



NORTH TEXAS

CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

East District

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Dear Pastors and Lay Leaders,

We have experienced a wilderness of sorts over the last few months as we have met the challenges of a global pandemic. In many ways, we are like the Israelites looking for God's provision in the midst of this dry time. The ancient story reminds us that when the people grew weary, believing that God had forgotten them, they cried out to return to the life they had left behind. It is in that moment that God provided manna for them to eat and water for them to drink. So my first question is, **"What manna has God provided this last year?"**

In the midst of the business of doing church, sometimes we lose sight of BEING the church. While we gather to care for the business of the church during our charge conference, it is important to remember that this solid foundation is given life when we recall our call to BE the church in the midst of the world. Your witness, your story, your unique call to simply BE manna for a hurting world is life giving. So, my second question is **"How has your congregation been manna to the world?"**

Lean into the narrative found in Exodus 16; study it together, and listen to what God is whispering in your ear. I invite you to get creative. Put together a 15 minute presentation telling your story of how God has provided manna for your church and community this last year. This can be a video, a skit, a conversation lead by laity, an interview, a reflection through poetry or music, a hymn, a liturgy; you get the idea.

I look forward to our time together! I will be in prayer for you in the meantime.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Cassie Wade
East District Superintendent

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