnel Committee.

14. There shall be a Media Center whose function is to support communications and to lead the conference in using new and emerging technologies as tools for ministry. Specifically, the Media Center will work toward ensuring that every congregation has the capability of being digitally connected, and can use its website and social media effectively; that the conference center can support teleconferencing, virtual meetings and translation services; and that training in using these technologies is widely available. The Media Center will support local congregations, districts, the conference, and all their lay and clergy members in reaching the Mission Field. The Media Center shall be accountable to, and funded by, the Annual Conference. There shall be a Director of the Media Center and other staff persons as determined by the Personnel Committee.

15. There shall be a Resource Center whose function is to manage the financial resources of the conference, and to develop alternative sources of funding for the conference. The Resource Center will encourage collaboration and partnership among all program, administrative and financial entities of the conference. The Resource Center will support the Finance Table and the Commission on Equitable Compensation, the Board of Trustees, the Board of Pensions, the conference treasurer, and the office of New Resource Development. The Resource Center shall be

accountable to the Finance Table and to the Annual Conference, and shall be funded by the Annual Conference. There shall be a Director of the Resource Center and other staff persons as determined by the Personnel Committee.

MEMBERSHIP OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

Lay Members Defined by the Book of Discipline

- a. A professing member elected by each charge, as provided for in ¶ 602.4 of the 2012 Book of Discipline;
- b. An additional lay member assigned to each charge for each additional clergy member who is appointed to the charge as provided for in ¶ 602.4 of the 2012 Book of Discipline;
- c. Diaconal ministers, active deaconesses, home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the Annual Conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of lay servant ministries, conference secretary of global ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the Annual Conference college student organization, one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the Annual Conference, as provided in ¶ 602.4 and ¶ 32 of the 2012 Book of Discipline;

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

Lay Members Defined by Annual Conference

- d. An additional lay member assigned to each church that does not have a lay member as provided for in 16a and 16b above; and
- e. Other members as defined by the Annual Conference to include: an additional representative of the executive committees of the conference organizations of United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, youth, and young adults; the president and one additional representative of the executive committees of the district organizations of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, youth, and young adults; the chancellor, the conference emmaus lay director (if any), the conference scouting coordinator (if any), conference associate lay leaders (if any), conference elected executive personnel (if any), the chairperson of any conference agency or standing committee that reports directly to the Annual Conference; lay members of the Uniting Table and Finance Table; and one lay member for each unchartered new church start elected by the district in which the new church start is located.
- f. Additional lay members required to equalize lay and clergy membership shall be assigned to each district based upon district membership. The conference secretary shall notify each district superintendent of the number of additional lay members to be elected no later than sixty (60) days following Annual Conference. Each district will determine the method of election.
- g. Through 2024 the additional lay members elected shall include members of both parent conferences.
- h. At least 10% of these additional lay members shall be age 30 or under at the time of election.
- i. This rule will become effective following the close of the June 2015 Annual Conference session. Lay members of the 2015 Annual Conference session will be elected according to the practice of each of the current conferences.

17. In accordance with ¶ 659 of the 2012 Book of Discipline, the District Conferences will be composed of all members of Annual Conference as set forth in the Standing Rules who are related to churches within the bounds of their respective districts and currently elected to office. In addition, it shall include the chairperson of each district agency.

CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

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

19. An intentional effort will be made to produce written reports in both English and Spanish; and to provide oral translation between Spanish and English, and to provide support for hearing and vision impaired persons during all sessions of the Annual Conference.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER

32. The Local Church Report to the Annual Conference (Annual Statistical Report) required by the general church will be completed and filed with the conference no later than January 30, as stated in ¶ 606.7 of the 2012 Book of Discipline. This can be done using the method determined by the conference statistician to be the easiest and most effective manner.

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

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

35. These Standing Rules for the Río Texas Conference are being proposed for adoption by the Río Grande Conference and the Southwest Texas Conference during their June 2014 sessions. However, they are to take effect, unless otherwise stated above, on the same date as the official beginning of the Río Texas Annual Conference.

RÍO TEXAS DISTRICT STRUCTURE

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Bishop James (Jim) Dorff has announced the makeup of the districts of the Río Texas Conference to be effective on January 1, 2015 with the beginning of the new conference. The names of the seven districts are:

- Capital
- Coastal
- Crossroads
- El Valle
- Hill Country
- Las Misiones
- West

The list below shows which churches will be in each district. Churches with “**” following their name are not chartered. Churches with “*” following their name have expressed a desire to move to the geographical conference in which they are located.

Capital [52]

Austin: Asbury	Austin: Servant Church**	Dallas: Agape Memorial*
Austin: Berkeley	Austin: Simpson	Dallas: Casa Emanu-El*
Austin: Bethany	Austin: St. John's	Driftwood: Driftwood
Austin: Covenant	Austin: St. Luke	Dripping Springs
Austin: Crestview	Austin: St. Mark	Fort Worth: Nueva Vida
Austin: Decker	Austin: St. Paul's	Kempner
Austin: Emmanuel	Austin: St. Peter's	Lago Vista: Rolling Hills Community
Austin: Faith	Austin: Tarrytown	Lampasas
Austin: First	Austin: Trinity	Leander
Austin: Govalle	Austin: University	Liberty Hill
Austin: Grace	Austin: Wesley	Lometa
Austin: Korean	Austin: Westlake	Manchaca
Austin: Lake Travis	Bee Creek	Moody: El Buen Pastor
Austin: Memorial	Bend	Pflugerville

Austin: Northwest Hills
 Austin: Oak Hill
 Austin: Parker Lane

Bertram
 Burnet
 Cedar Park: First - Cedar Park
 Chapel Hill

Sherman: El Divino Salvador
 Temple: El Divino Salvador
 Waco: Latin American

Coastal [59]

Alice: El Mesias
 Alice: First
 Aransas Pass
 Austwell
 Banquete
 Beeville: First
 Beeville: Jones Chapel
 Bishop: El Redentor
 Bishop: First
 Bloomington: First UMC
 Bruni
 Corpus Christi: Asbury
 Corpus Christi: El Buen Pastor
 Corpus Christi: First
 Corpus Christi: Grace
 Corpus Christi: Island in the Son
 Corpus Christi: Kelsey Memorial
 Corpus Christi: St. John's
 Corpus Christi: St. Luke's
 Corpus Christi: St. Paul

Corpus Christi: St. Peter's By The Sea
 Corpus Christi: Wesley
 Falfurrias: First
 Fannin
 Fashing
 Freer
 George West
 Goliad: Fannin St.
 Goliad: First
 Hebbronville: First
 Ingleside
 Karnes City: UMC
 Kenedy: El Buen Samaritano
 Kingsville: Christ
 Kingsville: El Buen Pastor
 Kingsville: First
 Lolita
 Mathis
 Odem: First
 Palacios

Pawnee
 Pettus
 Point Comfort
 Port Lavaca: First
 Portland: First
 Premont
 Refugio
 Riviera
 Robstown
 Robstown: El Redentor
 Rockport: First
 Runge
 San Diego: First
 Seadrift
 Sinton: First
 Skidmore
 Taft
 Three Rivers
 Woodsboro: Faith United

Crossroads [78]

Altair: Wesley Chapel
 Bastrop
 Bay City: Nazareth
 Belmont
 Bryan: Oak Grove
 Bryan: Templo del Espiritu Santo
 Cedar Creek
 Columbus: First
 Columbus: St. Paul
 Cuero: First
 Dale: Corinth
 Dewville
 Eagle Lake
 Edna: First
 Edna: Scruggs Chapel
 El Campo: First
 El Campo: St. Paul
 El Campo: Wesley Chapel

Garwood: Lehrer Memorial Chapel
 Gonzales: First
 Gonzales: Henson Chapel
 Hallettsville: First
 Hallettsville: Richardson-Brown
 Harwood
 Haynie Chapel
 Hope
 Houston: El Buen Pastor
 Houston: El Mesias
 Industry
 Industry: Cherry Chapel
 Kingsbury
 La Grange: First
 Lockhart: First
 Lockhart: St. Mark's
 Louise
 Luling: First

Nixon: Harris Chapel
 Nursery
 Port Arthur: Getsemani
 Prairie Lea
 Rabke
 Rock Island
 Schulenburg: Stevens Chapel
 Schulenburg
 Seguin: First
 Seguin: La Trinidad
 Seguin: Wesley Harper
 Shiner: First
 Shiner: Johnson's Chapel
 Smiley
 Smithville: First
 Staples
 Stockdale: Christ
 Telferner

Elgin	Luling: William Taylor	Victoria: First
Elgin: Bethel	Lytton Springs	Victoria: John Wesley
Evan's Chapel	Manor	Victoria: Webster Chapel
Fentress	Martindale	Waelder
Flatonia	Monthalia	Weimar: First
Freyburg	Mossy Grove	Winchester
Ganado: First	Muldoon	Yoakum: First
La Grange: St. James	Nixon	Yorktown: First

El Valle [46]

Alamo: San Pablo	La Feria: Dios es Amor	Port Isabel: First
Brownsville: El Buen Pastor	Las Milpas: Nueva Vida	Primera: Harlingen**
Brownsville: First	Los Fresnos	Raymondville: Bethel
Brownsville: Templo Emmanuel	Lyford: First	Raymondville: First
Donna: First	McAllen: El Divino Redentor	Rio Grande City: Capilla de la Fe**
Donna: Principe de Paz	McAllen: First	Rio Grande City: First
Edcouch: First	McAllen: St. Mark	Rio Grande City: St. John
Edinburg: El Buen Pastor	McAllen: Trinity	San Benito: First
Edinburg: First	Mercedes: El Buen Pastor	San Juan
Elsa: First	Mercedes: First	San Juan: Los Wesleyanos
Harlingen: El Buen Samaritano	Mercedes: La Mesa**	San Juan: San Lucas
Harlingen: First	Mission: El Paraíso**	Santa Rosa
Harlingen: Valley Praise	Mission: El Mesias	Weslaco: First
Harlingen: Wesley	Mission: First	Weslaco: La Santísima Trinidad
La Feria	Pharr	Zapata
	Pharr: La Trinidad	

Hill Country [47]

Bandera	Fredericksburg	Montel
Blanco	Granite Shoals: Grace UMC	New Braunfels: First
Boerne	Gruene UMC	New Fountain
Buchanan Dam: Highland Lakes	Harper	Sabinal: First
Buda	Hondo	San Marcos: El Buen Pastor
Canyon Lake	Hunt	San Marcos: First
Canyon Lake: North Shore	Johnson City: First	San Marcos: Jackson Chapel
Carrizo Springs	Kerrville: Barnett Chapel	The Journey**
Castroville: Medina Valley	Kerrville: First	Utopia
Center Point	Kerrville: St. Paul's	Uvalde: First
Cherokee	Kyle	Uvalde: La Divina Trinidad
Comfort: Gaddis Memorial	Lakehills	Valley Spring
Crystal City	Leakey	Walnut
Crystal City: Swindall Memorial	Llano: Lutie Watkins	Wimberley
Eagle Pass	Marble Falls	Yancey
Eagle Pass: La Trinidad	Medina	

Las Misiones [74]

Bracken	San Antonio: Alamo Heights	San Antonio: Northwest Hills
Bulverde	San Antonio: Aldersgate	San Antonio: Nuevo Amanecer**
Bulverde: Hope Arise**	San Antonio: Bethany	San Antonio: Oak Meadow
Christine	San Antonio: Bethel	San Antonio: Oxford
Converse: New Hope	San Antonio: Centro de Vida y Alabanza	San Antonio: Pollard Memorial
Cotulla: First	San Antonio: Chapel Hill	San Antonio: Principe de Paz
Devine: First	San Antonio: Chinese UMC	San Antonio: Resurrection UMC
Dilley	San Antonio: Christ Fellowship	San Antonio: Sanford Chapel
Dilley: Bethania	San Antonio: Coker	San Antonio: Shepherd's Gate
Floresville	San Antonio: Colonial Hills	San Antonio: Spring Creek
Floresville: El Mesias	San Antonio: East St. Paul	San Antonio: St. Andrew's
Helotes Hills	San Antonio: El Buen Samaritano	San Antonio: St. John's
Jourdanton	San Antonio: El Divino Salvador	San Antonio: St. Mark's
La Vernia	San Antonio: El Mesias	San Antonio: St. Matthew's
Laredo: El Mesias	San Antonio: Emanuel	San Antonio: St. Paul
Laredo: First	San Antonio: Epworth	San Antonio: Travis Park
Laredo: La Trinidad	San Antonio: Ernest T. Dixon	San Antonio: Trinity
Lytle	San Antonio: Harlandale	San Antonio: University
Oak Island	San Antonio: Jacob's Chapel	San Antonio: Westlawn
Pearsall	San Antonio: Jefferson	San Antonio: Windcrest
Pearsall: San Pablo	San Antonio: Korean	San Antonio: Windsong Christian Center**
Pleasanton: First	San Antonio: La Trinidad	Schertz
Poteet	San Antonio: Laurel Heights	Somerset
Riverside Community Church **	San Antonio: Northeast Community**	Universal City
San Antonio: Alamo	San Antonio: Northern Hills	

West [50]

Art	Eldorado: First	Paint Rock: First
Barksdale	Goldthwaite	Rankin
Barnhart	Hilda	Robert Lee
Big Lake: First	Iraan	Rocksprings: First
Brackettville	Junction: First	San Saba
Brady: First	Las Cruces: El Calvario*	San Angelo: Bethel
Bronte: First	London	San Angelo: First
Carlsbad: Monte Sinai*	Lubbock: Nazaret	San Angelo: Grape Creek
Castell	Mason: First	San Angelo: Lakeview
Center City	McCamey: First	San Angelo: Sierra Vista
Christoval	Melvin	San Angelo: St. Luke
Del Rio: First	Menard: First	San Angelo: Wesley Trinity
Del Rio: Principe de Paz	Mertzon	Sonora
El Paso: El Alfarero*	Mesquite: Del Valle*	Star
El Paso: El Divino Redentor*	Miles	Sterling City: First
El Paso: Emmanuel*	Odessa: El Divino Salvador	Veribest UM
El Paso: Wesley*	Ozona	

TRANSITIONAL UNITED TABLE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Transitional Uniting Table is responsible for the program areas of both conferences to provide a more nimble, hands-on oversight of various ministries, services, functions and events. We are helping people embrace the vision for the new annual conference, and helping the Unification Implementation Team have an understanding of what the Uniting Table will need in place to do its job for the new annual conference. The Transitional Uniting Table also oversees funding for ministry and program priorities for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

We began meeting in June with a briefing of our tasks for the next year and a half. The image given to us by the Bishop was that of building a bridge while walking across it. The members of the Unification Implementation Team explained the vision of what will be the Uniting Table and also helped us understand what items could not be lost as we continued toward creating the Rio Texas Conference. At this meeting we self-identified into 18 sub-committees to make sure the conference work required by the Book of Discipline remained in place. Each conference gave us an overview of their ministry budget and we devised a system for administering Southwest Texas Conference's Program Priority Fund. We also elected co-chairs, Abigail Parker Herrera and Edward Garcia, as well as an executive team consisting of the two lay leaders, Ralph Thompson and Sandra Nieto, and a treasurer, Susan Hellums. We agreed to meet in August to begin our work in earnest, working over the next month to research what the history was of our committee areas in each annual conference.

At the August meeting, Dionisio Salazar led us in an inspiring devotional from Luke 5:36-39, the parable of new and old wine skins. Our conversation around new and old wineskins has informed us throughout the rest of our time together. An idea that most struck a chord with us was that "Old wine is tasty, new wine is hopeful, and old and new wine can be mixed, but they can only be placed in a new wine skin." With these ideas in mind, we began the work of reorganizing ourselves into working groups within the Transitional Uniting Table, with an eye toward the organization of our conference ministries as well. We began by reporting the key points of the work in each of our committee areas. Some guidelines were the questions: what had been done, what could be done, what needs to continue, and what could end?

During the reports, we placed key programs and thoughts on a large sticky wall, creating a web of words and ideas. During lunch, we moved and grouped these words. Dionisio facilitated this conversation as well. When we finished, we realized we had changed our groups. Previously, the Unification Implementation put each committee into one of three task groups: nurture, outreach, and witness. When we were done mapping the ministries of the conferences, we could identify four clear categories and some movement of some committees to new and unique partnerships:

- *Uniting Peoples: Sustaining the Connection by facilitating communication and helping each other communicate well.*
 - Commission on Communications
 - Commission on the Status and Role of Women
 - Commission on Race and Religion
 - Committee on Disability Concerns
- *Developing Leaders: Calling and equipping both lay and clergy leaders for the mission field.*
 - Board of Ordained Ministry
 - Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministry (although we recognized this group needed to me in each area)
 - Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry
- *Vitalizing Congregations: Discerning, developing, deploying: Responsive, deployed resources pertinent to the fulfillment of the mission and purpose of the local church.*
 - Board of Discipleship
 - Commission on the Small Church
 - Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns

- 1 ○ Board of Laity
- 2 ○ Committee on Parish and Community Development
- 3 ○ Council on Older Adult Ministries

- 4 • Transforming Communities: *Equipping, educating, and supporting congregations in mission around*
- 5 *the areas of the Board of Mission, The Advance, and specific ethnic concerns and justice issues.*
- 6 *Making good use of funds set aside for specific groups/ethnicities.*
- 7 ○ Board of Global Ministries
- 8 ○ Board of Church and Society
- 9 ○ Committee on The Advance
- 10 ○ Committee on Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries
- 11 ○ Committee on Native American Ministries
- 12 ○ Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships

13 These groups met together during September and, in October, we spent the bulk of our meeting preparing a
 14 report for the Unification Implementation Team in preparation for the called conference in January. Each
 15 group put forward a report to the Unification Implementation Team and we talked at length about a potential
 16 structure for the conference and for the Uniting Table. We also began to see the four vision pillars and teams
 17 in which we were working as the actual goal for each of the committees represented on that team. These
 18 were not simply tasks of the conference, but fruit we hoped the local churches of the conference could bear if
 19 we resourced them correctly. Finally, we discussed that rearranging the conference would mean nothing if
 20 the districts did not also create working groups that worked across church boundaries and bubbled up their
 21 ideas and actions to the conference structure.

22 We last met in February 2014 to discuss the new structure voted on by the Rio Grande and Southwest Texas
 23 Conferences. We went through it carefully and began to discuss our work over the next year. We also gave a
 24 financial update of the program priority fund and spoke about the future of that fund, realizing we would
 25 encounter difficulty in October/November as we began to transition from one way of funding conference level
 26 ministry to whatever new way the Finance Table finds for us.

27 Most importantly we talked about the ways we would make it possible for the Uniting Table and Vision Teams
 28 to begin their work in January 2015. We thought it would be best to have a meeting in September or October
 29 to orient those elected to the reasons for creating these Vision Teams; to orient them to all the work that has
 30 gone before. We also want to make sure each of the Vision Teams is aware of any items they must begin
 31 working on immediately. They need some idea of task forces that must be formed in order to continue good
 32 and important work that could easily be lost (the ministry planning team for annual conference or the
 33 oversight team for campus ministries are good examples of this). We also thought it would be important for
 34 some members of the Transitional Uniting Table to be on these Vision Teams and spent some time talking
 35 about the nominations process with Abel Vega.

36 Finally, we talked about our next steps really being at the district level now. Once we know the new district
 37 boundaries, the Transitional Uniting Team will need to begin reaching out to people in those districts, seeking
 38 individuals who can help the Vision Teams in their goals and perhaps be on Vision Teams in their districts. If
 39 the conference is going to be smaller and more nimble, it is up to the Vision Teams to draw passionate people
 40 into their work, creating task forces for various ministries and movements. We must help the district develop
 41 vital networks that can inform the conference of resourcing needs.

42

1 **UNITING PEOPLE'S VISION TEAM:**

GENERAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

2 On the Transitional Uniting Table each committee began the year researching previous work in that
3 committee area in both conferences. We found little to no work being done within the last couple of years in
4 both conferences. In the Southwest Texas Conference, it seemed the primary work of the committee was
5 monitoring the appointment process to measure how female clergy were treated. While there was a lot of
6 data on this, it had not yet been compiled into something the conference might be able to use. Also
7 important had been a ministry of monitoring during conferences. We do not think these two ministries should
8 end but encourage the new Vision Team to work toward integrating these better into the overall
9 communication of the conference.

10 The Uniting Peoples Vision Team feel the work of this commission and the work of the General Commission on
11 Race and Religion will be very important as we create the new Rio Texas Conference. We are working with
12 Abel Vega on creating cultural competency trainings for all leadership within the new conference as well as
13 within the new districts, building on the previous monitoring work to create a culture that cares for, respects,
14 and encourages minority voices.

15 Abigail Parker Herrera, Chair

GENERAL COMMISSION ON RACE AND RELIGION

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

16
17 The Committee on Religion and Race has been organizing for when the Uniting Table begins.
18 Plans are in progress for a grant application from the General Commission on Race and Religion to
19 further the work for cultural competency training.
20 Time has been spent researching the work of Committee on Religion and Race (CORR) in both
21 conferences.

22 Lois Shaw, Chair

DISABILITY CONCERNS

REPORT I

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

23 Physical, developmental emotional, and mental are different disabilities. Physical disabilities can be indicated
24 by someone who may have mobility impairment, deafness, or a form of decapitation. Developmental
25 emotional disabilities at times can be found within a child throwing tantrums or other behavioral issues.
26 Mental disabilities can be indicated by someone who has signs of impaired development of the brain, such as
27 autism, anxiety, bipolar, depression, eating disorders, and schizophrenia.

28 It is easy to see the physical disabilities. However, in order to see emotional and mental disabilities, we must
29 have an understanding towards them. The very people who may have these disabilities can be found in our
30 congregations, communities, and all around us, regardless of their age.

31 A collaboration of different conferences around the country in The United Methodist Church of New York
32 through the United Nations General Assembly have named March 21, World Down Syndrome Day. This date
33 was chosen because Down syndrome occurs when there are three copies of the 21st chromosome. In a
34 newsletter from the UM Committee on Disability Ministries, Carol Stevens has led six mission teams to Kenya
35 since 1997 to educate deaf children, improving their performance at school. [Fall 2013 Vol. 3 No. 5]

36 Our goal is to learn and try to understand persons with disabilities, to better serve them as brothers and
37 sisters in Christ, so they may also experience the love of Christ among us. Many efforts have been made in the
38 past, still continuing today, to express the importance of others with disabilities. In our congregations we have

1 witnessed discrimination toward this issue, by not having enough room in pathways for someone with special
2 accommodations, or by facial expressions that have been given to children or adults for disrupting the service,
3 without considering the disability the individual may have. It is important to remember that The United
4 Methodist Church serves with open hearts, open hands, open minds, and open doors, so it is essential to work
5 in making certain accommodations for our sisters and brothers with disabilities. It has been a blessing to
6 participate in the Transitional Uniting Table for such an important issue.

7 Maricruz Perez, Chair

DISABILITY CONCERNS

REPORT II KINGDOM KAMP FOR INFORMATION ONLY

8 With the theme "Make A Joyful Noise," Kingdom Kamp was held for the 30th year in 2013 on Labor Day
9 Weekend at the Mount Wesley Conference and Retreat Center. Sponsored by the Southwest Texas
10 Conference and what is known currently as the Transitional Uniting Table, the camp has been organized for
11 mentally challenged adults age 18 and older, and who are physically mobile. It was a wonderful and victorious
12 event and a blessing for everyone who volunteered and participated. We thank outgoing Dean Rev. Patti
13 Herndon and outgoing Camp Director Wendy Inman for their many contributions of leadership. The
14 volunteers who helped at camp are most appreciated for their gifts of time in ministry to these brothers and
15 sisters.

16 The mission of Kingdom Kamp is to provide a success-oriented environment that will give each camper an
17 opportunity to build faith and inner strength and to also have fun. We share the belief that we are all children
18 of God and we belong to God's kingdom. We strive to live in the kingdom in the acceptance of each person,
19 regardless of limitations, as a member of the family of God.

20 On Labor Day Weekend 2014, Kingdom Kamp will be held at Cathedral Oaks Conference Center near Weimar
21 and limited to 50 persons. The facility has more even ground and activities in close proximity. We thank in
22 advance the Rev. Nancy Day, incoming Dean from Buda UMC, and Mr. Don Dodge, incoming Camp Director
23 from Bracken UMC. Persons interested in serving on the volunteer team should contact Nancy or Don as soon
24 as possible. Congregations are urged to contact potential campers in your midst and invite them to attend
25 Kingdom Kamp.

26 The Kingdom Kamp Oversight Team would like to visit different districts to inform them about Kingdom Kamp.
27 We hold hope for the future of offering two retreats instead of one so more people can participate. The
28 Oversight Team continually monitors number of campers, ways to enhance medication processes for the two
29 camp nurses, accountability, background checks, safety policy, improvements in the registration process to
30 include requesting camper's photo, and clarifications around the requirement for each camper to be physically
31 mobile, able to negotiate campgrounds.

32 We gratefully acknowledge all gifts in any amount to Kingdom Kamp Scholarships through the Conference
33 Advance Special #2005. It is with deep appreciation we thank each donor whose heart touches many lives for
34 the sake of Christ.

35 Next meeting of the Kingdom Kamp Oversight Team will be Tuesday November 18, 2014, at 10:00 A.M.

36 Maricruz Perez

DEVELOPING LEADERS VISION TEAM

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

REPORT I CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

38 The work of the former Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (BHECM) of the Southwest Texas
39 Conference of the United Methodist Church continues during this period of transition to the Rio Texas Annual
40 Conference. Members of the former BHECM and new members from the Rio Grande Annual Conference have
41 come together to make this continued work a reality. This work includes:

Campus Ministry

As a result of our new team based approach to ministry in the Transitional Uniting Table (TUT) a first ever meeting between the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry and campus ministers occurred in January. This meeting will strengthen relationships between the Board and our campus ministers who, in many cases, are the first contact with young people who feel called to full time Christian ministry.

Members of the former BHECM continue to relate to our campus ministers through scheduled visits to experience each ministry first hand. These visits foster a closer connection between the campus minister and the annual conference. Regular visits also promote the continued partnership between the annual conference and the important work of relating to college age young adults. These visits to selected campus ministry sites will continue through the rest of this transitional year and are tentatively set through 2016. A more comprehensive report on this work follows by team leader George Bradley.

Scholarships

Scholarship aid for our college students is an area of challenge. To meet this challenge we need to promote the United Methodist Student Day Offering. This year the amount given to this offering did not meet the minimum \$5,000 as a conference in order to receive a rebate from the General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. We continue to solicit support from congregations and individuals for our scholarship programs.

The TUT and members of the Higher Education and Campus Ministry team respectfully ask for your prayers and support of our campus ministers, each local board, student leaders and students.

Ricky Sanderford, BHECM Representative

Transitional Uniting Table

**REPORT II
CAMPUS MINISTRIES REPORT
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

COOPERATIVE MINISTRY IN HIGHER EDUCATION AT ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE

The Cooperative Ministries in Higher Education – Campus Ministry at St. Philip's College -- is nestled on the only community college in the United States with the dual designation of Historically Black and Hispanic Serving. Founded in 1898, this ecumenical ministry is sponsored by Christian organizations including SWTX Conference. Spiritual development programs are offered throughout the week and partnerships with the San Antonio Food Bank and Methodist Healthcare System address wellness needs of college and neighborhood communities. Personal and group devotional opportunities are ongoing. Olga Samples Davis, Executive Director, invites contact and visitation. For more information, contact Cooperative Ministry in Higher Education, Campus Ministry at St. Philip's College, 1801 Martin Luther King Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78203; 210.533.9819 and/or cmhe@att.net.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MINISTRY

Huston-Tillotson University is the oldest institution of higher education in Austin, having been founded in 1875. It is the only United Methodist-related university within the bounds of the Southwest Texas Conference. The Huston-Tillotson University Office of Religious Life and Campus Ministry seeks to develop students from a holistic perspective. Students engage in retreats, the Alternative Spring Break Mission Trip, and on-campus Bible studies. Leadership development opportunities through the United Methodist Student Forum, and internships in the Office of Religious Life or the Black College Fund of The United Methodist Church are designed to cultivate students. Chaplain Donald E. Brewington may be contacted at 512.344.9380, 900 Chicon Street, Austin, Texas 78702; debrewington@htu.edu.

SAN ANGELO WESLEY CAMPUS MINISTRY

Wesley Campus Ministries, located in San Angelo, Texas, serves the students of both Angelo State University and Howard College. Located just across from one of ASU's newest dorms, Centennial Village, Wesley serves local students through Monday and Thursday night Bible studies which include a free meal, as well as a variety of events throughout the semester. Students participate in service projects, mission opportunities, retreats, and outdoor activities. Wesley Campus Ministries is located at 1806 Jade, San Angelo, Texas 76904. For more information, contact Wesley Campus Ministries Director, Lori Jones, at 325.450.7166 or lori.jones811@yahoo.com.

SAN ANTONIO UNITED METHODIST CAMPUS MINISTRIES

SAUMCM is an outreach to students and faculty of colleges and universities in the area of San Antonio, Texas. With on-campus registered student organizations at San Antonio College, UTSA, and Trinity University, we seek to 1) create an intentional and authentic Christian community in and around the campuses, 2) live out faith on campus and through local and foreign mission efforts and worship, 3) create a culture of change through empowering and equipping student leaders, and 4) engage students in theological reflection and real-life application on matters of faith, culture, and life. Weekly activities include student-led fellowship and worship gatherings, Bible/book studies, *Hot Potato Forum*, *Girl Talk*, *Chick Flicks*, and weekend service and outreach projects in the area. For more information, please contact SAUMCM Director, Rev. Johnny Silva 210.733.1441, 102 Belknap Place, San Antonio, TX 78212; www.saumcm.org, umcm.director@gmail.com.

TEXAS LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION

Texas Lutheran University Wesley Foundation began in 2007. It serves a private university campus population of about 1,400 students. Meeting on campus, this ministry provides spiritual development through weekly worship services and meal programs. Additionally it participates in prayer meetings, Habitat for Humanity, CROP WALK, college mid-winter retreats, UMARMY, Bible studies, and Texas Lutheran University's campus ministry programs. Dr. Sally Cook, Wesley Foundation sponsor, invites everyone to tour the campus and visit this ministry. For more information contact Texas Lutheran University Wesley Foundation at 205 Tschoepe Hall, 1000 W. Court St., Seguin, Texas 78155; scCook@tlu.edu.

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY WESLEY

The United Campus Ministry-Wesley is an ecumenical campus ministry of the United Methodist, Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ, and United Church of Christ churches serving the Texas State University campus in San Marcos. On Wednesday evenings we gather for our weekly worship service, Bobcat Supper. And our time outside of worship continues to develop strong Christian leaders through Bible study, mission projects, and service and outreach to the campus and local community. The UCM-Wesley is a place where students can find to plug in and connect with their peers while they're in school, but also where lifetime friendships are formed. Contact Campus Minister Rev. Ryan Jenson, 510 N. Guadalupe, San Marcos, TX, 78666; 512.396.4222; ryan@ucmwesley.org.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES OF CORPUS CHRISTI

United Campus Ministries Corpus Christi (UCM CC) serves students at Texas A&M Corpus Christi and Del Mar College with a combined enrollment of 33,000. UCM CC provides an ecumenical witness of its denominational partners to students, faculty and staff and serves as a liaison between local churches in the Coastal Bend area and these two institutions. Partnering with local churches UCM CC has served underprivileged children and engaged in children and youth ministries. Spiritual development of those who are called to ministry takes place through teaching, leading, and enabling leadership opportunities. Contact Rev. Matt Pennington 3510 Gollihar Dr., Corpus Christi, Texas 78415; 361.852.8268; mattpennington@gmail.com.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY OF VICTORIA

United Campus Ministry of Victoria is an interdenominational ministry supported by the United Methodist, ELCA Lutheran Victoria Conference, individual Lutheran churches, PCUSA Presbyterian churches, and First Christian Church of Victoria. United Campus Ministry of Victoria has a mission to a community college (The Victoria College) and the University of Houston-Victoria, a four year and graduate institution serving over 9,000 students. Spiritual development includes three weekly lunches, a weekly Bible study, participation is various campus programs. Its interdenominational ministry includes student leadership development and development of new student activities. For more information please contact Rev. Wanda Ritchea 361.649.2904, 1707 E. Virginia, Victoria, TX 77901; ucmvictx@yahoo.com or on Facebook at United Campus Ministry of Victoria.

UNITED METHODIST CAMPUS MINISTRY OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

United Methodist Campus Ministry of the Rio Grande Valley serves two institutions; the University of Texas-Pan American and South Texas College with a combined student population of about 35,000. This historically Hispanic campus ministry is a joint ministry of the Rio Grande and Southwest Texas Conferences. Spiritual development includes weekly lunches, Bible studies, internet theology discussions, a prayer labyrinth, weekly prayer services, young adult retreats, and monthly communion services. The campus ministry participates in outreach ministry by working at the Rio Grande Valley Children's Home, Beach Clean Up, and Food Bank. Rev. David J. Moreno, campus ministry Director, invites everyone to visit the campus ministry. For more

information contact United Methodist Campus Ministry of the Rio Grande Valley, 123 N. Sugar Rd., Edinburg, TX, 78541; 210.381.4463; djmoreno.umcm@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AUSTIN WESLEY FOUNDATION

The Vision of the Wesley Foundation is to be a community that engages in vital Christian ministry to students, faculty and staff at the University of Texas at Austin, building up generations of Christians who lead and serve. We provide opportunities for worship, spiritual growth, leadership and ministry development and service for students in the Austin area. Our Thursday Night Overflow student-led worship service is our primary gathering point that involves heartfelt worship, small groups, student testimony, and age-relevant messages. The heartbeat of this ministry is the 10 to 12 student-led small groups that provide community and growth for students. Our 35 student strong leadership team gives student an opportunity to experience first-hand ministry to students and in mission to places like South Padre, El Salvador, India, Palestine, South Texas, and more. We have seen many students go on to seminary and engage in pastoral, missional, and counseling ministries. Contact Rev. Rusty Teeter, 2202 Nueces Austin, Texas 78705; 512.474.1151; www.texaswesley.com, rusty@texaswesley.com.

Respectfully,

George A. Bradley, BHECM Campus Ministries Team Leader

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! Thank you for your prayers and support for United Methodist theological education. This has been a bountiful year for Boston University School of Theology, beginning with the arrival of a passionate community of students from 35 states and 16 countries. The year has had many highlights.

BREAKING NEWS:

Doctor of Ministry: The School has unfolded a new Doctor of Ministry program designed to enrich church leaders in traditional and non-traditional settings and to deepen their theological understanding and commitment to the practice of ministry. The DMin focuses on transformational leadership. It includes four intensive seminars on campus in August and January, a series of online courses, and opportunities for students to work closely with faculty as they research their own unique questions and visions.

Community Center: The School's renovated Community Center has become a favorite gathering space – sustainable, hospitable, and accessible. It is the welcoming home for weekly community lunches, study, conversation, play, seminars, retreats, and parties.

Religion and Conflict Transformation (RCT) Clinic: The RCT Clinic sponsors projects to address conflict in congregations, interfaith peacebuilding, restorative justice, and mediation.

Expanded Scholarship Options: The School has expanded its scholarship options to include full tuition scholarships for UMC certified candidates for ordained ministry, African American Thurman scholars, Latino/a Raices scholars, and School of the Prophets scholars.

DEEPENING SPIRITUAL LIFE: The community enhances spiritual growth in many ways.

Building intentional living communities: The School sponsors and helps support Theology House, Green House, and Beane House of Study, where students live with intentional and communal practices.

Enhancing spiritual life through weekly worship, reading retreats, winter retreat, daily morning prayer, and small groups.

Offering spiritual journeys, including the Vocations Vacation to ministry and service sites and the Seminary Singers tour to local churches.

ENGAGING THE WORLD: BU School of Theology students and faculty have traveled and served extensively in the world during the past year:

Giving hundreds of volunteer hours across the Boston region, U.S. and world in church camps, homeless shelters, peace organizations, global United Methodist programs, and other settings.

Traveling in study groups to Turkey (Ephesus), Israel & Palestine, Cuba, rural and urban ministry sites, and churches and service organizations across the US

Sponsoring conferences on global Christianity and the Dictionary of African Christian Biography

Serving in local churches and community agencies in contextual education placements, courses, and special internships.

PONDERING CRITICAL ISSUES: The School's annual theme was "Free at Last," to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. and his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech. The community engaged in urgent questions regarding race, sexual orientation and gender identity, and poverty, creating open and respectful spaces to discuss themes that are important to, and controversial in, the church and larger society.

The ministry of the Boston University School of Theology is to partner with you in serving the church and in caring for the larger human family and God's precious creation.

Yours with gratitude,
Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Candler School of Theology prepares *real* people to make a *real* difference in the *real* world. Our commitment to authentic discipleship and relevant ministry enables us to develop uniquely well-rounded leaders who are challenged academically, encouraged spiritually, and immersed in Christian service from the first day they arrive on campus.

As one of the 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is grounded in the Christian faith and shaped by the Wesleyan tradition. As one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, Candler provides a rich context for learning and formation supported by the extensive resources of a top-tier research university. As a school located in the metropolitan area of Atlanta, Candler offers a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of our 21st century world. There is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

Candler celebrates its Centennial in 2014, marking our 100th anniversary with commemorative events that reflect on our past and a conference on theology and the church that envisions the future. The yearlong celebration begins in August with the opening of the second phase of Candler's new 128,600-square-foot, LEED-certified building, seven years in the making.

Not only is Candler expanding its physical space this year—it is expanding degree offerings as well. In response to the changing needs of the church, Candler is introducing five new degrees to equip Christian leaders: the Doctor of Ministry, the Master of Religious Leadership, the Master of Religion and Public Life, and two dual degrees pairing divinity and social work and divinity and development practice. With these newest additions to our degree programs, Candler graduates truly will be ready to lead wherever God calls.

Candler's student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. Our enrollment stands at 441, with 340 seeking the Master of Divinity, 47 the Master of Theological Studies, 21 the Master of Theology, 15 the Doctor of Theology, and 18 enrolled as Non-Degree students. The student population is 32 percent U.S. ethnic minority, 49 percent women, and the median age of the entering class is 27. Students represent 39 denominations, with half identifying as United Methodist.

We continue to emphasize preparing our students for leadership in an increasingly global context, and now offer 14 academic exchanges with theology schools in 12 countries across five continents. In addition, Candler has an ongoing summer internship program with the Methodist Church in the Bahamas, and participates each year in travel seminars to the Middle East and in World Methodist Evangelism Institute evangelism seminars, traveling in 2014 to Nigeria, Costa Rica, and Brazil.

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

Jan Love
Dean, Candler School of Theology

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary continues its commitment to develop and nurture skilled, bold and articulate leaders for the church, the academy and the world. Since our founding 161 years ago, we have articulated and lived our core purpose: to know God in Christ and, through preparing spiritual leaders, help others know God in Christ.

Last fall, we welcomed 171 new students, bringing the fall Master of Divinity enrollment to 399. The gender/ethnic profile is: 51% female; 55% white; 20% Black; 5% Asian; 3% Hispanic/Latino/a. Fourteen percent of the student body is international. Thirty-five denominations, four continents, thirteen countries and thirty-three states are represented in the student body.

Seventy-percent of the students in all degree programs are United Methodist. Currently, 1 student from the Southwest Texas Annual Conference is enrolled in the various degree programs at the seminary.

Garrett-Evangelical is committed to making seminary education affordable, and easing the financial stress on students. This academic year, the seminary awarded over 2.5 million dollars in financial aid, offered numerous federal work-study positions, and assisted with paid internship opportunities in diverse settings through field education.

In fall 2014, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary begins a guaranteed tuition rate initiative for master's level students. Students are guaranteed the same tuition rate for two or three years, depending on the program in which they enroll. Tuition rates for new Master of Divinity students will be guaranteed through the Summer 2017 Term. Tuition rates for new Master of Arts or Master of Theological Studies students will be guaranteed through Summer 2016 Term. This initiative is yet another step in insuring students enter the world of ministry with as little student debt as possible.

Last September, the seminary celebrated the establishment of the fully-endowed Rueben P. Job Chair of Spiritual Formation. At the same time, we installed Dr. Frederick W. Schmidt as the Rueben P. Job Associate Professor of Spiritual Formation. Garrett-Evangelical is the first among Protestant seminaries in the United States to have a fully funded chair in spiritual formation.

Two revered faculty retired this past year. Larry Murphy, professor of the history of Christianity, retired after 39 years of service. He was a key individual in developing the seminary's Center for the Church and the Black Experience.

Ruth Duck, professor of Christian worship, retired in December. A world-renowned hymnist, her most recent book, *Worship for the Whole People of God: Vital Worship for the 21st Century*, was published in October 2013.

Several initiatives to support clergy and lay education are under way. During the spring semester, fifteen academic classes were offered in an online format, some with a continuing education option. Among the options are:

- *Plus*, a first-of-its-kind cooperative executive education program of Garrett-Evangelical and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, involving two-years of seminars led by experts in non-profit and church leadership for professionals in ministry;
- *Intersection*, an online continuing education opportunity, incorporating readings, online presentations by seminary faculty, and reflection on contemporary issues of life and ministry. Topics range from theology, biblical interpretation, and church history to ethics and the church in society. Continuing education credit is available. Additional information is available at <http://www.garrett.edu/intersection>.
- A *Doctor of Ministry* program offering five tracks of study: Congregational Leadership; African American Congregational Leadership; Spiritual Direction; and Mission in the Contemporary United States; and the Association of Chicago Theological School's (ACTS) D.Min. program in preaching.

In the coming months, Garrett-Evangelical will roll out new programs online, in Evanston, in congregational settings, and on the campuses of select United Methodist-related colleges.

Garrett-Evangelical serves over 550 students in degree-related courses, certificate programs and the summer Course of Study School.

We encourage you to visit our website, www.garrett.edu, and to visit us on campus. We are grateful to serve The United Methodist Church and the church at large.

On January 1, 2014, I became president of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the seminary and the church in this capacity. Garrett-Evangelical is blessed with a great

heritage and a strong future. Please let us know if there are ways we can work with you as we continue to seek to be a seminary for the church and the world. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Lallene J. Rector, President

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY MISSION

Huston-Tillotson University supports the Southwest Texas Conference Journal through our mission to provide the University's diverse student body with an exemplary education that is grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, balanced with professional development, and directed to public service and leadership.

The University fosters spiritual and ethical development, preserves and promotes interest in the accomplishments and experiences of the University's historic constituents and evolving populations, creates and sustains supportive relationships that advance the Huston-Tillotson University community, and prepares students with the integrity and civility to thrive in a diverse society. We achieve our mission through the diversity of our student body, opportunities for spiritual growth and civic engagement, and the global perspective of our educational programs.

UNIVERSITY PROFILE

Enrollment

Huston-Tillotson University reached a thirty year enrollment high with 973 students enrolling in the fall of 2013. Segmentation of our student population by gender reveals an important factor regarding male enrollment. Our overall student population consisted of 448 males (46%) and 525 females (54%). Many universities report decreases in male student enrollment; our student population is balanced. The first-year, first-time freshmen population consisted of 109 males (52%) and 101 females (48%).

The racial/ethnic composition of our student population is as follows: Black, non-Hispanic – 73%; Hispanic – 17%; White, non-Hispanic – 5%; Nonresident Alien – 3%; Native American – <1%; Asian/Pacific Islander – <1%; Multiracial – <1%; Other – <1%; Unreported – <1%.

Faculty

The fall of 2013, the University employed 54 full-time faculty members and 33 part-time faculty members. The race/ethnic composition of the full-time faculty is as follows: Hispanic – 11.1%; White, non-Hispanic – 38.9%; Asian/Pacific Islander – 1.9%; Black, non-Hispanic – 46.3%; Two or more races, non-Hispanic – 1.9%. Thirty-eight members of our full-time faculty (70.4%) have a terminal degree in their teaching field.

PRESIDENTIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Huston-Tillotson University's success is a result of discoveries, visions, and insights made 137 years ago. Many innovative initiatives such as the Day of Discovery for Central Texas executives and decision makers, and visits to target alumni-Key Cities allow the University to participate in outreach at even higher levels. Huston-Tillotson University hosted the 15th Annual African American Community Heritage Festival (AACHF), on Saturday, February 22, 2014. The festival was highly successful with over 60 vendors, nearly 1,000 in attendance and fundraising efforts that contributed greatly to the Huston-Tillotson University Scholarship Fund.

New undertakings include significant renovations to the Downs-Jones Library completed in March 2013. The completed renovation included all new interior with open spaces and study areas. The renovated facility houses HT's RAM café with coffee and snack selections in addition to the books, publications, videos, and artwork.

Huston-Tillotson's reputation as a teaching university, as an institution with a stellar faculty, as a place where students can achieve their goals, is evidenced by faculty who are authors and recognized scholars from prestigious programs such as Fulbright Scholarship Programs, Henry C. McBay Research Fellows Program, Piper Professors, and Sam Taylor Fellowship Program. Faculty spend their summers completing research in their field, studying at the New York University Faculty Institute, attending the UNCF/Mellon Faculty Seminar, engaging in international travel, and other initiatives that further define their specialized areas.

The HT student may be the first in his or her family to attend college, part of a legacy family with more than five generations of graduates, a local Austin resident, or a student who has traveled thousands of miles to reach the campus. That HT student was likely referred by alumni and had a number of college acceptance

1 letters from which to choose. Internships or overseas travel are just two of the opportunities afforded
2 students. Whether attending HT as part of the William Edward Burghardt DuBois Honors Program, the Male
3 Achievement Program (MAP), the Women Advancing in Leadership and Knowledge (WALK), as an athlete in
4 one of the sports programs, or recruited as a musician for the jazz ensemble or vocalist with the concert choir,
5 the HT experience is uniquely highlighted for success. Responsibility, spiritual development, and supportive
6 relationships are the hallmarks of the HT experience.

7 In addition, the establishment of a Leadership Seminar whereby student learning extends to the workplace
8 environment of elected officials and key corporate executives supports unique and creative ways that faculty
9 are engaging students. These endeavors, along with the continued success of the W.E.B. DuBois Honors
10 Program, place the University in a competitive global position.

11 Huston-Tillotson University is proud of its United Methodist Church heritage and affiliation and continually
12 strives to provide a wholesome and open learning environment that encourages recognition of individual
13 worth and merit.

14 Submitted by

Larry L. Earvin, Ph.D., President and CEO

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

16 Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the Southwest Texas Annual Conference in many significant
17 ways.

18 Nine Southwest Texas Conference students currently are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program at Perkins.

19 Students from the Southwest Texas Conference who qualified for Perkins Annual Conference Endowment
20 (PACE) grants this academic year received \$5,000 each in need-based aid.

21 Perkins celebrates the distinguished accomplishments and service of many alumni/ae in the Southwest Texas
22 Conference, including Bishop James Dorff (M.Th.'72).

23 Perkins celebrated a record spring 2014 enrollment of 24 new students, in addition to 81 new students who
24 enrolled in fall 2013. Among all Perkins students, approximately two-thirds are United Methodist and more
25 than one-third are ethnic minority students. Our gender balance between male and female students in
26 Master's degree programs remains almost exactly 50%. The Doctor of Ministry program continues to grow
27 with students from southern Asia taking classes in Singapore and Dallas. Our Ph.D. program includes two
28 Latino Ph.D. students supported through a grant from the Luce Foundation to Perkins' Center for the Study of
29 Latino/a Christianity and Religions.

30 Rev. Jeannie Treviño-Teddlie was honored for faithful service as director of the Mexican American Program
31 and UM Regional Course of Study School from 2002 until her retirement in 2013. Dr. Philip Wingeier-Rayo,
32 currently professor of Religion at Pfeiffer University in North Carolina, has been named new director of the
33 Mexican American and Hispanic-Latino/a Church Ministries Program, effective June 1, 2014. Dr. Wingeier-Rayo
34 also will be nominated to serve as director of the regional Course of Study School, and will hold the title
35 "Professor of Christian Mission and Intercultural Studies."

36 Perkins was excited to welcome two new faculty members in fall 2013: Tamara Lewis (Ph.D., Vanderbilt,
37 2014), instructor, History of Christianity; and Natalia Marandiuc (Ph.D., Yale, 2013), assistant professor of
38 Christian Theology.

39 Perkins recently received two significant grants from the Lilly Endowment. A \$500,000 grant will support our
40 newly established Center for Preaching Excellence, with Alyce McKenzie, Le Van Professor of Preaching and
41 Worship, serving as director. A second grant of \$249,981 will support research to study the indebtedness of
42 theological students and help improve the economic well-being of future ministers.

43 Perkins is blessed with gifted faculty and staff members, inspiring students, beautiful facilities, and vibrant
44 ministries. We thank our many colleagues, friends, and alumni/ae across the connection for continuing
45 generous support, including referrals of prospective students.

46 Perkins appreciates our relationship with the Southwest Texas Conference. We ask for your continued prayers
47 and support as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian
48 ministry.

49 Grace and Peace,

William B. Lawrence, Dean and Professor

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of The United Methodist Church that educates leaders to make disciples for Jesus Christ, renew the Church, and transform the world. We are one institution with two campuses, in Oklahoma City and the Greater Kansas City area.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, 201 students from 23 annual conferences and 4 countries were enrolled in degree programs at Saint Paul School of Theology on both campuses. The Course of Study School at Saint Paul served 216 students the Overland Park, Kansas, Springfield, Missouri, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma locations.

Twenty master's degree students and twenty-three doctoral students graduated from the Kansas City campus in May 2013. Six master of divinity students graduated at the 3rd Commencement Convocation in Oklahoma in August 2013. Laity from the Seminary Lite program in Oklahoma also received certificates.

Saint Paul at Oklahoma City University (OCU) began its 6th year in September. Dr. Amy Oden came to the Oklahoma City campus as Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality. The Association of Theological Schools authorized the campus to offer all courses leading to the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, Master of Arts (Theological Studies), and Doctor of Ministry Degrees. They also lifted the residency requirement to complete one-third of the courses on the Kansas City campus. This is a major step in the development of Saint Paul at OCU. The success of Saint Paul in Oklahoma City has been a collaborative effort, strengthened by the support of the Oklahoma Conference of The United Methodist Church and United Methodist-related Oklahoma City University.

The seminary sold its Truman Road campus in Kansas City, Missouri to Guadalupe Centers, Inc. Guadalupe Centers, Inc. is the longest continuously operating organization serving Latinos in the United States. They provide early childhood, secondary, preparatory and adult educational programs; facilitate access to health and social services for all ages; promote and provide Latino cultural enrichment events; and sponsor social activities for diverse communities.

Students and faculty began classes on the Greater Kansas City (GKC) campus located in the East Wing of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas, in September. Classes continue to be video-linked with the Oklahoma City campus. The seminary's staff and faculty offices are located under a mile away from the classroom location.

Saint Paul will launch three new masters' curricula in the fall of 2014. For the MDiv students, the new curriculum marks a return to a more praxis-based, integrated curriculum. The curriculum is grounded in spiritual formation with numerous practicums and faculty-led small groups to integrate seminary studies with vocational formation. Students will reflect upon their work during two intentional assessments mid-way through the degree and near the end of their studies.

The degree programs will require fewer hours which will mean less debt for Saint Paul graduates. The MDiv will require 79 credit hours for the degree rather than the 90 credit hours now required. The Masters of Arts in Christian Ministry and Masters of Arts (Theological Studies) will also be completed in fewer hours--54 credit hours for the MACM vs. 60 now and 49 for the MA(TS) vs. 60 now.

The trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Saint Paul thank you for your interest, prayers and support.

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

SMU is commemorating a major milestone as the University celebrates the centennial of its founding in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and its opening in 1915.

SMU's total fall 2013 enrollment was 10,929, including 6,357 undergraduates and 4,572 graduate students. Enrollment continues to increase in ethnic, socio-economic and geographic diversity. Ethnic minority students made up 25 percent of total enrollment in fall 2013. A record international enrollment of 1,445 students represented 97 foreign countries, with the largest numbers coming from China, India and Saudi Arabia.

SMU consistently ranks in the top one-fourth of "best national universities" in *U.S. News & World Report*. In 2014, SMU ranks 60th among 281 national universities.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classifies SMU as a "high research activity" university. During 2012-13, SMU received \$19.9 million in external funding for research and sponsored

1 projects worldwide. Current research subjects include natural hazards, water quality, cyber security and
2 treatments for cancer and diabetes.

3 Because of the early success of SMU Unbridled: The Second Century Campaign, the campaign goal was raised
4 from \$750 million to \$1 billion. To date, SMU has received more than \$844 million in gifts and pledges for
5 scholarships, academic programs, endowed faculty positions and campus improvements and facilities.

6 Campaign gifts are helping to fund renovations of existing facilities and new construction. Moody Coliseum
7 reopened in December 2013 after extensive renovation and expansion.

8 SMU's new Residential Commons complex, to open in fall 2014, consists of five new residence halls and a
9 dining facility. The complex will enable SMU to implement a residency requirement for sophomores along with
10 first-year students. The new halls will include classrooms and accommodations for live-in faculty. Six other
11 SMU residence halls are being modified as Residential Commons.

12 The year 2013 was designated the Year of the Library, marking the 100th anniversary of the beginning of SMU's
13 library collections, which recently passed the four-million-volume mark. Major renovations are planned for
14 Fondren Library Center and Bridwell Library of Perkins School of Theology.

15 The George W. Bush Presidential Center, consisting of Library, Museum and independent Institute, was
16 dedicated at SMU in April 2013, with all five living U.S. presidents participating. Under sponsorship of the Bush
17 Institute, symposia have been conducted on subjects that promote economic growth, education reform,
18 global health and human freedom. Dr. Eric Bing, a renowned expert on global health issues, is the first to hold
19 concurrent appointments as a new SMU faculty member and senior fellow of the Bush Institute.

20 SMU treasures its Methodist heritage, and we ask for your continued prayers and support.

21 R. Gerald Turner, President

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

22 When I accepted the offer to become president of Southwestern University in February 2013, I knew it was a
23 special place. But what I have found since I began work here last July has far exceeded my expectations.

24 In our faculty, I have found a creative, forward-thinking group of individuals who have enormous dedication to
25 our students and who are very open to new ideas for teaching and learning.

26 In our staff, I have found a very talented group of individuals who play a valuable role in providing exceptional
27 student support service and life-changing experiences for our students.

28 In our students, I have found a diverse group of young people who are engaged in the classroom, on the
29 playing field, in the arts and in the community.

30 And in our alumni, I have found individuals of all ages who continue to value the education they received at
31 Southwestern as well as the relationships they formed when they were here.

32 I also have been overwhelmed by the support the Georgetown community has shown for Southwestern, and I
33 am delighted to be working with a Board of Trustees that is committed to making Southwestern one of the
34 country's premier liberal arts colleges.

35 The presidential transition was only one of many important events for Southwestern University in 2013. A
36 long-planned trip to Italy over Spring Break 2013 turned into a once-in-a-lifetime experience for members of
37 the SU Chorale as the group arrived in Rome right after the selection of a new pope. The Chorale was the first
38 choir to sing mass in St. Peter's Basilica after the election of Pope Francis I.

39 Thanks in large part to the work of my predecessor, Jake B. Schrum (who is now president of Emory and Henry
40 College in Virginia), the University concluded its \$150 million *Thinking Ahead* campaign two years ahead of
41 schedule. Funds raised through the campaign have dramatically changed Southwestern – both academically
42 and physically. In June, Southwestern learned that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
43 Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) had reaffirmed its accreditation for another ten years, culminating a
44 reaccreditation process that took several years and literally hundreds of pages of documentation.

45 In August, Southwestern welcomed a record number of students, with overall enrollment hitting 1,536. Much
46 of this was due in part to the addition of football, which attracted nearly 100 new students.

Faculty Appointments

We also welcomed four new tenure-track faculty members for the 2013-14 academic year: Katherine Grooms, assistant professor of economics; Patrick Van Horn, assistant professor of economics; Michael Gesinski; assistant professor of chemistry; and Jessica Hower, assistant professor of history.

Two faculty members were named to endowed chairs in 2013: Dirk Early, professor of economics and associate dean of the Brown College of Arts and Sciences, was named to the Hugh Roy and Lillie Cullen Chair in Economics; and Emily Niemeyer, professor of chemistry, was named to the Herbert and Kate Dishman Chair in Science.

My longtime friend and fellow math professor Suzanne Buchele left Southwestern at the end of 2013 to return to Ghana as a missionary after having previously been there on a Fulbright Award in 2006-2008. Her missionary work will involve teaching one course a semester at Ashesi University and serving as the university's associate provost. Her husband will return to his work with a Methodist church in Ghana and serve the spiritual needs of the Ashesi community.

Academics

2013 brought the roll out of two exciting new academic programs at Southwestern.

In January 2013, we formally launched our HHMI-Southwestern Inquiry Initiative, which is being funded with a four-year, \$1.3 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The purpose of this initiative is to make the University's science and math classes more engaging and enriching for students through a technique known as inquiry-based learning, or student-centered learning. We were honored that one of our faculty members who has been leading this initiative was featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* in September 2013.

HHMI funding also allowed us to expand our summer science research program for students. In the summer of 2013, 31 students or recent graduates conducted research on campus through a new student-faculty collaborative research program called SCOPE.

In August 2013, we began offering classes in our first three "Paideia clusters." Paideia clusters are groups of classes in various disciplines that are connected with a common theme. Beginning in the fall of 2014, all new students at Southwestern will be required to take three courses from a Paideia cluster of their choice to meet some of their general education requirements. The first three Paideia clusters focus on gender, global public health, and the Mediterranean region. Six additional Paideia clusters are being developed for fall 2014.

In February 2014 we announced that Sherry Adrian, associate professor of education and holder of Dishman Endowed Professorship for Special Education, will serve as director of our Paideia program for the next three years. Professor Adrian has been involved with this program since the beginning.

In 2013, Southwestern announced a new minor in race and ethnicity studies, which incorporates classes from 14 disciplines.

In 2013, Southwestern received a \$700,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that will be used to help its students and faculty members exploit digital technologies and explore new approaches to learning and teaching. In response to student requests, our library is now available to students 24-hours-a-day when classes are in session.

Accolades

Southwestern received numerous accolades in 2013. Most noteworthy of these was the fact that we were ranked #1 in Texas and #7 in the country for Best Career/Job Placement Services in the 2014 edition of *The Best 378 Colleges*, which is published by The Princeton Review. Southwestern also was included in Kiplinger's 2014 list of the 100 top values in liberal arts colleges and was included in the 2014 *Guide to Military Friendly Schools*®.

Southwestern was one of only 113 schools in the country that were named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for 2013. And *Washington Monthly*, which rates schools based on their contribution to the public good, ranked Southwestern 43rd among liberal arts colleges in 2013.

We were also proud that The United Way of Williamson County selected Southwestern as its Volunteer Partner of the Year for 2013.

Faculty Achievements

Southwestern University faculty members also earned a variety of honors in 2013. For example:

- Seven Southwestern faculty members published books in 2013: Michael Cooper, professor of music, published the *Historical Dictionary of Romantic Music*; Alison Kafer, associate professor of feminist studies, published a book titled *Feminist, Queer, Crip*; Ed Kain, professor of sociology, co-authored a book titled *Applying for a Faculty Position in a Teaching-Oriented Institution*; Thom McClendon, professor of history, co-authored a book titled *The South Africa Reader: History, Culture, Politics*; Sandi Nenga, associate professor of sociology, co-authored *Sociological Studies of Children and Youth: Youth Engagement: The Civic-Political Lives of Children and Youth, Vol. 16*; Michael Saenger, associate professor of English, published a book titled *Shakespeare and the French Borders of English*; and Eric Selbin, professor of political science and University Scholar, had his book titled *Revolution, Rebellion, Resistance – The Power of Story* published in Arabic.
- Emily Niemeyer, professor of chemistry, was one of six women who were named Outstanding Texas Women in STEM by Girlstart, an organization that offers after-school programming to encourage girls in grades 4-8 to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
- Former President Jake B. Schrum received the 2013 Frank L. Ashmore Award for Service to CASE and the Advancement Profession given by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).
- Retired chemistry professor Robert Soulen was named a Fellow of the American Chemical Society.
- Kiyoshi Tamagawa, professor of music, received the 2013 Award for Outstanding Collegiate Teaching Achievement from the Texas Music Teachers Association.
- In November 2013, eight Southwestern faculty members received awards from the Sam Taylor Fellowship Fund, which provides monetary awards for the continuing education and development of full-time faculty members of United Methodist colleges and universities in Texas.
- Ben Pierce, a professor of biology and holder of the Lillian Nelson Pratt Chair in Biology, was selected to receive the 2013-2014 Exemplary Teaching Award from the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church.
- Five faculty members were selected to be Southwestern's first Community-Engaged Learning Fellows. The Community Engaged Learning Fellows Program is designed to help faculty members learn how to incorporate community-engaged learning into their classrooms and provides a \$1,400 faculty development award that faculty members can use for professional development, course development, and research. Faculty members who were selected as 2013-2014 Fellows were: Sherry Adrian, associate professor of education; Barbara Anthony, assistant professor of mathematics; Kathleen Juhl, professor of theatre; Joshua Long, assistant professor of environmental studies; and Maria Todd, associate professor of biology. In fall 2013, 12 courses at Southwestern had a component that involved community-engaged learning.

Student Achievements

Southwestern students also earned a variety of honors and awards in 2013. For example:

- 2013 graduates Colin Berr and Priscilla Hernandez received \$8,000 scholarships through the Sumners Scholarship Program to participate in programs in Washington, D.C., in summer 2013. Berr attended an Institute on Economics and International Affairs, and Hernandez participated in an Institute on Philanthropy and Voluntary Service. Southwestern students Ann Bransford, Lauren Gieseke, Lucero Pina, and Jay Scheinman were selected to receive Hatton W. Sumners Scholarships beginning in the fall of 2013. The scholarships are for \$5,000 per semester and are awarded to students based on their academic history, extracurricular activities, and leadership experience.
- Susana Contreras and Nathan Tuttle were chosen to participate in the American Sociological Association's 2013 Honors Program. The program selects "exceptional sociology students from throughout the country and the world" to participate in the American Sociological Association's annual meeting. A third Southwestern student, Megan Robinson, was also selected to participate in the program after winning second place in the 2013 competition for best undergraduate paper sponsored by Alpha Kappa Delta, the international honorary association in sociology.
- Sarah Dorer and Samantha Sada received a Student Research Award from Psi Chi, the national psychology honor society, for a paper they presented at the Southwestern Psychological Association conference held in April 2013.
- Three Southwestern students - Antonio Lopez, Jessica Parada, and Alan Ramos - received the highly competitive Benjamin Gilman International Scholarships from the U.S. Department of State to study abroad in the summer of 2013.
- 2013 graduate Alejandra Benitez received a fellowship to spend the 2013-2014 academic year teaching in France.

- Sophomore Adrienne Dodd was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State to spend the summer of 2013 studying at Xiamen University in Xiamen, China.
- Senior Paige Duggins was selected to receive the 2014 Academic Internship Student Achievement Award from the Cooperative Education and Internship Association (CEIA). Duggins is the fourth Southwestern student to receive this national award in the past eight years. No other school has had more than two students receive this award.
- Senior education major Katie Elder was one of three students selected statewide to receive a scholarship from the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators (TASPA) for the 2013-2014 school year. The scholarship honors the best teacher candidates in the state. Southwestern teacher education students have been awarded TASPA scholarships for the past 14 years, consistently besting students from other programs in the state.
- Senior physics major Vicente Estrada-Carpenter won the award for best undergraduate poster at the 2013 Fall Meeting of the Texas Section of the American Physical Society.
- 2013 graduate Kira McEntire tied for first place in the undergraduate competition for best oral presentation at the 116th Annual Meeting of the Texas Academy of Science.
- Jessica Olson, a senior with a double major in environmental studies and feminist studies, was selected to be a youth delegate to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the second year in a row. Olson also received a national award from the Sierra Club in September 2013.
- First-year student Sabrina Rangel was selected to participate in the prestigious Kemper Scholars Program, which prepares students at liberal arts colleges for leadership positions, especially in the fields of administration and business.
- 2013 graduate Katherine Tanner received a Rotary Global Grant to begin her graduate studies at Royal Holloway, which is part of the University of London.

Athletics

2013 was a historic year at Southwestern in terms of athletics. The Pirates fielded a football team for the first time in 63 years. Although the team ended the season without a win, several players earned individual accolades.

Other accolades earned by Southwestern athletes and coaches in 2013 included the following:

- Kinesiology major Katelyn Bartell was recognized by the Texas Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine as its 2013 Undergraduate Scholar, the highest honor for undergraduates in the chapter.
- Chelsea Leeder was the only player in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) to earn a spot on the D3hoops.com All-Region First Team for the South Region.
- 2013 graduate Rachel Thibodeau was selected to receive a prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. Thibodeau was the only student-athlete in the SCAC to receive the scholarship in 2013.
- Senior psychology major Lindsay Jaksza was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Women's All-Scholar Region Team.
- The men's golf team was selected to participate in the NCAA Division III championship for the first time in its history. The women's golf team also played in the NCAA tournament, and golf coach Dan Ruyle was named the SCAC women's Coach of the Year for the fourth time since 2007.
- The men's swimming coaching staff, led by head coach Jon Duncan, was named the 2013 SCAC Men's Staff of the Year during the SCAC Championships.
- The softball team won the SCAC championship and coach Angela Froboese was named SCAC Coach of the Year for fourth time in five years. Softball players Christina Crandall, Abigail O'Connor, Karen Ramirez and Caroline Young were named All-America Scholar Athletes by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.
- Daniel Tuttle earned the most individual points at the SCAC Track and Field Championship and was named the SCAC Men's Track and Field Athlete of the Year.
- Seniors Matthew Nickell, Daniel Poole, and Steven Resnik and were named to the NCAA Division III Men's All-West Region Soccer Team.
- Sixty-nine students from Southwestern made the SCAC's Student-Athlete Academic Honor Roll for the fall 2013 semester, placing Southwestern second behind only Trinity University.

Campus Construction Projects

In 2013, Southwestern completed construction of a new field house, practice fields, and track for our athletics teams. We also completed a new baseball locker room.

This spring, we plan to begin construction on Phase I of our new science center, which will be available for the 2015-2016 academic year.

1 ***Speakers and Symposia***

2 Southwestern brought a wide range of speakers to campus in 2013. World-renown primatologist Jane Goodall
3 delivered our 2013 Shilling Lecture, and novelist T. C. Boyle delivered our 2013 Writer's Voice lecture. In
4 February 2014, Southwestern is hosting some of the country's leading experts on health care for its 36th
5 annual Brown Symposium. NPR host Scott Simon will be delivering our 2014 Shilling Lecture in conjunction
6 with our presidential inauguration March 25.

7 ***In Conclusion***

8 I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to attend my inauguration and the Shilling Lecture
9 on March 25. Details of the inauguration's activities for the week can be found at
10 www.southwestern.edu/inauguration.

11 Respectfully yours,

12 Dr. Edward Burger, President and Professor

TEXAS UNITED METHODIST COLLEGE ASSOCIATION
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

13 The Texas United Methodist College Association embodies Jesus' admonition to "love God with our mind" and
14 Charles Wesley's entreaty "let us unite the pair as oft' disjoined, knowledge and vital piety".

15 From the founding of Kingswood School by John Wesley, it has been unthinkable for Methodists to fail to be a
16 "college-related church" with multiple "church-related colleges". And, as John Wesley "scholarshipped" the
17 students at Kingswood School, so do we, in the present age, provide scholarships to United Methodist
18 students in the state of Texas to attend one of our United Methodist schools. When we invest in Christian
19 higher education, we provide a "win/win/win" for our students, the church and our universities.

20 TUMCA ended one of its better fiscal years on January 31, 2014. The contributions of local congregations
21 increased over last year by 5%, which permitted an increased distribution to each of the four TUMCA schools.
22 With respect to all Annual Conferences in Texas, four of the five experienced increases and one remained
23 about the same.

24 In the fall of 2013 newspaper articles were prepared for each of the Annual Conference newsletters. In
25 addition to publicizing the work of TUMCA, each conference newsletter article contained the names of TUMCA
26 scholarship recipients, the university where they are enrolled, and their local congregation.

27 Also in the fall of 2013, as is our pattern, letters were sent to every congregation of each TUMCA scholarship
28 recipient informing the congregation that one of their own had received a TUMCA scholarship and asking each
29 pastor to make it possible for their TUMCA scholar to bring a three minute "thank you" witness to the
30 congregation. Students also received similar letters, including talking points. The "thank you" initiative is
31 dependent upon scholarship award names provided to the TUMCA office by each of our four schools.

32 The pastors of our TUMCA scholars are asked to report to the TUMCA office following a student witness. A
33 typical response is reflected in a letter from a pastor: "The congregation was very happy for Allie and grateful
34 to TUMCA for supporting her. They were glad to know their apportionment funds were helping her. We gave
35 a copy of your newsletter article to everyone in attendance."

36 The TUMCA office also receives letters and notes from our scholarship recipients. One wrote, "I wanted to let
37 you know how appreciative I am for the TUMCA scholarship. I will be the first in my family to graduate from
38 college". Another student wrote, "The TUMCA scholarship has allowed me to attend this great school where I
39 have grown intellectually and spiritually. I am involved in several campus clubs, chapel, honor society, work at
40 a job and am on track to graduate with *highest honors*! After graduation I hope to pursue a career in a non-
41 profit to help those who need it most in our world. Again, thank you for this wonderful gift. I will pay it
42 forward."

43 Not to be outdone, a parent's letter expressed gratitude, noting that his son has maintained a 4.0 grade point,
44 which the congregation applauded.

45 The TUMCA office has received letters from our scholarship recipients enrolled in each of our four schools.
46 Their gratitude is overwhelming and many of their stories are quite compelling.

47 Listed below are the TUMCA scholarship recipients from the Southwest Texas Conference.

48 Dan E. Solomon, President

1	Name	School	Home Church
2	Dennis Land	McMurry University	First UMC, Melvin
3	Madge Watson	Southwestern University	Coker UMC, San Antonio
4	Hayley Pickett	Southwestern University	Oak Hill UMC, Austin
5	Maegan Skinner	Southwestern University	Dripping Springs UMC, Austin

TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

6 Texas Wesleyan University has seen rapid, positive transformation in the last year. From campus
7 improvements, to a multimillion-dollar renovation project, to the University's smartest incoming class – Texas
8 Wesleyan is moving forward as a leader in critical thinking and education.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS:

9 For the fourth consecutive year, Texas Wesleyan University ranks in the No. 1 tier of regional universities in
10 the west by *U.S. News & World Report*.

11 In November, Texas Wesleyan broke ground on the Rosedale Renaissance. The Renaissance is a \$6.5 million
12 project designed to leverage more than \$32 million in private and public funding for the benefit of the
13 Polytechnic neighborhood and Texas Wesleyan. There are four key components to the revitalization, including
14 streetscape improvements, a new campus entryway, business accelerator center and The United Methodist
15 Church Central Texas Conference Service Center, which will also be home to the bishop's offices.

16 Texas Wesleyan is undergoing a campus update. More than 30 projects are underway that include new
17 sidewalks, landscaping and parking. These projects complement the Rosedale Renaissance project.

18 For the second consecutive year, the University's marketing and communications team garnered national
19 recognition for integrated marketing projects that build on the University's "Smaller. Smarter." message.
20 Texas Wesleyan won four Collegiate Advertising Award medals, including two golds.

21 The Welch Foundation approved a grant to Texas Wesleyan University's chemistry faculty in the amount of
22 \$30,000 from June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015 for chemistry research. The grant gives students an opportunity to
23 study chemistry outside of the structured way.

24 In November, The Ben Hogan Foundation and Texas Wesleyan University partnered to form the Ben Hogan
25 Foundation Mentor Scholarship, which will be awarded annually to a candidate from The First Tee of Fort
26 Worth to cover the full cost of tuition, fees and books.

27 To learn more about Texas Wesleyan, visit txwes.edu or follow us on Facebook at
28 facebook.com/TexasWesleyan.

29 **VITALIZING CONGREGATIONS VISION TEAM**

BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP

REPORT I
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

30 At Annual Conference of 2013, both conferences voted for moving into Unification. Changes were made in
31 how the conferences would work toward unification program-wise. The Transitional Uniting Table (TUT) was
32 created with members from both conferences. This group would handle programming previously cared for
33 through SWTX Annual Conference's Council on Ministries and Rio Grande Conference's Common Table. The
34 TUT met in August 2013 to get to know one another and to learn of different responsibilities that each person
35 would be responsible through 2014. We met in September 2013 and February 2014 to continue this work.

36 Those groups that fell under the umbrella of the former Board of Discipleship were many. Most have stayed
37 busy during this time of transition. Plans for future events are still being worked on.

38 Many thanks go to Mrs. Linda Keen, Leadership Development Director, and Mrs. Nan Pyle, Administrative
39 Assistant, for their continued support.

40 Terry Schoenert, TUT, Discipleship Ministries

REPORT II WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM

For Information Only

Called Session of Annual Conference – Rev. Paul Escamilla and Rev. Robert Lopez, along with others, planned a celebratory time of worship for our February 8 Called Session of Annual Conference this year. As the Southwest Texas and the Rio Grande conferences voted to approve the new name, RIO TEXAS, and that new conference's structure, you could feel the excitement in the room. The music and worship lifted the spirits of everyone in attendance.

2014 Adult Choral Workshop – This annual event was held January 31–February 1 at First UMC, Corpus Christi. Clinician was Mark Miller of Drew and Yale Universities. The participants numbered 186, including many first timers. Thanks go to Rev. David Miron, Design Team Chair, and Brad Kisner, Site Coordinator, Rev. Russell Miller and Rev. Don McAvoy for all their work on this workshop where many were blessed by their clinician and the fellowship of other choirs and musicians. Another Workshop is being planned for 2015.

Praise Music Workshop – On the horizon is the possibility of a workshop focused on praise music and geared for praise bands and worship leaders of praise worship. This workshop has not yet “gelled” and needs a committed leader and team who are willing to “make it happen.” Interested persons should contact Rev. Russell Miller, Linda Keen staff, or Terry Schoenert, TUT Rep.

REPORT III SPIRITUAL FORMATION TEAM *FOR INFORMATION ONLY*

As the TUT has worked through this year, so were many other groups working on projects and programs that encourage and support the process of transformation for those in our conferences.

Prayer Shawl Ministries – Shawls that are made by members of Southwest Texas Conference churches are brought to annual conference, prayed over and then given to families at the Memorial Service.

A Labyrinth has been available at Annual Conference for people to walk through and pray for their own needs and for the annual conference. The labyrinth, housed at Alamo Heights UMC, is taken care of by Rev. Donna Strieb. If your church or organization would like to use the labyrinth for an event, please contact Rev. Strieb at Alamo Heights UMC, San Antonio.

Academy for Spiritual Formation remains a very viable source of spiritual growth for the lay and clergy of our conferences. Rev. Sue Huntsman leads the oversight team for Five Day Academies in collaboration with the Upper Room Ministries Academy Program.

2014 Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation, held this year in January, was led by Rev. Taylor Boone at the Oblate Renewal Center in San Antonio. The theme was “Overcoming Fear Through Love” featuring Faculty Sister Kathleen Flood and Dr. Luther Smith. The event in 2015 is being planned by Rev. Nancy McDougal and will take place January 18-23 at the Oblate Renewal Center.

Two Year Academy for Spiritual Formation – Upper Room Ministries chose San Antonio as one of five host locations for the Two Year model of the Academy for Spiritual Formation. Academy #36 will be held in July this year. Applications can be downloaded from www.upperroom.org/academy. Nearly 50 Southwest Texas Conference laity and clergy have attended a Two Year Academy. Scholarships for lay and clergy persons are available through the Leadership Development Office.

REPORT IV CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION TEAM *FOR INFORMATION ONLY*

New Confirmation Resource – Under the leadership of Kercida McClain and Mrs. Barbara Dorff, the confirmation resource was completed and presented through a live webcast workshop on September 7. This event was held at Laurel Heights UMC in San Antonio. Both lay and clergy participated in the event, either at the church or through the webcast.

Parish Christian Educator School – PCE continues to be an outstanding educational opportunity for paid and volunteer staff at churches in need of training. Smaller church volunteer educators should visit with their pastor about ways that would make it easier for their participation as there are limited scholarships available.

PARISH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

REPORT I CHAIRPERSONS REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1 A joyous celebration for the District was the joining of West Texas Counseling and Guidance with several
2 locations in our churches. Offering the outreach programs in our communities provides much needed services
3 to individuals as well as families. The services are available at two San Angelo churches as well as our churches
4 in Brady, Menard, Sonora, Ozona and Mertzon. We also have new and or expanded Food Banks in our area
5 churches.

6 The "Adopt a School" program continues to reach out to our youth with nurturing and spiritual hope for a
7 brighter tomorrow. We believe the continued effort of "reaching beyond our church doors" has served our
8 congregations and communities well in seeking those in need.

9 We look forward with excitement to continue and create new ministries in the Rio Texas Conference.

10 Respectfully,

11 Gini Christian, Transitional Uniting Table, San Angelo District

COMMITTEE ON ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

12 The Ethnic Local Church Committee of the Southwest Texas Conference has the responsibility to provide
13 guidance and resources to assist churches of ethnic background with limited direct financial assistance in
14 order to stimulate interest in projects that have a high potential for enhancing the impact of ethnic ministries
15 for kingdom building by entering the mission fields and focusing on ethnic groups in all their diversity,
16 children, youth, young families, multilingual, multi-cultural persons, college students and older adults by
17 developing practical ways of living out the faith in the church and around the world. Five projects totaling
18 \$30,320.71 have been granted in the past year.

19 Reverend Robert E. Glenn, Chair

BOARD OF LAITY

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

20 During the past year, the Southwest Texas Annual Conference (SWTC) has been deeply involved with the Rio
21 Grande Annual Conference (RGC) in an exciting adventure...one that most United Methodists will never get
22 the chance to witness: The Birth of a New Annual Conference!

23 Representing the SWTC, I was privileged to attend the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders in March
24 2014. As I listened to a series of sessions led by Bishop Robert Schnase (who repeatedly referenced our
25 unification), I found further affirmation that what we are doing will go down in history as a blessed evolution
26 of the United Methodist Church in this area. With all that was going on during those four days, one of the
27 most exciting topics of discussion was the wonderful thing that was happening in Southwest Texas...two
28 annual conferences that are bold enough to step beyond comfort zones and traditions SO THAT the Christ
29 might be glorified!

30 While the Board of Laity has not existed as it has in the past, laity have been on the forefront of this process.
31 Lay leadership from every District and major organization has worked with the Unification Implementation
32 Team, Transitional Uniting Table, Board of Ordained Ministry, Cabinet, Joint Committee on Nominations, and
33 others in helping to structure the Rio Texas Annual Conference and set in place the resources and support that
34 the Districts will need to effectively reach their respective mission fields. The people who have spent countless
35 hours working on this transition have consistently demonstrated a degree of energy, passion, and sacrifice
36 that is obviously God-inspired!

37 The February 8th Called Session of the Annual Conferences, gave a much needed blessing to all that is to
38 follow. Coming together as two Annual Conferences, we celebrated, prayed, and voted to leave as a single
39 Body of Christ...the Rio Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church! This work should NOT be

seen as a mere administrative exercise. This brings to fruition a logical evolution that is Biblical and that prepares us to be even more ready to do ministry across the Rio Grande Episcopal Area. The senior lay leadership of the Rio Grande and Southwest Texas Annual Conferences met on April 26th to discuss the many possibilities that await us over the coming months.

Who we are, a people eager to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, has not and will not change. How we do it, however, has long needed some “tweaking”! Bishop Dorff has repeated reminded us that the Church is the only organization that exists for the sake of those who not yet among us. The Rio Texas Annual Conference will be much better at reaching those across the street, across the community, and beyond!

While I am thankful for the hundreds of SWTC and RGC laity and clergy who have brought us thus far in the transition, my hope lies in the thousands of us who will feel and respond to the urging of the Holy Spirit to take advantage of this opportunity and step out BOLDLY to spread the joy Christ throughout the diversity of mission fields that make up the Rio Texas Annual Conference.

May God continue to bless our work!

Ralph Thompson,
SWTC Annual Conference Lay Leader

JOINT COUNCIL ON CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- Goals**
- Opportunities for children to develop their discipleship
 - Resources for adults who work with children to enhance leadership skills
 - Resources to help local churches be aware of the needs of all children

In 2014, the Joint Council on Children's Ministries has focused on three major initiatives: a United Families Fiesta, Children's Summer Camps and the Preschool Ministries Conferences.

Uniendo Familias / United Families Fiesta will offer a joyful day of coming together by one faith and one God of us all at the El Divine Redentor UMC, McAllen, April 5, 2014. Free food, games, and special appearance by UM Rev. Mark Winters as “The Almost Amazing Marko.”

In 2014, **three camping opportunities** will be offered to develop discipleship in children as we develop leadership among adults who serve the camps:

- a three-day camp for children entering 3rd and 4th grade
- a four-day camp for children entering 5th and 6th grade
- a three-day M.A.D. (Music, Art. and Drama) camp for children entering 4th-6th grade.

The camps will be held at Mount Wesley with the theme, “Be a Hero: Living like Jesus.” For the first time, the M.A.D. camp will work to prepare a worship service rather than a musical. We look forward to the spiritual enrichment and creative worship training that will in turn bless our churches as a result of these camps.

The Joint Council works to make camp available to all children, especially those whose families are financially challenged, by encouraging contributions to **Advance Special #2021** and by assisting churches with fundraising ideas. We are grateful to receive funding from the **Nancy Miller Children's Endowment** to defray costs as well.

To equip and support our churches on a day-to-day basis, the Joint Council offers **Preschool Ministries Conferences** to provide training for state-required continuing education for staff of preschools, nurseries, day care, and Mother's Day Out programs. Noted counselor and educator Dr. Gail K. Roaten will be keynote speaker this year.

In addition to our plans for the summer and beyond, we are looking ahead to new possibilities for children's ministries in the Rio Texas Conference. We are collecting stories of best practices and finding out where the Spirit is at work in our churches through the reports of our mascot, **Paloma the white-winged dove**, who has been travelling around to the churches and publishing her reports at www.umcswtx.org/childrens-ministries.

Special thanks to Joint Council members Revs. Bill Duke and Esperanza Baltazar-Ramirez, Dr. Elsa Leggett, Mrs. Kerena Gonzalez, and Mrs. Kelly Duke.

Rev. Stella Zuniga Burkhalter, Chair

JOINT COUNCIL ON OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

REPORT I CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

"The glory of youth is their strength, but the beauty of the aged is their gray hair."

Proverbs 20:29

"Mythconception"

Growing old is no longer a synonymous with death. For many older adults, old age is not a time of disability or disease; instead is a time of generally good health. As people live longer and retire earlier, the post-retirement period can last 25-35 years or more. Unfortunately some churches express a "myth-conception" that if they engage in focused ministry by, with, and for older adults, they will soon have no congregation left. They do not realize that a church filled with older adult does not necessarily mean that it is dead or dying. Rather, churches may need to rethink and refocus their priority for ministry. Older adults want to continue contributing to future generations and to feel valued. Congregations with a strong focus on older adult ministries realize that the wealth of experience, wisdom, and faith that often abound in older persons should not be lost or underutilized. [Adapted from *S.E.N.I.O.R.S. Ministry*, GBOD]

As a new generation of children emerges and the older adult population is in growth, it is time to turn our attention to how churches can effectively be in ministry across the generations. Multi-generational congregations are best equipped to connect with a diversity of people as they share faith in Jesus Christ. [Gen2Gen: *Sharing Jesus Across the Generations*, Miller, et.al.]

Older adult membership in the United Methodist Church is growing rapidly. In the past, the role of older people in congregations was limited, either by choice or circumstances. Congregations often viewed older adults as a liability rather than emphasizing the potential for a renewed or visionary ministry. Many of the myths and stereotypes of aging and older persons are changing.

As a result of better health care, nutrition, and job safety, many more Americans are living into older adulthood. Each local church is called to become aware of the needs and interests of older people in the congregation and in the community, and to express Christian love through person to person understanding and caring; intentionally sponsor ministries in institutions designed to meet the needs of older adults. [Excerpt from *A Statement on Aging* brochure from GBOD]

On November 4, 2013 the Joint Council on Older Adult Ministries convened to consider and create new strategies for all older adult ministries that will reach the mission field. To fulfill the work, the council has created a self-survey for congregations to identify the needs, concerns, potential contributions of older adults, and plan their ministries accordingly. Churches are asked to take the time and answer the survey posted on the Southwest Texas Conference and the Rio Grande Conference web pages. This will give insights to your planning for intentional ministry.

The council also plans to have three strategically-located training events in the year 2015. The purpose of the events is to equip and train older adults for new roles in the ministry and mission of the Church, provide information on resources, materials, ideas and websites available to plan for intentional older adult ministry. Please watch for more information to come.

Martha Valle, Chair

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES VISION TEAM

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Rio Grande / SWTX Conference Board of Global Ministries relates to the General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC, the "missional instrument of the United Methodist Church." This includes promoting mission work, education, evaluating, communicating and cultivating the programs of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Our conference board of ministries spent much of the year celebrating the work of the Unification Implementation Team and the Transitional Uniting Table and their emphases on our churches' involvement

1 with our mission fields. The board has worked closely with the UIT and the TUT to help them plan a future
2 structure that will help our local churches meet, serve, and be in community with their mission fields.

3 The team also spent a significant portion of the year planning the March 2014 Mission Matters Conference.
4 The conference was the first major undertaking for the new Rio Texas conference. The workshop featured
5 well-respected keynote speakers who discussed what it means to be a missional church. The workshop also
6 had breakout sessions from several successful ministries throughout the new conference so those ministries
7 could share their experiences with attendees.

8 The team also worked to integrate the Conference mission Advance program and the 5 Star Church program
9 into the new conference.

10 The board is also in awe of the amount of work being done on the local church level. We are aware of the
11 work locally, and we have generally been aware that our churches work outside the borders of the United
12 States. However, at the request of the larger church, the team worked to compile a list of international
13 missions being supported in our districts and at the local church level. The response was overwhelming. Our
14 churches support ministries all over the world. These programs address anti-poverty measures, education,
15 health care, drinking water, food and more.

16 But the board is not satisfied with the status quo. The board is looking forward to what the board and our
17 local churches can accomplish in our mission fields, both here and beyond.

18 Brooks Schuelke, Co Chair

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

19 The work of the CBCS has continued by reaching out to those known to have worked in the area from both
20 Conferences.

21 A grant was supported and awarded for "Valley Interfaith", and work with the MFSA in the Austin area has
22 continued and supported a presentation at the Annual Conference for a luncheon and speaker on the death
23 penalty.

24 We are seeking out other agencies to partner with and will count on District support for reaching out to the
25 specific needs and agencies in the respective communities.

26 Please communicate any known contacts for the CBCS from your district to the Chair (to be elected at
27 Conference) in order to compile a list of resources and provide support.

28 Edward Garcia, Chair

COMMITTEE ON THE ADVANCE

REPORT I

ADVANCE GIVING AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

29 In 2013, churches in the Southwest Texas Conference sent Advance gifts for 216 separate mission projects to
30 the General Board of Global Ministries, totaling \$808,023.69. In 2013, churches in the Rio Grande Conference
31 sent Advance gifts for 12 separate mission projects to Global Ministries, totaling \$6,088.85. Together, United
32 Methodists in the San Antonio area contributed more than three quarters of a million dollars for disaster
33 relief, community development, missionary support, community centers, clean water, mosquito nets,
34 children's ministries, and dozens of other needs in the United States and around the world. Praise God for this
35 generosity of mission giving!

36 Every mission project approved as an Advance in the San Antonio Area, whether at the district or conference
37 level, is listed in an online project catalog. The catalog and general information about the Five Star program
38 are found at <http://www.umcswtx.org/page514633.html>. Churches are encouraged to continue growing in
39 mission giving and mission outreach through participation in the Five Star program.

40 Churches are also encouraged to continue and to strengthen their vital efforts to serve the mission field right
41 outside their doors.

There are over 300 Global Ministries missionaries serving in over 60 countries who are supported through Covenant Relationships. Thirteen of them are assigned to the Southwest Texas Conference and receive full or partial support from SWTX churches:

- Marsha Alexander, serving in Baguio City, Philippines, as a professor at Asbury College
- Willie Berman, serving in Reynosa, Mexico, as director of the Mexican Methodist Border Mission
- Clara Biswas, serving in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, as a community worker with street children
- Beatrice Gbanga, serving in Sierra Leone, in health ministry
- Becky Harrell, serving as Mission Interpreter in Residence in the South Central Jurisdiction
- Bill Lovelace, serving in Lithuania, as a pastor and district superintendent
- Helen Lovelace, serving in Lithuania, as director of diaconal ministry
- Tendai Manyeza, serving in Mutare, Zimbabwe, as administrator of Old Mutare Mission Hospital
- Stephen Newnum, serving in Maringa, Parana, Brazil, as a professor at Methodist Center for Education and Training
- Gaston Ntambo, serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as a pilot with Wings of the Morning aviation ministry
- Jeanne Ntambo, serving in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as a radio operator with Wings of the Morning aviation ministry
- David Pascua, serving in Cavite, Philippines, as dean and professor at Union Theological Seminary
- Meridith Whitaker, serving in Cookson Hills, Oklahoma, as director of Cookson Hills Center

During 2013, missionaries Marsha Alexander and Tendai Manyeza itinerated throughout the conference, bringing mission to life through their stories and witness. In 2014, we will welcome Dakin Cook and Sara Flores, David Pascua, Juan Guerrero and Alejandra Castro, Dora Canales, Helen and Bill Lovelace, and Fresie and Rukang Chikomb to our churches in the San Antonio area.

Interested in becoming a missionary yourself? There are various categories of short-term and long-term adult and young adult mission service opportunities for people who feel called by God. They are described on the General Board of Global Ministries web site (<http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/connections/missionaries/>).

Sandy Wilder

swilder@texas.net

REPORT II FIVE STAR CHURCHES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

29 ***Austin District***

Aust: First	Haynie Chapel	Northwest Hills	St. Luke
Bastrop	La Grange	Oak Hill	St. Mark's
Berkeley	Lake Travis	Prairie Lea	St. Paul's
Bethany	Leander	Pflugerville	Tarrytown
Cedar Park	Lockhart: First	San Marcos: First	University
Crestview	Luling: Wm Taylor	San Marcos: Jackson Chapel	Wesley
Dripping Springs	Lytton Springs	Simpson	Westlake
Elgin	Manor	Smithville	Wimberley
Grace	Memorial	St. John's	

30 ***Corpus Christi District***

Aransas Pass	Fashing	Mathis	Runge
Banquete	George West	Nixon	Sinton
Beeville: First	Goliad	Nixon: Harris Chapel	Skidmore
Beeville: Jones Chapel	Goliad: Fannin St.	Odem	Smiley
Bishop	Grace	Pawnee	St. John's
CC: First	Ingleside	Robstown	St. Paul
Cuero	Island in the Son	Rockport	St. Peter's by the Sea

Taft	Three Rivers	Wesley	Yorktown
1 Kerrville District			
Bertram	Fredricksburg	Lampasas	Sabinal
Blanco	Highland Lakes	Leakey	San Saba
Boerne	Hondo	Liberty Hill	Uvalde
Carrizo Springs	Johnson City	Lometa	Walnut
Center City	Kempner	Medina Valley	Yancey
Center Point	Kerrville: First	New Fountain	
Devine	Lakehills	Pearsall	
2 McAllen District			
Bruni	Hebbronville	McAllen: First	San Benito
Falfurrias	La Feria	Mission	
Freer	Laredo	RGCity: St. John	
3 San Angelo District			
Art	Del Rio	Paint Rock	Sonora
Barksdale	Junction	Robert Lee	Sterling City
Brackettville	Mason	San Ang: First	Veribest
Brady	Mertzon	Sierra Vista	Wesley
Castell	Ozona	St. Luke	
4 San Antonio District			
Bulverde	E.T. Dixon	New Braunfels	St. Andrew's
Canyon Lake	Floresville	North Shore	St. Mark's
Chapel Hill	Helotes Hills	Northwest Hills	St. Matthews
Christine	Jourdanton	Oak Island	St. Paul
Coker	La Vernia	Oxford	Travis Park
East St. Paul	Laurel Heights	Resurrection	Trinity
Epworth	Lytle	Sanford Chapel	
5 Victoria District			
Altair: Wesley Chapel	Ganado	Louise	Shiner
Belmont	Garwood: Lehrer Memorial	Monthalia	Telferner
Dewville	Gonzales: Evan's Chapel	Mossy Grove	Victoria: First
Edna	Gonzales: Henson Chapel	Palacios	Victoria: Webster Chapel
El Campo: First	Hallettsville	Point Comfort	Waelder
El Campo: St Paul	Hallettsville: Richardson Chapl.	Schulenburg: First	Yoakum
El Campo: Wesley Chapel	Hope	Steven's Chapel	
Fannin	Kingsbury	Seguin, First	
Freyburg	Lolita	Seguin, Wesley Harper	

REPORT III
DISTRICT (1000's) ADVANCE SPECIALS
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

FUND #	<u>AUSTIN DISTRICT</u>
1102	Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT)
1104	FreeStore: An Outreach of The UMC
1106	Wesley Foundation of Austin

- 1113 Montopolis Friendship Community Center
- 1115 PET Project of Austin
- 1120 Barnabas Connection
- 1123 The Care Communities Care Team Program
- 1124 Caritas of Austin
- 1129 Austin Habitat Methodist Build 2013

CORPUS CHRISTI DISTRICT

- 1201 Corpus Christi Metro Ministries, Inc.
- 1207 Live Oak Outreach, Inc.
- 1216 Mission of Mercy Texas Mobile Medical Program
- 1217 Wesley Community Center - Corpus Christi
- 1218 Wesley Community Center - Robstown

KERRVILLE DISTRICT

- 1301 Habitat for Humanity Kerr County
- 1304 The Helping Center of Marble Falls Area, Inc.
- 1306 Blanco Good Samaritan Center
- 1310 The Good Samaritan Center
- 1311 Kerr County Area Christian Assistance Ministry
- 1312 Mission: Border Hope

McALLEN DISTRICT

- 1406 Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.
- 1409 Women Together Foundation, Inc.
- 1410 PET Project of the Rio Grande Valley
- 1420 Colonia Ministries
- 1421 Local Food Pantries of the McAllen District
- 1422 United Methodist Campus Ministry of the Rio Grande Valley
- 1423 Justice for Our Neighbors South Texas
- 1425 McAllen District Special Mission Outreach

SAN ANGELO DISTRICT

- 1503 Ozona Community Center
- 1506 Wesley Campus Ministries - San Angelo, Texas
- 1507 Open Door Ministries
- 1510 Steady Steps Children's Weekday Ministry

SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT

- 1601 Christian Assistance Ministry
- 1602 San Antonio Food Bank
- 1604 Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program
- 1605 San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, Inc. (SAMM)
- 1609 San Antonio United Methodist Campus Ministry
- 1614 The Cross-Health Ministries
- 1618 Church Connections
- 1619 Corazon Ministries Inc. (CMI)
- 1620 Hispanic Religion Partnership for Community Health

1621 Magdalena House

VICTORIA DISTRICT

1701 Cathedral Oaks Worship and Retreat Center

1703 Victoria District Missions

1710 Lighthouse 2911

1711 Christian Cupboard

**REPORT IV
CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIALS
*FOR INFORMATION ONLY***

FUND #

2005 Kingdom Kamp

2007 Mission Service Project

2013 Academy for Spiritual Formation Scholarship

2016 Methodist Border Friendship Commission

2017 Higher Education Scholarships / Merit Scholarships

2021 Children's Camperships

2023 Kairos Prison Ministry International - Texas Chapter (Kairos of Texas)

2026 U.M. Army - SWTX

2027 Deaf Ministry

2030 Youth Camp Scholarships

2035 Bishop's Disaster Fund

2038 Russia Initiative

2041 Southwest Texas Conference Volunteers in Mission (VIM)

2046 Church Word Service/ CROP

2048 "Then Sings My Soul" A scholarship endowment

2050 Southwest Texas Conference Disaster Response Fund

2051 Mt. Wesley Conference Center

2053 SWTX Missionary Itineration

3900 Imagine No Malaria

**JOINT NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES
*FOR INFORMATION ONLY***

1 There are 120 Native Americans recorded in the Southwest Texas UMC Conference. A breakdown by its
2 seven districts are: Victoria-1, Corpus Christi-13, San Antonio-42, Austin-17, Kerrville-21, McAllen-22 and San
3 Angelo-4. These are the numbers which had been given to me. These members are a part of various
4 congregations in their churches. When inquiring of how many churches offered outreach to the Native
5 Americans, only one church could be accounted for. This was the First UMC of Austin. In speaking to a couple
6 of its members, their outreach program extended to the Four Corners region in New Mexico. Four Corners
7 refers to the point where four of our states come together. These states include Arizona, Utah, New Mexico
8 and Colorado. Several years ago a couple mentioned a church in Ship rock, New Mexico. This is in a Navajo
9 community close to the town of Four Corners. This church was in need of repairs and similar services so a
10 mission team went out to this church and has been returning there for the past 12 years to assist with church
11 and parsonage repairs, vacation bible school and to work with the youth. Each time this relationship has been
12 strengthened due to their return visits, (at one time when their youth leaders no longer were working in their
13 church) FUMC Austin applied for grant money to bring their youth to Austin for a week in a sort of 'exchange

visit' with these Navajo youth and their adult chaperones. They would come and help during vacation bible school time and FUMC Austin would host their events, itinerary, worship, site seeing, tours, etc. while they were here in Texas. This reach out extension has occurred about three years.

Enclose is a breakdown of the budget which has been associated with Native Americans ministries in the Southwest Texas Conference.

In the Rio Grande Conference UMC conference, there are no recorded Native Americans in our churches. However, I knew of an affiliation of two Rio Grande churches Emanu-el and Agape Memorial with a Native American church in my hometown of Dallas; and because of this, I had been selected to give this report since I am also a Silver Feather.

In Dallas, Texas, we have one church of Native American congregants. The name of the church is Dallas Indian UMC and they belong to the Indian Missionary Oklahoma Conference. In speaking to the a couple of its members, this church was developed as a result of the Relocation Plan in the 1950's where Native Americans from Oklahoma volunteered to be relocated to other cities off the reservations in Oklahoma. This is how Dallas Indian UMC was formed some 75 years ago. It started as members from various tribes got together to worship in different homes. Then a home was found where they met for worship all the time. At that time they were a mission church but eventually the church delegates asked their church conference to be recognized as a church. This is how the church officially began in 1960. Around 1969-1970, the present site was purchased. It had formerly been a Church of Christ church. There was a need to house within their congregational building a health and dental clinic. This church, located in the Oak Cliff area of Dallas, became the center of gathering for reasons other than worship and it strongly built a sense of internal pride and ownership in their newly found community and facility.

Today, the health and dental clinics have been moved twice to other locations in Dallas but the congregation works hard at maintaining their facility and programs. To some their building may appear to be dated, but little by little they have been making physical improvements as their budget allows. About two months ago, they experienced a major setback in their church as over \$3,500 worth of auditory equipment was stolen from the sanctuary during a break in. This really created a huge wedge in their positive direction of mission yet it did not get them down. I would hear objective comments like "If they really needed it, then I hope they use it" or "God Bless them" or "We have already forgiven them for what they have done to us." Their hearts are humble, sincere and solid.

How do I know about this church? Well Gilbert R Escamilla, Sr. use to attend a men's Tri-Council annual meeting there every August with UMM from their church, the two Rio Grande churches in Dallas and members from the North Texas Conference. Saturdays were my catch up days since I worked all the time as a public school educator and administrator. Then years later, as an officer for the UMW of the Rio Grande Conference, I met a woman from this church in Kansas at a Regional School of Mission. A friendship sparked out of that introduction. She later would start inviting me to special events at their church such as Valentine Banquet, revivals, Chili cook offs, fried bread fundraisers and just to church to worship with them or attend their bible studies. That's how I became a Silver Feather. This church now prides themselves, according to their Bishop Robert Hayes, as being the number one church in their conference in Giving, Programs and Attendance. They are now a self-supporting church since the late 80's which ranks them at the top of 3 self-supporting churches of 80 churches among the Indian Missionary Oklahoma Conference covering four states: Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri and Kansas.

I consider myself to be an affiliate member of this church. Other than being a Silver Feather, on occasion I help out at their Sunday night worship services and special events as their pianist; participate in their Unity Week services as a lay speaker, VBS, etc. Their congregation is not very large but it consists of about 12 to 13 tribes of Native American Methodist. I truly enjoy worshipping and fellowshipping with them. I would like for this Transitional Unification Team to consider using Native American funds to assist this church with their long term planning of repairs needed for their second story classrooms and a face lift in the sanctuary. Currently the rooms upstairs are not being used because so much needs to be done to them. I suggest that VIM teams could come to Dallas to give them a helping hand.

1 They (this church) are not asking for any assistance but I am asking this for them. Possibly this could be one of
2 our Focus mission thrusts as we formulate the structure of our new Rio Texas. We speak of diversity but how
3 are we putting this word into action? This church has a key quality of teaching us a lesson of how some 13
4 tribes can come together all of these years to become one of God's church blended in Faith, Cause and Love
5 smiling and receiving others graciously. Attached is a brochure of their church which I took the liberty of
6 attaching. Their new pastor since June, 1913, is a proactive, energetic, friendly and outgoing individual and
7 eloquent speaker: Rev J.B. Jackson. When you call, tell him Helen sent you.

8 Helen Marie Escamilla

JOINT FINANCE TABLE

REPORT I

ITEMS ADOPTED AT THE FEBRUARY 8 CALLED SESSION

FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

9	Meeting Reimbursements	Unification Plan Pages 79 – 80
10	Calculation of Apportionments	Unification Plan Pages 75 – 76
11	Equitable Compensation Policies	Unification Plan pages 81 – 110
12	Integrity of Restricted Funds	Unification Plan pages 111 – 112

REPORT II

EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

13 The minimum salary adopted by the 2013 Southwest Texas and Rio Grande Conferences for local pastors for 2014 is
14 changed retroactive to January 1, 2014 to \$31,290.

15 The 2015 minimum salary schedule adopted on February 8, 2014 (Unification Plan lines 39-41 on page 81) is
16 changed to:

- 17 • Full or Probationary Member is changed from \$37,000 to \$38,000
- 18 • Associate member is changed from \$34,200 to \$35,200
- 19 • Local Pastor or Member of Another Denomination is changed from \$31,100 to \$32,100

20 The following sentence is added to page 85, line 41:

- 21 • Describe the mission field to which the church or charge is called to relate and what specific missional goals,
22 strategies, and plans does the church or charge have for reaching that missional field.

REPORT III

AUTHORITY OF THE FINANCE TABLE TO RESPOND TO UNFORESEEN FINANCIAL SITUATIONS

FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

23 The Finance Table has the authority to adjust the budget implementation on the basis of changing economic
24 conditions and unforeseen circumstances as authorized in the 2012 Book of Discipline ¶¶613.5 -- 613.11 and ¶¶616 -
25 - 618.

REPORT IV

SUPPORT FOR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS AND OTHER CABINET LEVEL POSITIONS

FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

30 The Joint Finance Table is recommending that the salary and benefits for the Río Texas Conference District
31 Superintendents and other cabinet level positions be set equal to that adopted by the Southwest Texas Conference in
32 2014.

1 **Compensation**

- 2 • Cash salary is set at \$99,976 per annum
- 3 • Clergy Retirement Security Plan, Comprehensive Protection Plan, Health Benefits, and utilities shall vary
- 4 according to their actual cost. Contributions to the Personal Investment Plan, either personal or tax deferred,
- 5 are included in salary. *Travel*
- 6 • The Conference shall provide an automobile to each District Superintendent for use in his/her work. Included in
- 7 this benefit is the payment by the Conference of the actual cost of gasoline, maintenance, tires, repairs and
- 8 insurance.
- 9 • Maintenance and proper care of the automobile is the responsibility of the person to whom it is assigned. The
- 10 Conference shall insure the automobile under the Conference Policy. In case of accident the deductible shall be
- 11 paid by the Conference through the appropriate Conference fund.
- 12 • The automobile shall be used only for church purposes, commuting to and from the office, and other minimal
- 13 personal use as defined in IRS regulation 1.274-6T. Commuting and personal use shall be reimbursed to the
- 14 Conference at the IRS approval rate (\$0.56 per mile on January 1, 2014).
- 15 • The expense for gasoline, oil and necessary repairs shall be included in the \$0.56 per mile charge for use of the
- 16 automobile. Travel by public transportation, when approved by the Cabinet, shall be charged to the
- 17 Superintendent's expense budget.
- 18 • When a Conference car is used for transportation, where travel expense is paid by another agency other than
- 19 the Annual Conference, the District Superintendent shall reimburse the Conference the amount received.
- 20 • When a District Superintendent must travel out of Conference by air, actual cost shall be reimbursed. A
- 21 request for \$6,000 is made for this purpose. A majority of the entire Cabinet shall approve any air travel prior
- 22 to tickets being purchased.
- 23 • The request for the automobile program is \$15,143 per year per District from the District Superintendent's
- 24 Fund.

25 **Other Expense**

- 26 • The Conference shall provide funds for lodging and meals in an amount of \$48,000 for the total of all
- 27 Superintendents.

28 **The Scope of the Work Related to Expense**

- 29 • It is understood that the automobile may be used and the room and meal expenses be claimed for any occasion
- 30 related to the District work. This shall include expenses (not reimbursed by other agencies) incurred inside or
- 31 outside our Conference as long as the expenses are incurred because attendance at said function was required
- 32 as a District Superintendent. This includes meetings of the Cabinet.
- 33 • Method of Reimbursement: Each Superintendent shall submit to the Conference Treasurer the receipts or
- 34 charge slips for gasoline, oil, lodging, meals and other reimbursable expenses on a monthly basis. These
- 35 expenses shall be submitted on a form approved by the Finance Table.

36 **Expenses to be provided by the Districts**

- 37 • Office space, office telephone (including long distance), postage, secretarial service, printing, office
- 38 utilities and insurance on furniture and equipment if applicable, library and periodical expenses,
- 39 entertainment related to the district, and other normal expenses related to the superintendency not paid
- 40 by the annual conference.
- 41 • All of the above items shall be paid directly by the District Treasurer upon presentation of the statements.

- 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.)
- The district shall not provide funds to the District Superintendent for expenses provided by the Annual Conference.

REPORT V
2015 APPORTIONMENTS
For Conference Action

Fund Name	RIO TEXAS
General and Jurisdictional	2,685,046
Conference Benevolences	3,163,991
Conference Administration	934,000
Ministerial Support	1,453,064
Pension and Benefits	1,880,000
District Ministries	700,000
Total	10,816,101

REPORT VI
DIVISION OF APPORTIONMENTS
FOR CONFERENCE ACTION

General and Jurisdictional	Amount
GC: Africa University	40,533
GC: Black College Fund	181,145
GC: General Administration Fund	159,658
GC: General Episcopal Fund	396,710
GC: Interdenominational Cooperation	35,531
GC: Ministerial Educational Fund	454,101
GC: World Service	1,322,710
SCJ: Lydia Patterson	54,455
SCJ: Mission and Administration Fund	25,504
SCJ: Mount Sequoyah	13,022
SCJ: SMU Campus Ministry	1,677
General and Jurisdictional Total	2,685,046

Conference Benevolences	Amount
Staffing	1,256,217
Uniting Table	5,000
Vitalizing Congregations Vision Team	572,278
Developing Leaders Vision Team	717,596
Administration Team	5,000

Uniting People Vision Team	147,300
Transforming Communities Vision Team	25,000
United Methodist Center Maintenance	150,000
Golden Cross	8,000
Huston Tillotson University	20,600
Investigations/Emergency Response	7,000
Cabinet Emergency Response	40,000
Benevolence Interpretation	8,000
Contingency for Transition	200,000
Commission on Archives & History	2,000
Conference Benevolences Total	3,163,991
Conference Administration	Amount
Annual Conference Session	136,000
Auditing	84,000
General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegates	9,000
Journal	18,000
Mt. Wesley Conference Center	150,000
Salary Reserve	85,000
Treasurer's Office	452,000
Administration Total	934,000
Ministerial Support	Amount
District Superintendents Fund	1,015,564
Episcopal Office Support	47,500
Equitable Salaries	150,000
Moving Expense	240,000
Ministerial Support Total	1,453,064
Pensions and Benefits	1,880,000
District Ministry paid by Conference	700,000

1

REPORT VII UNDERSTANDING THE APPORTIONMENTS *FOR INFORMATION ONLY*

2 The apportionments are structured to support the new Rio Texas Conference as designed by the actions of the
3 February 8, 2014 Called Session of both the Rio Grande and the Southwest Texas Conference. As expected, there are
4 substantial savings in a number of areas when compared to the amount apportioned by the 2 previous conferences
5 even after adjusting the Rio Grande Conference 2014 apportionment to account for only 60 churches.

- 6 • Conference Administration is decreased by \$163,221
- 7 • Ministerial Support is decreased by \$136,901
- 8 • Pension and Benefits is decreased by \$726,526

9 Assuming that the district apportionments are no more than 2014 less \$100,000 per district, the entire
10 apportionment amount is lower than the 2014 amount by \$613,847.

11 The method of funding the district offices and their mission and ministry is a hybrid of the two conferences. There
12 is a conference apportionment of \$700,000 (\$100,000 for each district) while each district has the option to add
13 an additional district apportionment that will be divided only among the churches in that district. Some Districts
14 will vote on this at the district meeting to be held during the annual conference session. Others will meet during
15 June or July to vote on this amount. In the Southwest Texas Conference in 2014 there was a total of \$1,447,539

1 apportioned to the various districts. It is the hope of the Joint Finance Table that the amounts of the District
2 Apportionments will reflect the fact that the Conference is apportioning \$100,000 for each district and lower their
3 own apportionment accordingly.

4 The Pension and Benefit apportionment is significantly lower reflecting the change in Health Benefit funding. It is
5 hoped that this significant reduction will allow churches to respond by either paying the entire cost of the
6 remaining cost of health benefit coverage or increasing their pastor's salary recognizing that this change has
7 been made.

8 The Conference Benevolences budget has been designed to provide the maximum flexibility to the new structure in
9 its first year. Amounts that have previously been individual line items are now included in the amount for the various
10 vision teams. All salaries for staff previously funded by Conference Benevolences are now put into one line
11 item which will be used by the Personnel Committee to fund the new staff plan which has not been announced
12 at the time of this writing. A new line item called Transition Contingency with a budget of \$200,000 has been
13 included in the Conference Benevolence budget. This will be administered by the Finance Table and used to fund
14 areas where our current estimate of need under the new structure is not adequate.

15 The Finance Table is pleased to present a budget that both significantly decreases the total amount apportioned
16 to the local churches and provides adequately for the new Rio Texas Conference and its emerging structure.

REPORT VIII
CLERGY COMPENSATION
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

17 The compensation of the clergy appointed to the charges of the Southwest Texas Conference and to the
18 Conference itself as of July 1, 2014 (Effective Date of Appointment Changes) will be printed in the 2014 Journal.
19 The compensation of the clergy appointed charges of the Rio Texas Conference and to the Conference itself will
20 be printed in the 2015 Journal.

REPORT IX
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

21 The audit work on the Southwest Texas Conference 2012-2013 financial statements has been completed. The
22 audit work on the Rio Grande Conference 2012-2013 is scheduled for May, 2014. The final statements will not
23 be issued until after the meeting of the Audit Committee. A draft will be available for annual conference and the
24 audited financial statements will be entered into the Journal.

BOARD OF PENSIONS

REPORT I
ITEMS ADOPTED AT THE FEBRUARY 8 CALLED SESSION
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

25	Comprehensive Protection Plan	Unification Plan Pages 65 -- 66
26	Pre-82 Service	Unification Plan Pages 65-68
27	Retiree Health Benefit Plan	Unification Plan pages 67 -- 68
28	Active Clergy Health Benefit Plan	Unification Plan pages 69 -- 72
29	Clergy Retirement Security Program Defined Benefit	Unification Plan pages 71 -- 72
30	United Methodist Personal Investment Plan	Unification Plan pages 73 -- 74
31	Structure of the Board of Pensions	Unification Plan pages 73 -- 74

REPORT II
2015 PRE-82 PAST SERVICE RATE
FOR JOINT CONFERENCE ACTION

32 ❖ The Past Service Rate for 2015 will be \$648 per year of annuity credit in one of the parent conferences of
33 the Río Texas Conference

REPORT III
RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO RENTAL/HOUSING ALLOWANCES FOR RETIRED OR
DISABLED CLERGY PERSONS OF THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE
FOR JOINT CONFERENCE ACTION

The Southwest Texas Conference and the Río Grande Conference (the "Conferences") adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergypersons of the two Conferences:

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conferences (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to

designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conferences and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the "Discipline"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the years 2014 and 2015 by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conferences, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and that the pension severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conferences or that an active, a retired, terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conferences rendered to any local church, annual Conferences of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

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

REPORT IV
2015 COMPREHENSIVE FUNDING PLAN
FOR INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCE ACTION

The Southwest Texas and Rio Grande Conference boards are in conversation with the General Board of Pensions regarding how this report shall be prepared for the merging conferences.

REPORT V
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE
BOARD OF PENSIONS OF THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The 2013-2015 Financial statements of the Board of Pensions of The Southwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church are in the annual audit process as this report is being prepared. The Audited Statements will be available at the 2015 annual conference session and will be printed in the 2015 Southwest Texas Conference Journal.

**REPORT VI
SPECIAL GRANTS
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

During 2013 a special grant was given by the Board of Pensions of The Southwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church to Shirley Johnson.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**REPORT I
ABANDONED PROPERTY
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

The following guidelines are established for the disposition of abandoned property after it has been turned over to the Conference Board of Trustees in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*:
All property will be listed for sale, but pending sale, may be leased by the Conference Board of Trustees under terms as established for each property;
All properties are to be appraised prior to sale;
Public notice will be given at least thirty (30) days prior to announcement of sale (Discipline ¶2541.1);
The terms and selling price of the property is to be determined by the Conference Board of Trustees.

Austin District

Boxville Methodist Episcopal Church - acres between Vienna and Speaks, Highway 530, South, 1982 Journal, page 210
Light's Chapel – 1982 Journal, page 210.
Osage Methodist Church –Highway 201 North; 1982 Journal, page 210
Helena – on Highway 80; no other information available.
Union Hill – Discontinued in 1995
Rutersville Cemetary – 1980 Journal, page 147.

Corpus Christi District

Floyd's Chapel – South of Cost, Texas between Farm Roads 108 and 1116.
Wrightsboro – 9 ½ miles south of Nixon, Texas on Highway 97; this may be the Union Hill Church on the Luling Charge
Gillette – Gillette, Texas on Highway 80; 1967 Journal, page 162.
Falls City – lot #6, block 28; 1971 Journal, page 163.
Westhoff – 1985 Journal, page 220.
Rancho – Highways 97 and 80; one mile north of Nixon, Texas.
Seal's Chapel – three miles south of Nixon on Highway 80 and one mile to the left.
Union Valley – Farm Road 1681 out from Nixon. ROCKY – south of Smiley.

Kerrville District

Brownsboro Cemetery – Consists of 1.4 acres. Originally was attached to the Center Point Church. It was referenced in the Conference Journals of 1892, 1899, 1901, and 1902. Ownership is in doubt.
Oakalla – located at 407 West Ave. C, Lampasas, TX 76550 - Burnet County closed October 5, 2008

San Angelo District

Wall – 1988 Journal, page 231.
Edith Church Parsonage Property – Declared abandoned, June 1988.
Sanco – 1988 Journal.

San Antonio District

Charlotte UMC – Discontinued in 2011
Browning UMC – Abandoned April 30, 2011
Albright UMC – Abandoned May 31, 2011
Highland Terrace – Closed March 31, 2013
Eden UMC – Closed March 1, 2014

Victoria District

Alleytown – near Columbus; Conference ownership in doubt; 1982 Journal, page 210.
Bullock's Chapel – there is a question of ownership; the 1979 Journal states that this property was deeded to Bullock's Chapel Community Church; however, there is no evidence this was done.

1 Thomaston – DeWitt County; 1974 Journal, page 145 (this property may have been sold).
2 Hope – Victoria County.
3 Mission County – Goliad or DeWitt Counties.
4 Independence – 1986 Journal, page 86.
5 Genesis Center – Closed June 7, 2013

6 ***Assorted Property Matters***

7 Louise C. Reilly Estate – The Southwest Texas Annual Conference owns mineral rights but no actual land
8 ownership is involved. The mineral rights equate to 42,625 net mineral acres in the property that is located in
9 Coke County. All research to confirm said ownership has been completed by Mr. Bill J. Helwig, Attorney at
10 Law, P.O. Drawer 529, Robert Lee, Texas 76945.
11 Oakland – Clear Creek – 1982 Journal, page 210. The Southwest Texas Annual Conference still owns the
12 cemetery that is related to this property; however, a portion of this property has already been sold to Gale
13 and Elna White. There is a gas lease with Cities Service that is in production and current royalties are now
14 being held in escrow pending resolution of a matter of “adverse possession” relating to some land to the
15 south of the county road.

16 Larry Harrison,
17 President of the Board of Trustees

REPORT II MOUNT WESLEY CONFERENCE CENTER FOR INFORMATION ONLY

18 Mount Wesley’s 90th year of ministry to the Southwest Texas Conference welcomed a variety of groups
19 attended by 5,409 campers & retreatants – children, adults & youth – over the past year. The mission and
20 ministry of Mount Wesley continues to transform the lives of all who visit “God’s Holy Ground.”

21 ***Over the Year***

22 2013 saw consistent opportunities for ministry despite the continued extreme heat & dry conditions. 10
23 Emmaus Walks as well as numerous camps, conferences & retreats were conducted. Several more groups
24 from outside the connection have made Mount Wesley their venue for retreats. The summer camp schedule
25 was packed with activity for children and youth including M.A.D. (Music, Art & Drama Camp), Bandana Camp,
26 JAM, QUEST & Kingdom Kamp. Summer camps are scheduled and information is being distributed now so
27 plan now to send your children to summer camp. Please visit www.umcswtx.org for camp information. A
28 limited number of camp scholarships are available through the District offices. Your church might consider
29 fund raisers to help with the cost of registration fees. Churches might also consider transporting their
30 campers together in church vans or buses to help with transportation expenses.

31 ***Challenges and Changes***

32 Temperatures soared throughout the summer in excess of 100 degrees and the real challenge was to keep our
33 campers hydrated to prevent heat related illnesses. The extended drought has created numerous challenges
34 in maintaining the grounds. The trees and vegetation are suffering due to lack of sufficient rain fall and trees
35 are dying. We have a definite need for assistance in the area of tree trimming and removal. It is always a
36 challenge to maintain an aging facility but our goal is to improve Mount Wesley with every project
37 undertaken. The Mount Wesley staff deeply appreciates the assistance of the Mission Teams and the United
38 Methodist Men who commit to lending a helping hand on the many projects around the campus. The UMM
39 completed the disc golf course installation and we look forward to offering this recreational opportunity to our
40 campers and guests.

41 The Mount Wesley staff is committed to offering the finest hospitality to those who seek the presence of God
42 while on Mount Wesley’s holy ground. We ask for your continued prayers that we can meet the challenges
43 placed before us while serving God through serving the people that visit Mount Wesley’s holy ground. Mount
44 Wesley is the place where all members of the new Rio Texas Conference are welcomed in a retreat setting.
45 We invite you to inquire about how your church or group can hold a retreat at Mount Wesley and encourage
46 you to plan now for sending your children to camp or your adult groups to September In The Hills, Emmaus
47 Walks or any of the other retreats or events.

48 Mount Wesley’s staff deeply appreciates the support of the members of both the Rio Grande and Southwest
49 Texas Conferences and wants you to know that we are careful stewards of your financial support. Our goal is
50 to maintain the facilities for the safety and comfort of our visitors. We are blessed to be a part of this great

body of Christ to be called the Rio Texas Conference going into the future and we sincerely enjoy our work with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

We look forward to the future, a future united with our Sisters & Brothers entering into a bold new mission field within which to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Zaiontz, Mount Wesley Administrator

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Our PURPOSE states: "The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." Women of all ages believe in this PURPOSE and have chosen to be a part of this wonderful organization. Our membership, nearly 7000 in the Southwest Texas Conference, is working diligently to help women, children and youth around the world with their mission giving and mission projects.

Since our last report, we have been very busy in our local units, in our districts and with our conference events. We have also spent countless hours working toward the creation of the RIO TEXAS United Methodist Women. All Rio Grande UMW officers were invited to our executive committee meetings. Several were able to attend the different meetings and we started the process of becoming one. So far in 2014 we have met together in January and March. Raquel Mariscal, Rio Grande UMW President and I meet monthly to discuss and work on plans for our conferences to become one.

Our United Methodist Women's Luncheon at Annual Conference on June 8, 2013, was well attended. The theme of the luncheon was "Border Ministries". Nearly 250 women gathered to enjoy a wonderful lunch and to hear Deaconess Cindy Johnson talk about being a deaconess and her work with JFON – Justice for Our Neighbors – in the valley. Cindy did a wonderful job and everyone was inspired. We welcomed many of our sisters from the Rio Grande conference at this yearly event. Glenda Sanders chaired the luncheon and Joyce Elaine Fish served as registrar.

Sue Sidney, Vice President of the SJC UMW, works with the United Methodist Women of the South Central Jurisdiction UMW. They are busy planning the 2016 Quadrennial Meeting that will be held in Oklahoma City, OK. Glenda Sanders is our representative to the Program Advisory Group. Between the UMW Board of Directors and the Program Advisory Group all conferences are given a voice at the national level.

Our Mission u dean, Dianne Rumfield, and assistant dean, Cheryl Meadows, along with the Mission u study leaders traveled to training events across the US in May and June. The training prepares the staff and study leaders to present a great Mission u to all those who attend.

July 11-14, 2013, found United Methodist Women at Mount Wesley in Kerrville for our Mission u. Almost 200 women, children and youth gathered to study *The Roma of Europe*, led by Nancy Maples and Joe Vasquez; *Poverty*, led by Willie Berman; and *Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly*, led by Rev. J. Paul Bruhn and Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer. Our one day study on *Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly* was led by Sue Sidney. The Youth Study, *Migration*, was led by Kelli and Tim Diemert. The Children's Study, *Migration*, was led by Theresa Cass and Rosemary Creamer. With Willie Berman being one of our study leaders, it was decided to support his mission project, Mantos Juntos, at Mission u. About 1015 school backpacks, sewing kits and health kits were collected. Along with the kits and backpacks brought in from our local units, over \$5747 was collected to help with other needs at Mantos Juntos.. The offering taken during the school was split between the UMW Scholarships for Christian Vocation and Mission Giving. The Noisy Offering, taken up on Sunday, was sent to a mission project selected by the children and youth. The Dean of Mission u was Dianne Rumfield and the Assistant Dean was Cheryl Meadows. Our musician was Sandra Viar and our song leader was Janis Crowe. Ralph Thompson was our media specialist and computer class teacher. The Mission u was dedicated to Ilda Vasquez, former SCJ UMW president and Nellie Gonzalez, former Women's Division president.

Throughout September our districts held their district annual meetings with many in attendance at each meeting. The districts also held Spiritual Retreats and Days Apart and Cluster Studies. More women are reached this way and they are experiencing spiritual growth and renewed spirits.

The Conference Annual Meeting was held October 11-12, at First United Methodist Church, in Harlingen TX, with the McAllen District hosting the event. This was our last time to gather for an annual meeting as Southwest Texas Conference United Methodist Women. Our theme was "Who Is Our Neighbor?" At the Friday evening banquet, our former conference presidents were asked to talk about their time as president and

1 share special memories. JoAnne Wilshusen, the first president of our organization, SWTC UMW 1973-1974,
2 Ilda Vasquez, president 2002-2005, Sue Sidney, president 2006-2009, and Nellie Gonzalez, Women's Division
3 president, 2007-2010, shared their memories. Terry Schoenert, 2009 to 2014 read a letter from Joyce Elaine
4 Fish, 1990-1993, shared memories of Clara Clemons, 1998-2001, and shared her own memories. Other women
5 who served as UMW president were: Clara M. Johnson, 1975-1977; Frances Opitz, 1978-1981; Rena Sandidge
6 Scott, 1982-1985; Betty Hixson, 1986-1989; Mary Lee Marshall, 1994-1997. At the end of the banquet, a
7 booklet of history of the Southwest Texas Conference UMW was given to all those present. In 1986 a booklet
8 was done by Beverly Stole. All the ladies mentioned above wrote a history of their time as president and these
9 were compiled and added to the first booklet. What a wonderful remembrance for everyone. One of the
10 booklets is located at the UMW National Office and also in the Archives at the UM Center in San Antonio. Rev.
11 Laura Merrill was our keynote speaker on Saturday morning. She inspired all of us. Our Christian Vocation
12 Scholarship recipients were Briana Barrett, Alexandria Smith and Keanrda Troupe. Mission items were
13 collected for Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville. Good Neighbor serves many around the Rio
14 Grande Valley. Some of the attendees toured Good Neighbor on Friday and enjoyed a meal there. Thanks be
15 to God for this ministry and that we could help. Our meeting closed with worship with the message and Holy
16 Communion led by Rev. David Payne.

17 In November eight ladies attended Leadership Development Days in St. Louis, MO. The event was sponsored
18 by United Methodist Women. New officers, current officers and potential leaders were included and we were
19 all inspired by the workshops, programs and outstanding worship times. This was a first time for this format
20 and it was a great experience for everyone.

21 In January 2014 the SWTC and RGC conference executive committees gathered at Mount Wesley in Kerrville
22 for their first meeting with all officers in attendance. Marissa Villarreal of the UMW National Office joined us
23 to lend guidance. We did activities to get to know each other better and to learn about our similarities and
24 differences. We started talking about how we wanted Rio Texas UMW to look and do its ministry. We shared
25 many things – our joys and our fears. We cried, we laughed and we decided that the Rio Texas UMW would
26 organize differently than in the past. We still need to finalize how this will look. At our March meeting we will
27 work on this new structure. Throughout January and February all the districts held their own Officer Training
28 Events for the local unit officers and members. We continue to look at many ways to increase our
29 membership, looking at all of the women of our conference, young through old. Everyone has a vital role in
30 the life of the church and of United Methodist Women.

31 Later in January many attended the 26th Texas Legislative Event in Austin at the Holiday Inn Austin Midtown.
32 Sue Sidney served as chair of the event. Attendance was down some due to an off year for the legislature. Due
33 to the very cold and icy weather, the Capitol was closed and we did not get to visit our legislative offices.
34 Women from all the conferences in Texas participate in this advocacy event in Austin. Attendees hear
35 presentations by members of the Texas Legislature and advocacy groups that help UMW members to make
36 choices about issues that affect women, children and youth in Texas. The event is hosted by the Southwest
37 Texas Conference and planned by Texas Impact. We look forward to next year's event which will incorporate
38 more breakout sessions and exciting speakers.

39 In 2014 the Rio Grande and Southwest Texas UMW will join together for their Mission event in July. Both
40 conference deans and assistant deans have been working together to plan this event. Classes will be offered in
41 English, a bi-lingual class and a class in Spanish. It is hoped that we fill Mount Wesley in Kerrville.

42 In October we will have our Annual Meeting together in San Antonio. On Friday each conference will meet and
43 take care of any final business and then join together for the evening meal. Saturday will be a busy day of
44 electing the new officers for Rio Texas UMW, approving a budget and Standing Rules and taking of any other
45 business and close the day with a celebratory banquet. On Sunday we will gather for our closing and the
46 constitution of a new conference. – The Rio Texas United Methodist Women.

47 As we say goodbye to the Southwest Texas Conference of United Methodist Women, we remember all those
48 women who served in our local units, our districts and our conference. Our heartfelt thanks go to all those
49 who led us throughout these many years. Those women who are the last officers of Southwest Texas UMW
50 are:

51 **President:** Terry Schoenert, San Antonio

52 **Vice President:** Margaret Glueck, Austin

53 **Secretary:** Andrea Gibbud, Beeville (through 2013) & Grace Perez, Floresville (2014) who held this
54 office in both conferences.

55 **MC for Spiritual Growth:** Eula Purnell, San Antonio

MC for Social Action: Lois Shaw, Kerrville
MC for Education & Interpretation: Marsha Preismeyer, Columbus
MC for Membership Nurture & Outreach: Pat Stewart, Austin
Sec. of Program Resources: Adrienne Jaramillo, Fredericksburg
Sec. for Communications: Sandy Wilder, Austin
Chair, Committee on Nominations: Schatzie Norris, Comfort
Historian: Joyce Brown, Victoria
SCJ Vice President: Sue Sidney, Leander
UMW Program Advisory Group (National): Glenda Sanders, Corpus Christi
District Presidents: Austin – Vernell Moncure; Corpus Christi – Janis Crowe; Kerrville – Carolyn Penland; McAllen – Kathleen Jordan; San Angelo – Patsy Sorrell; San Antonio – Eileen Lehmborg; and Victoria – Maxine Ross.
 United Methodist Women of the Southwest Texas Conference chartered new units, re-chartered some units, and closed some units over the year, all the while keeping their focus on women, children and youth. We are about mission work with these people all over the world. These women, through their pledges to mission gave just at \$200,000 to United Methodist Women, National Office. The United Methodist Women of the Southwest Texas Conference are excited about the changes to United Methodist Women as we become Rio Texas United Methodist Women.

Terry Schoenert, Conference President

UNITED METHODIST MEN

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Conference UMM have been actively involved in discipling men for Christ and plan to increase that activity.
 The Annual Men's Event at Mt. Wesley continues to be a challenge – quality over quantity. We continue to encourage men to attend. The mission project on Thursday at the Center completed the construction of the Frisbee Golf Course. Mount Wesley hosted the stay Thursday night for all the men who helped with this project. Friday afternoon we held the 3rd Annual Hill Country Road Rally and 18 holes of Golf. Saturday morning, afternoon and evening David Murrow, award winning television producer and writer based in Alaska, spoke to us about the need for men reconnecting with the church and being more active. Saturday afternoon was also the time for the legendary annual Steak Dinner. Sunday, we closed after worship and communion. We were honored to again have Reverend Terrence Hayes with us providing the Men with spiritual guidance. New to the convention were Reverend Isidro Piña from the Rio Grande Conference and Reverend Eradio Valverde, Corpus Christi District Superintendent.
 Yes, we ventured once again into the Wilds of West Texas. We hiked remote canyons, explored desert mines, climbed mountains and drove roads that can best be described as mere ruts in the sand or running streams following a heavy rain. Sitting around the cabins, watching the night sky with the Milky Way glowing eerily above us, and seeing satellites speeding across the star filled heavens is something most do not see or take time to observe.
 The UMM continues to be very visible at Annual Conference with the popular golf cart ministry, plus manning the floor cameras. The Silent Auction has generated interest and revenues for our programs. We were also available to assist with ushering when needed. The First Annual UMM Sponsored Bar-B-Que Cook-off on Friday evening at Conference was a great success. Even with the rainstorm at the end of Friday's session, over 250 people enjoyed the delicious Bar-B-Que. Bishop Dorff and UMM President Terry Schoenert did an excellent job of agreeing on the winning team from McAllen First. Cooks from 3 Districts competed for the coveted award of best Bar-B-Que in the Conference. The 2nd Annual cook-off is planned for Friday, June 13.
 The UMM and helpers have provided a Bar-B-Que dinner on the beach at Port Aransas to over 400 youths and staff at the past two summer events. Also, six men grilled hamburgers one evening for college age young adults at the HEB Camp at Leakey. There are plans for several more cooking events in 2014.
 The Conference UMM will continue to seek out events where our Discipleship will be effective. Many local units of UMM are involved daily in outreach from food pantries to clothes closets, to building rehab.

- 1 A representative of the UMM attends most of the Board and/or Committee meetings they are assigned to.
 2 The District Presidents and Committee officers regularly attend local and District events to share with the men
 3 the importance of active men in the church.
 4 The Steering Committee has seen a continued decline in the responsibility that men take in the church
 5 operation and the direction it is heading. The Committee feels that men must step up and assume the
 6 leadership role they have been lax in doing. This must happen if the UMC is to return to the role it once had in
 7 being accountable to God and to each other.
 8 The UMM Conference Steering Committee for 2014-2015:
- | | |
|--|--|
| President – Jim Callaway | Austin Dist. Pres. – Cary Boddeker |
| Vice-President – Cary Boddeker | Corpus Christi Dist. Pres. – Johnny T. Davis |
| Secretary – Butch Harding | Kerrville Dist. Pres. – Al Bohler |
| Treasurer – Harry Hollister | McAllen Dist. Pres. – Jimmy Green |
| Prayer Advocate – Cary Boddeker | San Angelo Dist. Pres. – Ron Fulton |
| Scouting Coordinator – David Hensley | San Antonio Dist. Pres. – Walt Gowan |
| Past President – Clarence L. Littlefield | Victoria Dist. Pres. – Adam Brunkenhoefer |
| Bishop's Cabinet Liaison – Carl Rohlf | Staff Liaison – Patti Zaiontz |
| Hunger Advocate – Walt Gowan | |

9 Clarence Littlefield, UMM President

SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- 10 Plans are well underway for the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference held July 13-16, 2016 in Wichita, Kansas. The
 11 newly formed Great Plains Annual Conference will be our host, under the leadership of Bishop Scott Jones.
 12 Delegates to this conference will be elected as early as this spring in some Conferences, and by all the Annual
 13 Conferences by spring of 2015. The delegate count to the Jurisdictional Conference will be 216, half lay, half
 14 clergy. This is forty fewer delegates than we had in 2012 when the Conference met in Oklahoma City. The
 15 reduction is due to two reasons: 1.) The total number of delegates to General Conference was reduced, to
 16 keep costs down. 2.) The rapid growth of the church in Africa has produced more Annual Conferences there
 17 each; though some are small, get a least one lay and one clergy delegate to the General Conference.
 18 Therefore, when the cap is reduced and the new Annual Conferences are accounted for, it requires a sharp
 19 reduction in delegates apportioned to the US Annual Conferences.
 20 The expenses to hold the Jurisdictional Conference come from the apportionment for the SCJ Administration
 21 Fund. Out of that annual apportionment of \$323,163, each year, \$98,000 is held in reserve to fund the
 22 quadrennial meeting.
 23

Dr. David Severe, Executive Director

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

REPORT I CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT *FOR INFORMATION ONLY*

- 24 Bishop Dorff, Cabinet Members, brothers and sisters in Christ, I report to you today that the Board of
 25 Ordained Ministry for the SWTX has fully embraced the unification process. We have met together with the
 26 RGC Board for our October business meeting and for our interviews and examinations in January, February,
 27 and April. We have intentionally worked together and made decisions together for the new client—the
 28 mission field. Bonds of friendship and peer collegiality have developed among us as we respect each other's
 29 work and tradition.
 30 We have a new vision and mission for Rio Texas that you witnessed at the
 31 February 8th called Annual Conference. With that adoption the Rio Texas Board will be focused on this
 32 outcome: **calling/seeking and forming clergy missional leaders for the mission field.** We have developed the
 33 qualities for clergy missional leaders adopted by both Boards at our joint business meeting in October 2013
 34 and included in the adoption of the new structure for Rio Texas.
 35
 36

1 **PRIMARY QUALITIES OF MISSIONAL LEADERS:**

2 **1. Ethnic and Cultural Proficiency-** Willingness to engage across ethnic or cultural lines with
3 compassion, appreciation, and sensitivity to the unique traditions, customs, and needs of the people
4 within their context.

5 **2. Heart For Evangelism-**The affinity to extend the Christian message to persons in the mission
6 field who are not in the church and can network with existing resources in the mission field.

7 **3. Faith in Calling of God-**A clear sense of faith and commitment to serve based upon sound
8 theological understanding of God's call

9 **4. Equipping and Developing Missional Leaders-**Ability and commitment to developing missional
10 leaders and to finding leaders from the mission field

11 **5. Catalytic Capacity-**A capacity to be a catalyst for new ministry initiatives
12

13 **ADDITIONAL QUALITIES OF MISSIONAL LEADERS:**

14 **6. Leadership Ability-**Skills in providing principled Christian leadership

15 **7. Visioning Capacity-**The ability to help establish, cast, and pursue a vision

16 **8. Conflict Resolution Skills-**The ability to manage conflict in a healthy and effective way

17 **9. Personal Life Management-**This category includes time management, health and wellness,
18 maintaining balance between vocation and family life, etc.

19 **10. Perseverance-**One's capacity to persevere in unpleasant or difficult circumstances

20 The Conference Board will provide training for local churches and SPRC's on how to find missional clergy
21 leaders. For we all are responsible and accountable to the emerging Rio Texas Conference for the leaders we
22 call forth and equip for ministry in the mission field.

23 The district Committees on Ordained Ministry will be expected to align their interviews and examinations with
24 the focus of calling and seeking potential clergy missional leaders. At the district level, they are closer to the
25 mission field and can find indigenous leaders for the new Conference, whether they are licensed or ordained
26 clergypersons. For the dCOMs are subcommittees of the Conference Board and are amenable to the annual
27 conference through the Board of Ordained Ministry (Par 666.1)

28 The revamped Residency in Ministry (RIM) will include the outcome for all persons participating in RIM as they
29 prepare for ordination. The foundations of RIM will be based on the four areas of focus for Rio Texas: Uniting
30 Peoples . . . Creating Vital Congregations and Places of Worship . . . Developing Principled Christian Leaders . . .
31 Transforming Congregations. The goal of RIM is to form and equip missional clergy leaders for the mission
32 field.

33 The Conference Board will dedicate itself to looking to the future for the changes coming in the mission field
34 for the next 5 – 10 years and beyond. We will make the mission field the priority in all our deliberations,
35 interviews/examinations and provisions for clergy development.

36 We will work closely with Marcus Freeman to develop a strategic clergy formation plan for current clergy, who
37 want to be transformed into clergy missional leaders. For you see, Marcus Freeman led the technical team
38 that brought forth the new mission for the Board: calling new missional clergy leaders for the mission field.
39 His technical team changed the way the new Board of 2015 will work and the current Board will work in the
40 time we have left in 2014.

41 We have developed a closer working relationship with Bill Duke, Chair of Children's Ministries; Rusty Freeman,
42 Conference Youth Director; and with Ricky Sanderford, Chair of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry, as
43 well as, the Directors of Campus Ministries at colleges and universities located within the boundaries of the
44 current Southwest Texas Conference.

45 We now have two major priorities set before us and before the new BOM. In the *2012 Book of Discipline*, (Par.
46 635.2), the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry will include sections (a) and (b) as the clarion call for now
47 and for the Rio Texas BOM. Section (a) begins "to assume the primary responsibility for the enlistment and
48 recruitment of ordained clergy . . ." Included in that section are the recruitment of "women and men of all
49 races and ethnic origins . . .and guide those persons in the process of education, training and ordination. . . .
50 Persons recruited should have an understanding and appreciation for persons of different racial and ethnic
51 heritages."

52 The second priority is found in section (b), the Board is "to renew a culture of call in the church by giving
53 strategic leadership . . .". Therefore, the now and future Boards, as well as, our Rio Grande brothers and
54 sisters will be the proverbial head hunters as in the business world by going to extraordinary lengths to call

1 and seek clergy who manifest the qualities of the missional leader. And this continues down to the dCOM's,
2 SPRC's, and local churches as a renewal of purpose and focus.

3 The Board has worked and the new Board will work closely with Ruben Saenz, Director of New Church
4 Development and Church Transformation to seek and identify new clergy leaders from the mission field. We
5 seek emerging missional leaders.

6 A new day is dawning for the unified Annual Conference. Our call is to excellence and to encourage the
7 formation of excellence for clergy leaders. Now is no better time than to call forth those who have been
8 interviewed and examined to be commissioned as provisional members of the Annual Conference.

9 Bishop Dorff, District Superintendents, brother and sister pastors, lay members of both Annual Conferences,
10 the Board of Ordained Ministry presents to you those coming for Commissioning as Deacons: David Alan
11 Corna, Lisa Rush, and Anna Katherine Troy. We present to you those coming for Commissioning as Elders:
12 Amelia Elizabeth Beasley, Wilson Pruitt, Elsa Lidia Ramirez, Joseph Tognetti, and Billie Watts.

13 Bishop Dorff, District Superintendents, brother and sister pastors, lay members of both Annual Conferences,
14 the Board of Ordained Ministry presents the one coming to you as Associate Member of the Annual
15 Conference: Charles Ernest Crane. I now present to you those coming for Ordination as Elders: Linda S.
16 Baumheckel, Cynthia Griik Engstrom, Yong-Shil Kim Ethridge, John Vincent Fletcher, Phillip Gregory Hoeflinger,
17 Adam Ray Knapp, Margot Perez-Greene, Michael Todd Salmi, Juan Alberto (Johnny) Silva, Elizabeth Pratt
18 Tatum, Elizabeth Ruth Wright.

19 Bishop, I present the Candidates to you for examination.

20 Rev. Suzanne F. Isaacs, Chairperson

REPORT II
CLERGY WELLNESS PROGRAM
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

21 The Office of Clergy Development was established in June 2011 to support and resource clergy from the time
22 of their call into ministry until retirement. As life-long learners, clergy take responsibility for their own spiritual
23 and professional development. A guiding scripture passage is: *God wants us to grow up, to know the whole*
24 *truth and tell it in love - like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything*
25 *we do*(Ephesians 4:15 *The Message*). A guiding quote is: *The path of spiritual growth is a path of lifelong*
26 *learning*(M. Scott Peck). In 2013, two large programs were held: a Staff Supervision Workshop led by Alban
27 Consultant Susan Beaumont and a Bible Study led by Old Testament scholar Dr. Brent Strawn. In 2014, Alban
28 Consultants John Wimberley and Alice Mann will lead a workshop on "Discerning Your Church's Unique
29 Mission." As well, Dr. Thomas Thangaraj will lead a Bible Study entitled "Navigating Diversity with Bible in
30 Hand." As the office continues to become more established, the vision is to bring high quality continuing
31 education opportunities and resources to clergy in the various districts and mission fields where they serve.
32 Ongoing work also includes consulting with the Board of Ordained Ministry. This includes the development of
33 policies and rethinking systems of formation such as candidacy, the Residence in Ministry program and
34 ongoing professional development. With delegates from the Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry, the
35 Office of Clergy Development organizes seminary visits and stays connected with our seminarians.

36 The Office of Clergy Development additionally oversees the Clergy Wellness program for The Southwest Texas
37 Conference. Supported by the Conference, Board of Pensions, and Methodist Healthcare Ministries, this
38 program encourages clergy to take care of body, mind, and spirit. The HealthFlex program through General
39 Board of Pensions and Health Benefits has a wide variety of resources to support clergy in healthy habits as
40 well as incentives to motivate clergy. In 2013, funds from a Methodist Healthcare Ministries grant enabled the
41 office to provide the Weight Loss Incentive for the first time. In this program, clergy received financial
42 incentives for lowering their BMI when needed. In 2013, over 30 clergy reporting in the program lost a total of
43 over 330 pounds. With over 35 clergy enrolled to date for 2014, the Office of Clergy Development looks
44 forward to another year of success as clergy seek to maintain and improve their health.

45 Rev. Teresa G. Welborn, Executive Director, Office for Clergy Development
46

JOINT COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

This year the Archives and History Commission met several times as the "Joint Commissions on Archives and History for" the SWTX/Rio Grande conferences. In order to elect a chair for the new Commission we decided to elect 2 co-chairs in order to have representation from both Conferences. The new co-chairs for 2015 Rio Texas Commission on Archives and History are Rev. Chuck Crane and Rev. Paul Barton.

Last year SWTX Commission on Archives and History chose to assist in the formation of a new local Historical society for our region that will help to coordinate our Archives and History commission with other groups who share in the historical significance of our church and region. This year we continue in support of that new historical society as it has begun as the "Rio Texas Historical Society". Our commission is sponsoring a gathering in October of 2014 of people from other historical society's in the U.S. that will be gathering in San Antonio for 3 days of tours and meetings. The conference has approved funds for the assistance of the Rio Texas Historical society in this first time event. Our hopes that this event will help to encourage people from all over the conference to become better informed of their own historical legacy of their local church and community. The new officers of the Texas Historical Society are Rev. Dr. Roberto L. Gomez-President, Rev. Dr. Austin Frederick-Vice President, Ms. Wilma J. Taylor-Greene- Treasurer, and Mr. C.D. Barrington-Secretary.

The Rio Texas Commission of Archives and History will continue to strive to encourage all of our churches in our conference to seek to learn about and preserve the significant historical resources that are available in their own communities. Our heritage as church founded by 'circuit riding preachers' is a story that deserves to be told again and again.

We look forward to another year of new historical significance.

Rev Chuck Crane - Co Chair

Rio Texas Commission on Archives and History

COMMISSION ON NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Bishop Dorff, Cabinet members of the Annual Conference, brothers and sisters in Christ, I report to you today that the Office of New Church Development and Transformation is expanding its support and resourcing of leaders and congregations in the San Antonio Episcopal Area with demographic information, training, consultations, assessment tools, consultants, and coaches so that 10,000 "new" people a year can be reached with the gospel, incorporated into the life of the church, and disciplined in the most fruitful and efficient way possible through outward focused churches and by starting 20 new faith communities each year.

Our Rapidly Growing Missional Context and Our Adaptive Response

Texas is one of the fastest-growing states in the nation. Since 2000, the state's population has increased by 12.7 percent, nearly twice that of the nation (6.4 percent). Areas like Laredo, the Rio Grande Valley, the I-35 corridor between San Antonio and Austin, and North Austin are growing in population at more than 10 percent per year! Our growing population in the San Antonio Episcopal area is becoming more Hispanic, less rural, and more diverse. Added to this, our churches are dealing with immense technological, spiritual, and social changes that define our times.

In light of our rapidly growing South Texas population and rapidly changing world, our congregations are discerning ways to address the spiritual and temporal needs of people in their communities and mission field through ministries that are relevant, meaningful, relational, inviting, and transformational. People that have disengaged from church, people that are stuck between culture and the church, and people that have lost their faith, are experiencing an invitation to know Jesus, his forgiving grace, and the newness of life brought about by spiritual redemption. People are finding powerful new life in Christ that compels them to care for people and the world with the goal of making all things new!

Church leaders are preparing and retooling themselves with new learning and new skills to lead in a world - not that was - but that is and that is coming. An increasing number of church leaders and congregations are intentionally narrowing the leadership gaps needed to be a 21st century church as we embark on the critical mission of making "new" disciples of Jesus Christ for both the world of today and tomorrow.

Leaders are anticipating trends and changes. They are constantly making course corrections to their ministry strategies in anticipation of new social, cultural, and economic moves and trends. They are seeing, not to the end of the road, but around the corners. They are shaping the future of the church's witness in a changing world, not just reacting to it. They are figuring out how to navigate and contribute to the wellbeing of people

1 and communities within their contextual political, social, economic and demographic contexts. Many
2 congregations are making a powerful life-giving community impact with limited resources by nurturing and
3 releasing congregational gifts and graces, uniting with benevolent groups, and forming trusting partnerships
4 with private, non-profit, and business sectors for targeted action and ministry that achieves the shared goal of
5 positively benefiting and improving the quality of life for people, communities, and the world.

6 The unification of the Rio Grande and Southwest Texas Conferences has marked an end to a dichotomized
7 missional approach to reaching our common mission field in South Texas. Churches are seeing the whole
8 mission field now with a new eyes and a new vision. Congregations are stepping beyond their natural
9 relational networks and intentionally increasing their capacity to develop relationships and treat with honor
10 and respect people that are different than themselves physically, functionally, politically, socio-economically,
11 and culturally. Leaders are understanding that the inclusion of diversity serves to proclaim the fulfillment of
12 God's vision for humanity, to better know thought patterns of diverse people, identify patterns, and find
13 fruitful missional solutions.

14 More importantly, healthy and effective leaders and congregations that are embracing a rapidly changing
15 demographic and world, are courageous enough to abandon practices that made them fruitful in the past but
16 do not yield the same fruitfulness today. They are daring to be different, shifting to effective ministry
17 paradigms, and taking new missional risks. They demonstrate the emotional stamina to withstand critique and
18 push back from detractors. New thinking is attracting new thinkers that are joining to take courageous leaps of
19 faith and ministry. These leaders are not readying themselves for the comfortable predictability of yesterday;
20 they are preparing themselves for the realities of today and all the unknown possibilities and opportunities of
21 tomorrow.

22 ***New Churches***

23 New churches are on the frontlines of the mission field reaching new people for Christ in ways that are
24 sensitive and relevant to a changing world and to people with changing social attitudes toward the church.
25 University UMC in San Antonio, the San Antonio District, the SWTX Conference, and NCD, and the Kingdom all
26 celebrate that Christ Fellowship, pastored by Rev. Adam Knight, chartered as a new congregation August 2013.
27 They have purchased property on Shanefield Road and are making plans to relocate and build in the near
28 future. A \$ 50,000 "Land Acquisition" grant from the Offering Christ for Today Capital Fund was awarded to
29 Christ Fellowship to contribute toward the purchase the property.

30 Servant Church (Rev. Eric Vogt), The Journey (Rev. Kyle Toomire), Hope Arise (Rev. Reese Henry), and
31 Northeast Community (Rev. Emerson Allen) are steadily growing and reaching unchurched people in their
32 contexts. Each congregation is moving toward chartering in the near future.

33 Mission Church (Rev. Paul Allan) in Corpus Christi and Southtown Faith Community (Rev. Wesley Craig) in
34 South San Antonio were discontinued due to financial unsustainability. The conference is grateful to the
35 vision, risk-taking work, and gospel witness made by Paul and Wesley, their spouses, their children, and their
36 congregations in efforts to reach unchurched people in Corpus Christi and South San Antonio, respectively.
37 Much was accomplished and learned through these apostolic efforts that will serve us to create new faith
38 communities and new life in the future.

39 Windsong and Centro de Vida (Rev. Stan Gonzalez) have been designated as a new church start by the San
40 Antonio District and NCD and funded with \$ 33,945. Windsong is a result of a productive and effective
41 relationship of oversight provided by Chapel Hill. The faith community was initiated by Rev. Virgilio Vazquez
42 Garza when he was District Superintendent of San Antonio, Rev. John Feagins when he was pastor of Chapel
43 Hill, and Rev. Danette Howell when she was pastor of Rector Memorial. We join Chapel Hill in celebrating the
44 success of a new church launch that reaches the growing Hispanic population in Southwest San Antonio.
45 Windsong and Centro de Vida have a combined worship attendance of 150 people. 30 persons are currently
46 involved in an intentional discipling process.

47 Some new faith community initiatives currently under development are:

- 48 ■ The re-launch of an existing faith community in South Austin
- 49 ■ A Tejano music based church in the Rio Grande Valley led by a lay team
- 50 ■ A Cowboy Church in Kingsville led by a lay team
- 51 ■ A new Hispanic ministry to reach people in New Braunfels, TX
- 52 ■ A re-launched faith community in Victoria, TX

The Eagle Ford Shale Planting Zone Initiative

The Eagle Ford Shale (EFS) affects 26 counties, 121 Rio Texas Congregations, more than 1,237,000 people, and has an over \$61 Billion impact annually. The EFS area has high levels of poverty and racial/class mistrust. Between 60,000-110,000 itinerant oilfield workers crisscross the area every day.

Rev. Andrew Fiser was appointed as the EFS Planting Strategist in July 2013 in an effort to provide focus and development of strategic pathways for missional impact within the EFS Corridor. He was tasked with: 1) working with the EFS congregations to envision ways to demonstrate compassionate leadership, grace-filled presence, and relevant ministry in their communities; 2) equip and mobilize EFS congregations; and 3) facilitating the planning process for the development of the Planting Zone strategy to plant new church communities. Full development of the full EFS Planting Zone to continue into Spring 2015.

An EFS Dream Team of clergy and laity met in early March 2014 to study Fiser's assessment report and to discern the readiness, issues, needs, challenges, and opportunities for starting new faith communities, with the goal of reaching and discipling the unchurched population in the Eagle Ford Shale corridor. Eight priority areas were identified for starting new work within the next two years using various models for reaching people with the gospel. The models for reaching people in the EFS Zone will include house churches, preaching points, extension campus', cooperative planting, a vital merger, beginning a church within a church, and a new faith community start in north Laredo.

Church Transformation

Six congregations have participated in a Healthy Church Weekend Consultation this year. They are: Bethany (San Antonio), Austin Westlake (Austin), Fredericksburg (Kerrville), St. Paul's (San Antonio), St. Mark (McAllen), and Mason (San Angelo). All six congregations adopted the prescriptions. Each congregation has been assigned a coach to assist with the implementation of the prescriptions. Five more congregations are preparing for a weekend consultation in 2014-2015.

Twenty-one congregations have used the Readiness 360 Congregational Survey this conference year to assess their multiplication capacity. These congregations are following and implementing the leadership tips generated by the survey to increase their spiritual intensity, missional alignment, faith sharing capacity, and cultural openness.

2014-2015 Targets

- Assist the seven Church Strategy District Teams to determine priorities for church transformation, the allocation of resources, and where to start new faith communities
- Equip and release 50 Lay Missioners through Lay Missionary Planting Network and Launch Pad training
- Launch 20 new, lay-team led, faith communities
- Provide criteria and guidelines for micro-grants to churches to help seed the start new faith communities
- Create and support 6 clergy and peer learning groups
- Create an I-35 San Antonio to Austin Planting Zone
- Prepare and endorse 25 congregational and new church coaches
- Collaborate with Board of Ordained ministry to incorporate new church leadership assessment tools, awareness, methods, and training to equip incoming clergy to effectively and efficiently reach and disciple "new" people in their communities

Thank You

Gratitude and thanksgiving is extended to our former New Church Development Commission members. Their service and visionary leadership has helped create a conference-wide awareness, passion, and commitment to reach new people, more people, younger people, and more diverse people through the planting of new faith communities: Dick Gilby (NCDC Chair), Rev. Troy Bell, Rick Dyke (Treasurer), Jerry Heare, Denise McGlothlin (Treasurer), Charles "Charlie" Brown, Dale Kane, Rev. James Amerson, Rev. James "Jim" Roberts, Dr. Tina Carter, Rev. Harold Sassman, Rev. Charles "Charlie" Baskin, Dorothy Schmidt, Stephen Smith, Ralph Thompson, Rev. Kyle Toomire, Jay Brim (Ex-Officio), Dr. Ralph Mann (Ex-Officio), John Winn (Advisory Member), Jim Callaway (Advisory Member), Rev. Mark Deaton (Advisory Member), Chelsea Kane Lietz (Advisory Member), Saul Pacheco (Advisory Member), Rev. David Seilheimer (Conference Staff), Abel Vega Jr. (Conference Staff), and Rev. Bill Henderson (Cabinet).

Gratitude is also extended to the following clergy and laity that have assisted with the Healthy Church Weekend Consultation, Dr. Ralph Mann, Rev. John McMullen, Rev. Mimi Raper, Rev. Valerie Sansing, Dionisio Salazar, Rev. Bob Clark, Rev. Jack Gause, Dr. Tina Carter, Ralph Thompson, Abel Vega, Rev. Milton Lewis, Rev.

1 Kim Ethridge, Rev. Stephen Sanders, Rev. Diana Phillips, Dr. Ricky Sandeford, Dr. Roberto Lopez, Rev. Bill Duke,
2 Rev. Aaron Saenz, Rev. Javier Leyva, Rev. Elizabeth Wright, Rev. Andrew Fiser, and Rev. Cheryl Broome.
3 Much appreciation goes to Rev. John McMullen for his willingness to help our conference develop a culture of
4 coaching excellence. He is now working to endorse 40 conference coaches that will soon be available to help
5 pastors and congregations implement initiatives that create congregational and missional excellence.
6 Overall, special thanks to all the congregations and individuals that fund the work of the Office New Church
7 Development and Transformation through your apportionment giving and through the "Offering Christ Today
8 for Tomorrow" campaign contributions. Your financial support is helping expand and extend the gospel
9 witness throughout the boundaries of our annual conference and beyond!

10 Rev. Diana K. Phillips, Chair

HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY REPORTS

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME FOR INFORMATION ONLY

11 Greetings from Methodist Children's Home (MCH) and the children, youth and families we serve from the
12 Southwest Texas Annual Conference. The historic partnership between MCH and United Methodist churches
13 in Texas and New Mexico has offered hope to thousands of children, youth and families from the hard places
14 in life.

15 I am honored to report to you that MCH continues to be in compliance with and, in many cases, to be
16 exceeding the best practice standards established by two national accrediting organizations. MCH works hard
17 to accomplish goals produced by our strategic plan. I invite each member of the annual conference to visit our
18 website at www.methodistchildrenshome.org to view our strategic plan or call MCH at (800) 853-1272 to have
19 a copy mailed for your review. The priorities and goals of our strategic plan enable our ministry to explore
20 ways to increase our impact on children and families across Texas and New Mexico.

21 Guided by our core values of Christian Principles, Relationships, Responsibility, Growth, Service and Hope,
22 MCH is committed to providing the services, programs and talented individuals needed to positively impact
23 the lives of children and youth in our care. This is happening every day through residential programs on our
24 historic Waco campus and Boys Ranch, as well as through 12 MCH Family Outreach offices, including San
25 Antonio and Corpus Christi in the Southwest Texas Annual Conference.

26 The reasons children and youth arrive in our care are unique to each individual. They range from extreme
27 trauma or a sudden change in the family structure to school issues or poor choices in a difficult and ever-
28 changing world. Our collaboration with Texas Christian University's Institute of Child Development to
29 incorporate Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) in our work places MCH on the cutting edge of child
30 care as we learn new ways to serve children who have experienced trauma. These proven and tested
31 techniques and methods of interacting with children are impacting families in positive ways. Our vision is to
32 take what we learn with TBRI and begin making it available to pastors, youth ministers and concerned family
33 members in the local church. The lessons we are learning, coupled with spiritual development opportunities
34 for all children in our care, makes MCH a unique ministry of the United Methodist Church.

35 In addition to the accomplishments listed above, your support also empowered MCH to:

- 36 ■ Graduate 25 high school seniors in 2013. Thanks to our many friends, we were able to allocate more than
37 \$500,000 for MCH alumni to pursue a college or advanced degree, certificate at a trade school or job-
38 related training that will help them improve their families and communities. This year we had more than
39 40 seniors on track for graduation at the time this report was submitted to the Conference.
- 40 ■ Increase the impact in San Antonio and Corpus Christi through the work of our Family Outreach program.
41 Staff in these outreach locations provide MCH foster care, in-home services – such as Partnership in
42 Parenting – Grandparents as Parents Program, and a new program called Family Solutions. Our website
43 has a full listing of our 12 outreach offices and how to contact them for assistance or answers to
44 community and church needs.
- 45 ■ Receive a national award for innovative education through our on-campus University of Texas charter
46 school and state recognition for the quality of activities offered to youth through our recreation program.
- 47 ■ Recognize the great work of 70 staff members with employee service awards. All honorees had at least
48 three years of service, and 12 employees celebrated 15 or more years with our ministry, including two 30-
49 year honorees.
- 50 ■ Participate in several mission trips and community service projects. These projects provided opportunities
51 for MCH youth to show Christ's love by sharing their time and talents to help meet needs across Texas.

Our achievements in the past, and those yet to come, are directly related to the men and women who give their time, talents and resources to bless our children. We are grateful to the following individuals from the Southwest Texas Annual Conference who currently serve on the MCH Board of Directors:

- ❖ Rev. John Alsbrooks, San Saba
- ❖ Mr. Bill Bingham, Chairperson, Austin
- ❖ Mrs. Candy Mallonee, San Antonio
- ❖ Mr. Bob Rork, San Antonio

These individuals, along with our other Board members, MCH Commissioners and benefactors, enable our ministry to achieve its mission. On behalf of Methodist Children's Home, thank you for sharing our story in your churches and communities. If you would like to schedule a speaker, arrange a tour or request resources to help promote an offering, contact our development office by e-mail at development@mchforhope.org, by phone at (254) 750-1213 or (800) 853-1272, or by mail at 1111 Herring Avenue, Waco, Texas 76708. I also encourage you to visit our website at www.methodistchildrenshome.org to download stories; identify resources to help educate your congregation on our ministry; view a transparent listing of our financial resources and services delivered; find out how you can refer a child for placement; or learn more about a call to serve our ministry as a homeparent or foster parent.

As we enter our 124th year of ministry, MCH knows our service to children and families is possible because of God's amazing grace and our generous benefactors. Thank you for your trust and support of our ministry. May God continue to bless you and Methodist Children's Home.

Tim Brown, President/CEO

MORNINGSIDE MINISTRIES **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Morningside Ministries Senior Living Communities

After 52 years of caring for seniors, the mission of Morningside Ministries remains steadfast. Our focus is to provide compassionate, quality care that our residents deserve and families depend on. Our goal has been and will always be about people. All of us are thankful for the dedicated, caring and skilled associates who serve every day to further this mission.

We are grateful for the leadership of our Board of Directors and the generosity of donors and loyal friends including those from the Southwest Texas Annual Conference who allow us to continue our mission of providing care for seniors. It is this enduring support that allowed us to provide \$3.8 million in charitable care to 276 of our residents last year.

The mission of Morningside Ministries isn't just on our campuses; it is also beyond our walls. From advocating for the rights of seniors in Washington to delivering educational seminars across San Antonio and Texas, we wish to be of service to seniors and their families who do not call Morningside Ministries' home. Last year, mmLearn.org, a program of Morningside Ministries, commenced its first Community of Hope International (COHI) training course. This program trains volunteers and residents to serve as lay pastoral caregivers for those who are homebound or in hospitals, nursing and retirement homes.

mmLearn.org also provides hundreds of free online training videos on a myriad of topics from medication management and depression to spirituality in aging. Our web-based programming is unequaled in the ability to reach an optimal number of professional and pastoral caregivers as well as family members caring for loved ones. Through this ministry, we have engaged all fifty states and 98 countries.

We also provided three Virtual Dementia Tours (VDT) for friends and family members in San Antonio and Boerne who are caring for a loved one with a form of dementia. The VDT, created by Second Wind Dreams, gives participants a simulation of what a person with some form of dementia may experience with their sight, touch and hearing altered. This "tour" allows a participant to understand what it may be like to have dementia coupled with other ailments that may accompany old age. The lessons guests learn allow them to not only grow in their patience with seniors, but in their empathy and compassion.

Last year, mmLearn.org had the honor of speaking at the IAHS/IAHSA-China 10th International Conference in Shanghai. Much like the United States, China faces a growing need for trained caregivers who can provide for their emergent aging population. This conference gave Morningside Ministries a worldwide platform to share about our mission and our ministry to care for the aging.

Additionally, partnering with organizations like the Jewish Community Center's Sam Barshop Institute for the Senior Games and the Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's, allows our staff and residents to support worthy causes that further support seniors.

1 It is with much guidance and prayer that we strive to honor our residents by providing great programming and
2 support services that will continue to enhance their lives.

3 As the oldest and largest, faith-based continuing care retirement community in San Antonio and Boerne, we
4 are grateful we were afforded the opportunity to serve our community last year. We look forward to meeting
5 the needs of a growing population not just in this new year, but in years to come.

6 We are thankful for the support that we receive and particularly the prayers, treasure and talent of so many
7 people from the SWTX Conference. On behalf of Morningside Ministries, I welcome you to visit any of our
8 communities. To request a brochure, arrange a presentation or schedule a speaker, please call (210) 734-
9 1010.

10 For more information on Morningside Ministries, to learn more about our services, view informational videos
11 or read our magazine, please visit us at www.mmliving.org.

12 Alvin Loewenberg, President
13

LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE *FOR INFORMATION ONLY*

14 Lydia Patterson Institute opened its doors for the first time to the school year 1913-14, making 2013-14, the
15 100th session. We celebrate the time passed, and with it we celebrate the thousands of young men and
16 women that have walked our halls. We celebrate the hundreds of young men who began their journey in
17 ministry here and have dedicated their lives to the church. We celebrate the teachers, nurses, engineers,
18 doctors and lawyers and many other professionals whose seeds were planted here. Most importantly, we
19 celebrate Mrs. Lydia Patterson. Unfortunately, Mrs. Patterson lived a rather short life. In that life, she
20 accepted her calling to ministry with the children of South El Paso, and her legacy lives on. Her love and
21 inspiration for the welfare of those in need has lived for 100 years. This is made evident today in the number
22 of teachers, staff members, and administrators who have dedicated their lives to changing those of the
23 students. The incredible dedication of the staff is manifested in their years of service; 12 over 10 years; 5 over
24 20 years; 6 over 30 years; and Miss Cristina Woo who has served for 42 years. Mrs. Patterson did not know at
25 the time, but her calling made for the calling of thousands of others who followed. She placed the first stone
26 and, in the last one hundred years, a temple was built. In this temple, thousands have worshiped, thousands
27 have been educated, and thousands have made a better life.

28 Today, the Student Lay Ministry Program is placing interns throughout the country. Some are in seminary and
29 others are already leading churches. Ninety-seven percent of graduates are going to college. The 2013
30 graduating class received \$1.6 million in scholarships from United Methodist colleges and universities alone.
31 Every student, past and present, begins to change his or her life the moment they step inside the walls of this
32 temple.

33 The spiritual temple at Lydia Patterson remains intact, but the physical buildings have worn and tired. In
34 preparation for the next 100 years, a capital campaign for renovation and a strategic plan for the latest state
35 of the art technology in the classroom, labs, media and research and spiritual development centers is in place.
36 The new chapel will provide the place where all the students, faculty and staff can worship together, and as a
37 multi-purpose facility, will be shared with our community.

38 The cities of El Paso and Juarez have joined us in this venture, and have committed to a large portion of this
39 capital campaign. The board of trustees, faculty, and staff has pledged 100%, and the students and alumni are
40 equally dedicated to the success of this campaign.

41 Lastly, we celebrate those who have made and continue to make this ministry, our friends and supporters.
42 They are the foundation of our work. They are our leaders, mentors and inspiration. We have seen their
43 commitment once more as we prepare for the next 100 years. We wish to thank those who have already
44 stepped up and joined us by giving or pledging to the capital campaign. With the love of God, the love and
45 prayers of those in ministry with us, and in memory of Mrs. Lydia Patterson, we will reach our goal and be
46 prepared to carry her legacy for another 100 years.

47 Socorro Brito de Anda, President
48

TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Once again, the Texas Methodist Foundation ended 2013, our 75th year of existence, as a stronger organization than we began the year. This trajectory has repeated itself annually for many years and is a pattern we intend to continue. The gains of 2013 are based, in part, on the following highlights:

Financial:

- Our **undesignated endowment** grew during the year by approximately \$3 million, ending the year with an endowment of \$27.5 million. The relationship between our loan portfolio and our endowment has never been healthier and, in fact, exceeds guidelines established by our board. Additionally, this endowment growth diversifies and enhances our operating income stream by generating additional revenue for operations.
- Not included in the amount above, **endowment dedicated to our Leadership Ministry** now totals an additional \$4.5 million.
- Our **loan quality** remains very high and liquidity is considered adequate.

Staffing:

- Both our depth and breadth of leadership and staff effectiveness expanded greatly during the year. Throughout 2013, Curtis Vick was deeply involved in leading the implementation of our strategic direction, with Candy Gross now supervising the operations area. Additionally, the 2013 hiring of Bob Dupuy as General Counsel and head of our Charitable Services ministry, and the hiring of Justin Gould to lead our fundraising efforts for the Leadership Ministry were major steps for us.
- During 2013, the position of Area Representative continued to be developed as a major component of our strategic direction. This staff includes Don Psencik in the Texas Conference, John Thornburg in North Texas, Dick Young in Northwest Texas, Eric McKinney in Central Texas, and Melvin Amerson with statewide responsibilities. A search for new Southwest Texas representation is currently being conducted. These area representatives have three primary responsibilities: 1) to serve as a primary relationship for TMF with congregations in the assigned area; 2) to determine how TMF can help develop cultures of purpose and generosity within those congregations; and 3) to connect congregations with needed resources offered either by TMF or others.
- A significant 2013 development is our receipt of a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to assist us in this work.

Grants ministry

During 2013, our staff and board grants committee underwent an intentional process of reviewing and revising our grants program to reflect a new direction for that ministry consistent with our strategic direction.

Envisioning our future

In addition to continuing to refine and implement our strategic direction, we have begun analyzing our brand in the marketplace, developed a new tagline, and formalized an initiative for envisioning and accomplishing our goals for the next five years.

The significance of these highlights and our growth, both in financial gains and in growth in human and intellectual capital, however, lies, ultimately, in the lives changed in local congregations across the state where our services helped enable ministry. The measure of success for our services – investments, loans, stewardship ministry, leadership ministry, and charitable services, including gift planning, church endowments, and grants – is in how effective they are at helping individuals and congregations fulfill God's purposes, as together we work to make Christ's love visible in the world.

FUTURE DATES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

2015.....	June 11 Through June 14
2016.....	June 9 Through June 12
2017.....	June 8 Through June 11



Attention Austin Seminary Alumni

Please join us for dinner during the Southwest Texas Conference

Thursday, June 12
5:45 p.m. fellowship
6:00 p.m. dinner

American Bank Center
(room to be announced later)

Cost: \$15.00

Register here:
AustinSeminary.edu/alumni
and click on UMC-The Southwest Texas Annual Conference
under the “Coming Alumni Events” tab

We look forward to seeing you in Corpus!



AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

100 East 27th Street | Austin, TX 78705-5711
austinseminary.edu | 512-404-4886

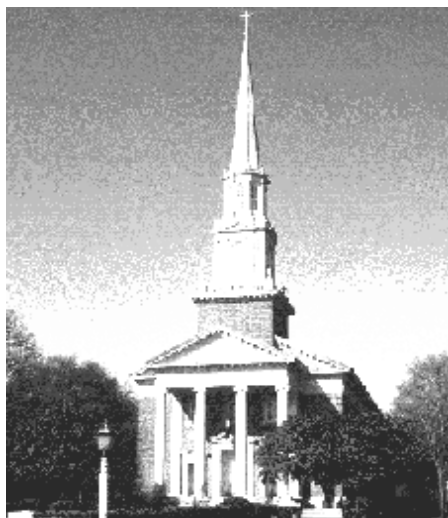
CLERGY SPOUSES' GATHERINGS

All Clergy Spouses are welcome to two special gatherings during Annual Conference.

- Meet-and-Greet on Thursday, June 12, 1 – 3:30 p.m., First UMC, Room 212 upstairs – a come-and-go casual gathering for Clergy Spouses from both conferences.
- Lunch on Friday, June 13 from 12 – 2 p.m. in the Selena Rotunda at the American Bank Center. We have the room from 11 to 3, so feel free to come early and stay late!

More information about both of these events will be found on the SWT Conference website, www.umcswtx.org, after May 1. Please mail your money and registration for the lunch by Friday, May 30 at the latest.

Questions? Please call Maureen Sharp at 361-575-2632. Hope to see you there!



Southwest Texas and Rio Grande Annual
Conferences

PERKINS Alumni DINNER

Thursday, June 12, 2014

5:30 PM

Rotunda Room

Near Selena Auditorium

American Bank Center

1901 N. Shoreline Blvd.

Corpus Christi, Texas

Cost: \$20 per person

Catered by Marco's

Reservation Deadline is May 23, 2014

RESERVATION

SWTC & RGC Annual Conference

Perkins Alumni Dinner

Thursday, June 12, 2014 5:30 PM

Cost: \$20 per person (**Payable to CC District UMC**)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Church _____ Number Attending _____

Email Address: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Mail Reservation with payment to:

Sheila Campbell

Corpus Christi District Office

3510 Gollihar Road

Corpus Christi, Texas 78415

DEADLINE TO MAKE A RESERVATION IS MAY 23, 2014.

Thank you!



**2014 Clergy
Women's Annual
Conference and
Luncheon**

June 14, 2014

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Selena Rotunda

Box lunches catered by Jason's Deli \$8.50 each

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SWTX CONFERENCE
AND MAIL CHECK AND THIS RESERVATION FORM TO:
C/O Gloria Lear at FUMC, 900 South Shoreline Blvd.
Corpus Christi, TX 78401**

RSVP BY JUNE 5, 2014

Name: _____

Number in party (include yourself): _____

Sandwich (Choose one for each person in your party.)

_____Turkey _____Ham _____Veggie Check Total \$_____

All boxes will contain a sandwich on wheat bread, chips, cookie
and pickle. Bottled water will be provided.
You are welcome to bring another beverage.

Life After Death Row

Friday, June 13, 2014 – Noon

American Bank Convention Center
Corpus Christi, Texas

A Peace & Justice Luncheon Sponsored by

Methodist Federation for Social Action, SWTX Chapter
Conference Board of Church & Society

Featuring

Anthony Graves

Texas came close to executing an innocent man.

Anthony Graves is known by most as death row exoneree 138. But he is known by those close to him as a loving son, brother, father and friend taken away from them at a young age. Anthony lost eighteen and a half years of his life when he was wrongly convicted of a brutal crime and incarcerated in Texas prisons, sixteen of those years in solitary confinement, twelve on death row, with two execution dates. Ultimately, perseverance, faith and the tireless work of The Innocence Network and others on Anthony's team, put enough pressure on the system from the outside, and from the inside, where Anthony remained strong. Anthony was proven innocent.

Today Anthony Graves is an advocate for those he left behind. He speaks worldwide about his case and others like it. In Fall of 2013, Anthony established a scholarship at the University of Texas Law School in the name of his champion Professor Nicole Casarez. <http://anthonybelieves.com/about-anthony/>



Join us for this **on-site** luncheon. In addition, we'll honor the recipients of the **MFSA "Building a Just Community" Awards**.

Luncheon Registration Information

Cost: \$12.00 in advance (by June 8) – Check or cash
\$15.00 at the door (limited number available)

Or, pay by credit card* - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peace-and-justice-luncheon-life-after-death-row-tickets-10873526009>

Please return this form with cash or check payment.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Church: _____ # Tickets: ____ X \$ 12.00 =\$_____

E-Mail (for confirmation): _____

Indicate Special Dietary Need: _____

***Credit Card** fee of \$1.65 will be added to the cost (\$13.65 total)

Make **Check** to: "SWTX-MFSA"

Mail this form and check to:

Janice Curry
SWTX - MFSA Treasurer
1509 Mearns Meadow Blvd.
Austin, TX 78758

For more information contact:

jlc Curry@austin.rr.com
512-836-7004

TEXAS HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE



NOTE: This certificate is for business only, not to be used for private purposes, under penalty of law. The hotel operator may request a government ID, business card or other identification to verify exemption claimed. Certificate should be furnished to the hotel or motel. DO NOT send the completed certificate to the Comptroller of Public Accounts. The certificate does not require a number to be valid. Refer to Hotel Rule 3.161 for exemptions.

Check exemption claimed:

- ☐ **United States government or Texas government official exempt from state, city, and county taxes.** Includes US government agencies and its employees traveling on official business, Texas state officials or employees who present a Hotel Tax Exemption Photo Identification Card, and diplomatic personnel of a foreign government who present a Tax Exemption Card issued by the US Department of State.
- ☐ **Religious, charitable, or educational organization or employee exempt from state tax only.** Educational organizations include school districts, private or public elementary and secondary schools, and Texas institutions of higher education as defined in Section 61.003, Texas Education Code. Beginning October 1, 2003, non-Texas institutions of higher education (public and private universities, junior colleges, community colleges) must pay the state hotel occupancy tax. Religious and charitable organizations must hold a letter of exemption issued by the Comptroller of Public Accounts to claim the exemption.
- ☐ **Other. Organization exempt by law other than Chapter 156, Tax Code.** Specify reason for exempt status below. **Supporting Documentation Required.**

Name of exempt organization	Organization exempt status (Religious, charitable, educational, governmental)
Address of exempt organization (Street and number, city, state, ZIP code)	

GUEST CERTIFICATION: I declare that I am an occupant of this hotel/motel on official business sanctioned by the exempt organization named above and that all information shown on this document is true and correct.

Guest name (Please print)

sign here	Date
-----------	------

FOR HOTEL/MOTEL USE ONLY (OPTIONAL)

Name of hotel/motel				
Address of hotel/motel (Street and number, city, state, ZIP code)				
Room rate	Local tax	Exempt state tax	Amount paid by guest	Method of payment

You have certain rights under Chapters 552 and 559, Government Code, to review, request and correct information we have on file about you. To review or correct your state tax-related information, contact the Texas State Comptroller's office.

Hotels may require verification before accepting a hotel occupancy tax exemption certificate. An organization may qualify for hotel occupancy tax exemption even when it does not have a Comptroller's letter of hotel tax exemption or cannot be found on the Comptroller's list of exempt organizations. Some examples include churches, public schools and community colleges.

You may need to pay the tax until verification of hotel tax exemption can be obtained from the Comptroller's office. You can apply to the hotel for a refund or credit.

A list of charitable, educational, religious and other organizations that are exempt from state and/or local hotel tax is online at http://window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/exempt/exempt_search.html. Other information about Texas tax exemptions, including applications, is online at <http://window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/exempt/index.html>.

You can also send an e-mail to exempt.orgs@cpa.state.tx.us or call (800) 252-1385.

The United Methodist Church
HOTEL RESERVATION FORM
2014 Annual Conference
June 12, 2014 - June 15, 2014

Choose one of the following to reserve your hotel room:

- **ONLINE: (RECOMMENDED)**
<https://www.cccvbhousing.com> or
www.umcswtx.org/annual-conference

- **MAIL form to:**
Housing Department
Corpus Christi Convention & Visitors Bureau
101 N. Shoreline Blvd., Suite 430
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

NO PHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Please call 361-881-1888 ext. 308 for questions

2-night minimum stay is required

Rates are subject to a 15% Occupancy Tax (9% city and 6% state). Delegates are exempt from the 6% state tax if they supply the hotel with an exemption form.

Arrival Date:	
Departure Date:	
Number of Adults	
Number of Children	

Last Day for Reservations: May 16, 2014

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone Number:	Cell Phone Number
Email Address:	
Additional Occupants:	

Hotel	Rates	Rank 1-3
Emerald Beach Hotel	\$110.00	
Holiday Inn Downtown Marina (formerly Omni Marina)	\$124.00	
Omni Bayfront	\$124.00	

Type of Credit Card:	
Credit Card No.	
Expiration Date:	
Name of Card Holder	

Check Room Type

	Single: 1 p, 1/bed		Non-Smoking
	Double: 2ppl, 1 Bed		Smoking
	Double, Double 1-4 ppl; 2 Beds		Handicap
	King		

Deposit Required:

room rate can be paid through credit card, check, or money order: Make check or money order payable to the Central Housing Bureau. Reservations not guaranteed may be subject to

rental, which will be billed to my credit card or deducted from my deposit, should I not arrive by the designated arrival date or cancel 72 hours prior to the arrival date.

- If sharing a room with others, acknowledgements will be mailed from the CCCVB Central Housing to the person who sends in the reservation request.
- Deposit: A deposit equal to one night's room rate is required for each room reserved.
- Check-in time: 3:00 p.m. Check-out time: 12:00 noon
- Cancellation Policy: Cancellations must be made 72 hours prior to the arrival date otherwise your deposit is nonrefundable. All changes and be made directly with the hotel.
- preferences. If your preferences are not available, you will be assigned to other participating hotels.
- Guests eligible for exemption of state tax are responsible for supplying a tax exemption form at check-in.
- Hotel may require a deposit for incidentals
-



2014 San Antonio Episcopal Area Annual Conference Child Care



This event for children of RGC and SWTC participants offers more than just child care. This informal Christian event includes art, crafts, games, movies, a field trip and recreation appropriate to age level – all supervised by caring, screened adults.

In order to ensure enough space and staff, reservations are required. **Forms postmarked on or before Monday, May 12th receive early reservation discount. Regular reservation forms must be postmarked by Saturday, May 24th.**

Early Reservation Discount

Reservations postmarked by May 12th

Day Camp

Thursday 12:15 pm – 6:30 pm

Friday 6:30 am – 9:00 pm **OR** 1 hour after
last session ends

Saturday 6:30 am – 5:00 pm **OR** 1 hour after
last session ends

Ages birth to 5 years (not completed Kindergarten)
early reservation fee is \$60; Regular fee \$70.

Ages 5 (completed Kindergarten) to 12 years early
reservation fee is \$70; Regular fee \$80.

Per Day

Ages birth to 5 years (not completed Kindergarten)
Thur fee is \$25; Fri or Sat fee is \$30.

Ages 5 (completed Kindergarten) to 12 years, fee
for any day is \$30.

Optional Lunches (Friday & Saturday)

Available for \$5 per day (includes beverage)

Optional Dinners (Thursday & Friday) - \$5

Available for \$5 per day (includes beverage)
Dinner served at 6:30 PM.

Worship

Thursday 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm

Saturday 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Reservation fee for all ages is \$20 per child, unless
Ordinands' Special applies.

Ordinands' Special

Saturday child care from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm is free
of charge to ordinands and their families (Reservation
is still required.)

Please complete one reservation form per child. Detach and remit lower portion.

RESERVATION FOR CHILD CARE

Child's name _____ Age/Grade _____

Parent(s) name _____

Address, city & zip _____

Contact _____ 2nd Contact _____

Email _____

Conference address _____

Allergies or Medical Information _____

Payment must accompany reservation.

Our refund policy allows us to return 50% of monies paid if cancelled prior to first day of event.

Cancellation must be in writing to Tyshan Pyle at the address below or tpyle@ccfumc.com

Mail reservation form with check or money order payable to "SWTC Treasurer"

Annual Conference Child Care, 900 S. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Location

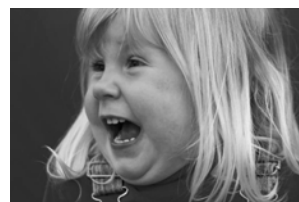
All sessions will meet at the First United Methodist Church in Corpus Christi. The address is:
900 S. Shoreline Blvd.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Meals

Breakfasts are not offered. Please provide a meal for your child prior to arrival.
Optional dinners are available Thursday and Friday evenings at 6:30PM for \$5 per meal.
You have the choice to send lunch with your children, take them out for lunch, or purchase lunches Friday & Saturday from First UMC with your reservations for \$5 per meal.

Questions?

Contact Tyshan Pyle at First UMC
361-884-0391 ext. 327
tpyle@ccfumc.com
900 S. Shoreline Blvd.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401



What to Bring

Infants & Toddlers

2 changes of clothes
Training pants or diapers
Favorite toy
Bottles, formula, pacifier
Blanket

Ages 3-5 (PreKindergarten)

Change of clothes
Blanket
Favorite toy

Ages 5 (completed kindergarten) – 12 years

Closed-toe shoes and t-shirt
Sun hat

A Confirmation Letter with your child's itinerary will be mailed or emailed to you prior to the event.

Thank you.

***Early Discount / Regular Reservation – one form per child**

Amount

_____ Day Camp Birth – 5: \$60* / \$70 5-12: \$70* / \$80

_____ Per Day (Circle day/days) Th F Sa
\$25 (Ages 5 and under Th)
\$30 (Ages 5 and under, F or Sa)
\$30 (Ages 5-12, Th F or Sa)

_____ Lunch (Circle day/days) F Sa
\$5 per day when under our care

_____ Thursday Evening Worship \$20

_____ Saturday Afternoon Worship \$20

_____ Dinners \$5 (Circle evening) Th F

_____ \$20 late fee if postmarked after May 24th

_____ Total Amount Enclosed

_____ I am an ordinand. Please reserve a complimentary space for my child Saturday afternoon.

Reservations required.

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS' USE

PARLIAMENTARY GUIDELINES FOR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Below are listed some of the most frequently needed items of parliamentary procedure. This statement is only a summary, and for primary authority, please consult the Standing Rules of the Conference and Roberts Rules of Order.

To be recognized - Approach one of the numbered microphones. Do not speak until you have been recognized.

To identify yourself - "I am "name", (a lay or clergy) member from the (name of church). Then identify your purpose by saying, "I raise a point of order;" or "I speak for (or against) the motion;" or "I have a question;" etc.

To avoid considering an original main motion - The proper statement is, "I object to the consideration of the question (or resolution, etc.)" This may be done when another person has the floor, but must be done before there has been any debate and before the chair has stated any subsidiary motion. There is no second required. It is not debatable, and a two-thirds vote against consideration is required to sustain the objection (that is, to keep the question from being considered").

To delay consideration of a question - The member may move:

- To postpone indefinitely - debatable, majority vote
- To postpone a certain time - debatable majority vote

To lay on the table - not debatable, majority vote. If applied to an "adhering" motion, the main motion is also tabled. It is improper to use the motion to table to suppress a question without debate; that requires the same 2/3 vote as the objection to consideration noted above.

To change a proposal before the Conference - The member may move to "amend." There may be a motion for an amendment (a primary amendment) or to amend the amendment (a secondary amendment); but any further motion to amend must wait until the secondary amendment has been acted on, since no amendment beyond the secondary is to be considered.

To end debate immediately - The member should move the previous question, which is simply a motion that the Conference vote without further debate. This motion is not debatable, and requires 2/3 vote; shouting "question" without recognition by the chair is not a motion. The previous question may be applied to the single immediately pending question, to a stated number of questions, or to "all that is before us."

To divide a motion into two separate issues - The member should move to "divide the question." This motion is not debatable and requires a majority vote.

When the member thinks the count of a vote taken by lifting hands or by voice inconclusive - The member may say "I call for a division of the house," and a standing vote is then required. This is not debatable, nor does it require a second or a vote.

To ask for a secret ballot - The member may move that there be a ballot vote. This is not debatable; and a majority vote is required.