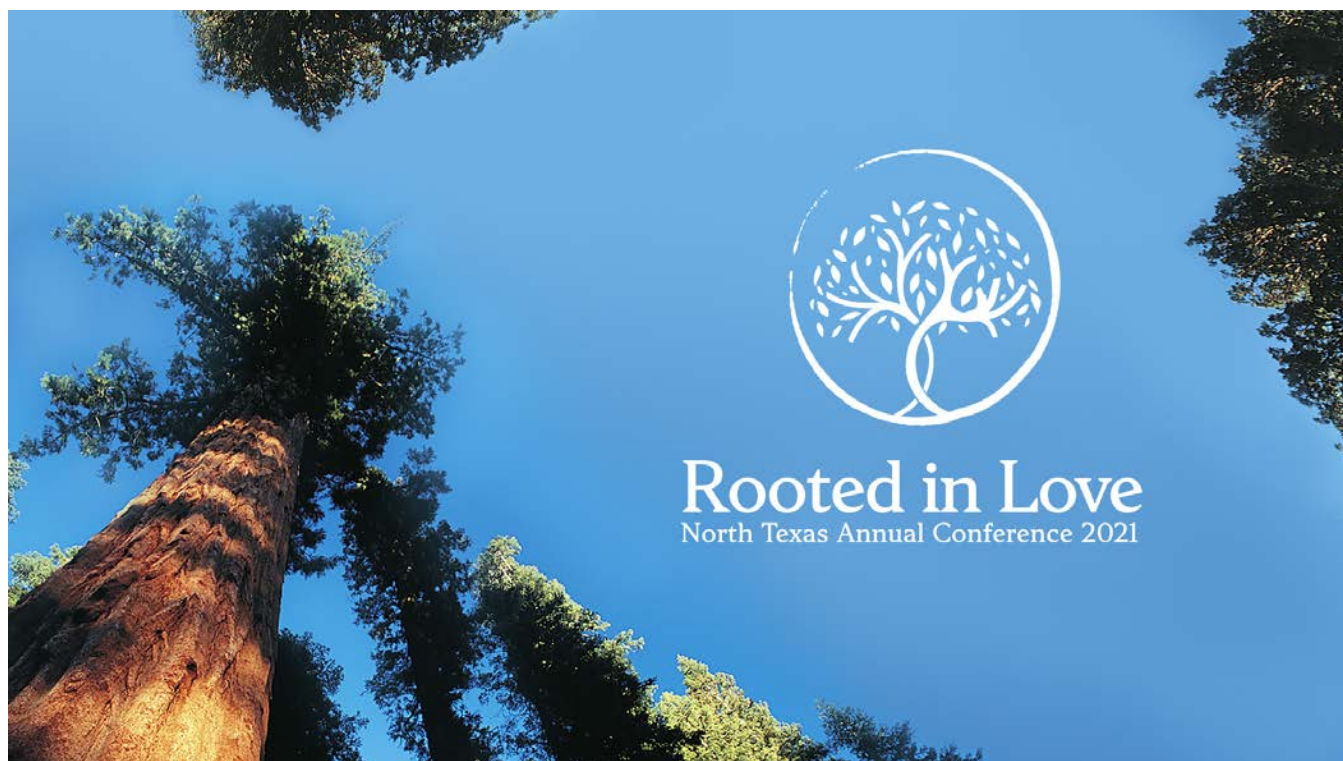


2021 CONFERENCE WORKBOOK



June 13-15



Welcome to Annual Conference 2021!

This Conference Workbook contains an agenda, program announcements, schedules, reports, and legislative proposals for the 2021 North Texas ANNUAL CONFERENCE in Plano, TX.

VOTING MEMBERS:

Lay and Clergy Members who are eligible to vote at District and Annual Conferences should contact their district offices if they have not received an email explaining registration.

VISITORS:

The sessions on Monday and Tuesday will be livestreamed. Visitors to Annual Conference may follow the live-stream session of the meetings at <https://ntcumc.org/annual-conference-2021>, or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ntcumc/>.

SUNDAY, June 13

3:00 pm Laity Session (ONLINE) No registration required.

Follow at <https://ntcumc.org/annual-conference-2021>.

7:00 pm Opening Worship Service, **Bishop Gregory Palmer preaching**, St. Andrew UMC Plano sanctuary. **LIVESTREAMED and Facebook**

MONDAY, June 14

9:00 am – 3:00 p.m. General session in the Sanctuary. **LIVESTREAMED and Facebook**

3:30 pm Ordination Service Rehearsal for All participants, St. Andrew UMC Plano sanctuary.

5:00 pm Dinners for all worship participants and special guests, St. Andrew UMC Plano, sanctuary.

7:00 pm The Service of Ordination and Commissioning, **Bishop Michael McKee preaching**, St. Andrew UMC Plano, sanctuary. **LIVESTREAMED and Facebook**

TUESDAY, June 15

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. General session in the Sanctuary. **LIVESTREAMED and Facebook**



PLEASE NOTE: If you want a bound, printed, 8 ½ x 11, black and white copy of the *2021 North Texas Conference Journal*, you must complete the [ORDER FORM](#) located in the back of this workbook and mail it in OR purchase a copy [ONLINE](#).

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AGENDA FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

“ROOTED IN LOVE”

Sunday, June 13

3:00 pm	Laity Session (online, see link on Page 2)	
3:30 pm	Opening Worship Rehearsal	<i>St. Andrew UMC, sanctuary</i>
5:30 pm	Opening Worship Participant and Cabinet Dinner	<i>St. Andrew UMC</i>
7:00 pm	Opening Worship Service.....	<i>St. Andrew UMC, sanctuary (livestreamed)</i>
	Bishop Gregory Palmer preaching	

Monday, June 14 (all online)

9:00 am	Opening Music	<i>St. Andrew UMC, sanctuary</i>
9:05 am	Welcome and Prayer.....	<i>Bishop Michael McKee</i>
9:20 am	Baptismal Renewal Service	
9:40 am	Episcopal Address	<i>Bishop Michael McKee</i>
10:10 am	Episcopacy Committee Report	
10:20 am	Retiree Videos	
10:30 am	Board of Ordained Ministry Report	
10:45 am	Retiree Videos	
10:55 am	Journey Toward Racial Justice report	<i>Rev. Edlen Cowley and Rev. Silvia Wang</i>
11:05 am	Break to prepare for Memorial Service	
11:15 am	Memorial Service	
12:00 pm	Lunch Break	
1:15 pm	Gathering Music	
1:25 pm	Keynote Address	<i>Dr. Philip Amerson</i>
2:05 pm	2020 State of the Church Video	
2:10 pm	Center for Connectional Resources Report	
	Equitable Compensation	
	Board of Pension and Health Benefits	
2:25 pm	C.C. Young	
2:30 pm	Center for Leadership Development report	
2:45 pm	Delegation report	
2:55 pm	Announcements	
3:00 pm	Dismissal	
3:30 pm	Ordination Rehearsal.....	<i>St. Andrew UMC, Sanctuary</i>
5:00 pm	Ordination Participant and Cabinet Dinner	<i>St. Andrew UMC</i>
7:00 pm	Service of Ordination and Commissioning	<i>St. Andrew UMC, sanctuary (livestreamed)</i>
	Bishop Michael McKee preaching	

Tuesday, June 15 (all online)

9:00 am	Opening Music	<i>St. Andrew UMC, Sanctuary</i>
9:05 am	Welcome and Prayer.....	<i>Bishop Michael McKee</i>
9:10 am	Consent Calendar	
9:15 am	Laity Address	
9:25 am	Young People's Address	
9:30 am	Clergy Spouse's Address	
9:35 am	Lydia Patterson Institute	
9:40 am	Keynote Address	<i>Dr. Philip Amerson</i>
10:20 am	Break	

10:25 am	Gathering Music	
10:30 am	Southern Methodist University	
10:35 am	25th Anniversary of the Order of Deacons	
10:40 am	Center for Church Development Report	
10:55 am	Black Church Task Force	
11:10 am	Keynote Address	<i>Dr. Philip Amerson</i>
11:55 am	Announcements	
12:00 pm	Lunch Break	
1:15 pm	Gathering Music	
1:25 pm	Center for Missional Outreach Report	
1:40 pm	Award Presentations	
2:00 pm	Nominations Report	
2:05 pm	Legislative Items	
	Council on Finance and Administration	
	Other items	
2:45 pm	Closing Announcements and Remarks	
3:00 pm	Dismissal	

PRELIMINARY CONSENT CALENDAR GUIDELINES

The Consent Calendar will be presented as a resolution in which the reports listed can be approved in one motion rather than separate motions for each item. A consent calendar, as the name implies, refers to the general agreement that certain item(s) are voted on, without questions or discussion, as a package. It differentiates between routine matters not needing explanation and more complex issues needing examination. It is not that the routine matters are not important, nor that they don't need to be approved by the body, it is just that they are not controversial and so there is no need for discussion before taking a vote. Many of the items are placed on the consent agenda because there is no change what-so-ever or a minor word(s) change for clarification year after year. The main purpose of a consent calendar is to liberate our business sessions from administrative details, repetitious discussions, and help keep our focus on celebrating, worshipping, teaching, learning and strategic issues.

To be placed on our consent calendar, the report item must:

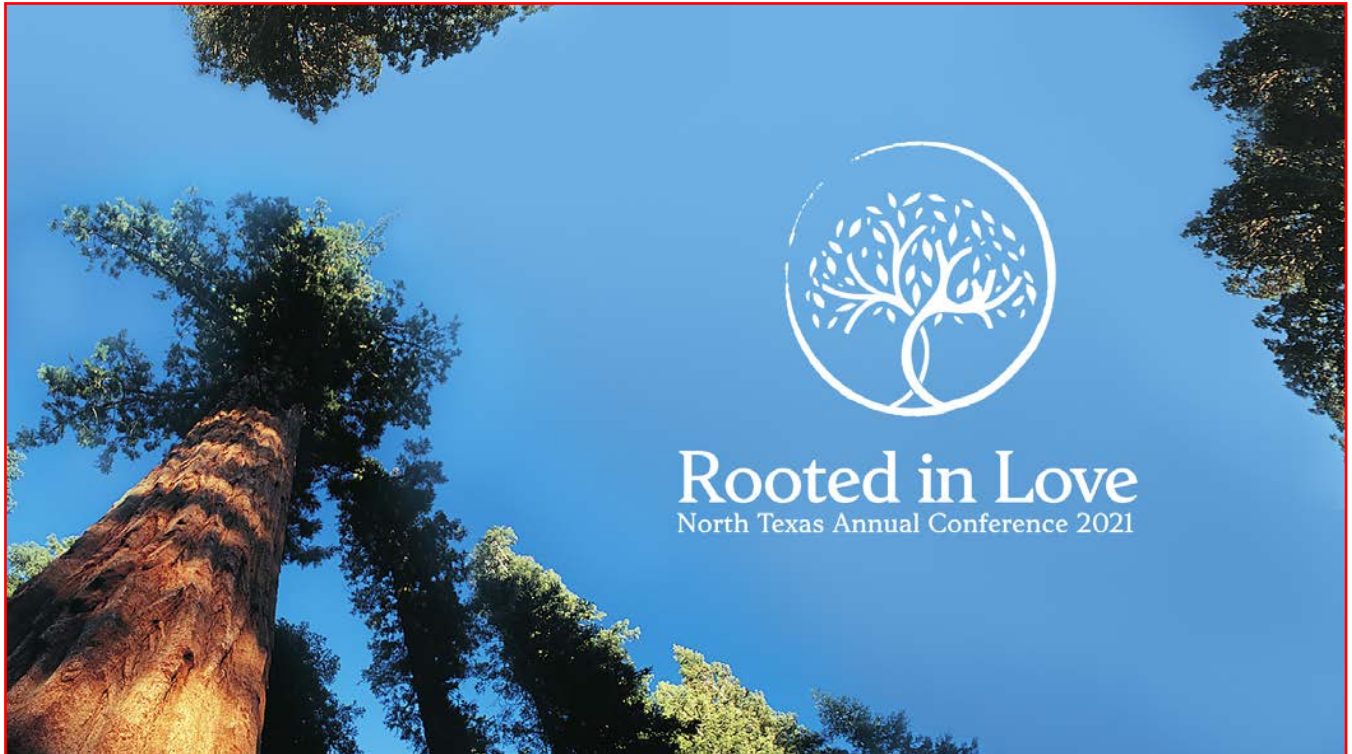
- 1) **Not have financial implications that have not already been included in the new budget, and**
- 2) **Not deal with conference rules.**

To be removed from the consent calendar, the report item must have the following actions:

- 1) **A note proposing the item to be removed, signed by five (5) voting members of the annual conference, submitted to the Conference Secretary, and**
- 2) **Must be done within twenty-four (24) hours of presenting the consent calendar.**

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ROOTED IN LOVE

**“...That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,
as you are being rooted and grounded in love.”**

Ephesians 3:14-21

Whether they be the redwoods of California, the towering pines of Texas or the acacias of Africa, trees endure and even thrive regardless of the conditions because of their root systems. Similarly, the vitality of the United Methodist Church in our own time depends upon her distinctive roots – theological, relational, practical.

The theme scripture for the 2021 North Texas Annual Conference is the apostle Paul’s prayer in his letter to the Ephesians found in 3:14-21. His prayer beckons us to be “rooted in love” and evokes John Wesley’s call to be “habitually filled with the love of God and neighbor.” It also points to creative possibilities for the Church’s future when we tap into the power of God at work within us.

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Philip Amerson, whose wide-ranging ministerial career has taken him from being a missionary intern in Panama and a pastor in numerous pulpits to president of two United Methodist-affiliated seminaries. He will share how our rootedness defines us and gives us the imagination and the strength to flourish in the future.

At Annual Conference 2021, we will worship, learn, fellowship and pray – together – as we become more rooted in love.

2021 NORTH TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEATURED SPEAKERS

BISHOP MICHAEL MCKEE ORDINATION PREACHER



Bishop Michael McKee is a native of Fort Worth, Texas. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin (1973), a Master of Theology from Perkins School of Theology of Southern Methodist University (1978), and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Texas Wesleyan University (2005). Additionally, Bishop McKee was honored in 2017 with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Perkins.

He was ordained deacon in 1975 and ordained elder in 1979 in the Central Texas Annual Conference, where he served several churches, including most recently 15 years as the senior pastor of First UMC, Hurst. He has held numerous offices including chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Mid-Cities District Committee of Ordained Ministry. He was a delegate to three Jurisdictional Conferences and two General Conferences.

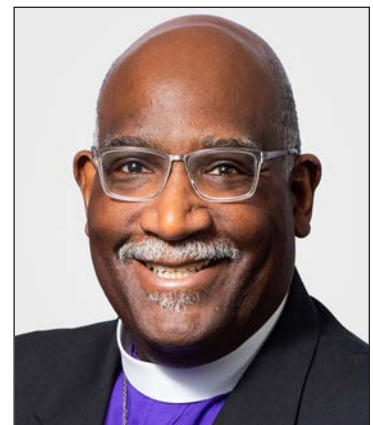
In 2012, McKee was elected to the episcopacy by the South Central Jurisdictional Conference and assigned to serve as the resident bishop of the Dallas Area effective September 1, 2012. McKee is the former president of the South Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops. Currently, he serves as president of the Board of the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) of the UMC. He serves on the Boards of Trustees of Southern Methodist University, Texas Methodist Foundation, Southwestern University, and Methodist Health System, Dallas and is chair of the Executive Board of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

Mike and Joan (Craig) McKee have been married since 1975 and have two adult children: Erin, who lives with her husband, Darin, and sons, Knox and Ford, in California; and Meredith, who lives in Dallas.

BISHOP GREGORY VAUGHN PALMER GUEST PREACHER

Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer serves as the episcopal leader of the Ohio West Area of The United Methodist Church. He was assigned there Sept. 1, 2012.

Born and reared in Philadelphia, Palmer is a “child of the church,” the son of the Rev. Herbert E. and Mrs. Charlotte Sue Hewitt Palmer. Palmer’s father is a retired United Methodist pastor; his mother (now deceased) was a schoolteacher in the Philadelphia Public School system. Rev. Herbert Palmer and his wife Peggy reside in Philadelphia.



Bishop Palmer received his undergraduate degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and the Master of Divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School, Durham, N.C. Baldwin-Wallace College, Iowa Wesleyan College, Simpson College, Hood Theological Seminary and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary awarded him honorary degrees.

He was ordained a deacon and elected a probationary member in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference in 1977. In 1981, he was elected into full membership and ordained an elder in the East Ohio Annual Conference.

His pastoral career includes student pastorates in North Carolina and post-seminary appointments in the East Ohio Conference in Cleveland, Canton and Berea. Palmer also served as superintendent of the Youngstown District of the East Ohio Conference.

Elected to the episcopacy by the North Central Jurisdictional Conference in 2000, Palmer served the Iowa Area until assuming responsibilities in the Illinois Area in 2008. Palmer served as president of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry from 2004 to 2008 and president of the Council of Bishops from April 2008 to May 2010. Palmer served on the Commission on a Way Forward.

Currently, he is a member of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters and chair of the Comprehensive Africa Plan. He also is a board member of several organizations, including The United Methodist Publishing House, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, United Theological Seminary and OhioHealth, a family of nonprofit hospitals and health care facilities.

Married for 43 years to his wife, Cynthia, they are the parents of two adult children. Monica is a public-school principal in Charlotte, N.C., and Aaron is a Senior Product Owner interactive technology company based in Charlotte, N.C.



DR. PHILIP A. AMERSON

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Philip A. Amerson asserts “God’s people, through the United Methodist Church, offer one of the most critically needed faith ecologies of our time. God is not finished with Methodism by a long shot; we will produce good fruit for generations to come!”

Drawing on lessons from a ministry that spans over five decades as pastor/preacher, missionary, social researcher, theological educator and advocate for vibrant civil communities, Amerson asserts that while we should look back and learn, the call now is to step forward in loving action.

Dr. Amerson is president emeritus of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, holds a Ph.D. from Emory University and an M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary. In 2018-19, he was interim lead pastor at First UMC San Diego and was interim at St. Andrew UMC, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, in 2014. He served as president of the Claremont School of Theology from 2000 to 2006.

A “cradle Methodist” from Indiana, Phil has taught in numerous university and seminary settings nationally and internationally. He was a consultant for the Lilly Endowment, a delegate to four UMC General Conferences and served on the research team for the Wellbeing at Work: Flourishing in Ministry project at the University of Notre Dame.

Phil and his wife, Elaine, were missionary interns in the Republic of Panama (1969-70), on faculty at Candler School of Theology (Atlanta), and were founding members of Patchwork Central Ministries in Evansville, Indiana (1977 to 1986). Patchwork was multifaceted, with ecumenical worship services, neighborhood Bible studies, after-school art and education, neighborhood economic development and job creation, healthcare initiatives and other ministries focusing on personal, social and economic empowerment.

From 1982 to 2000, Phil was blessed to serve as pastor of three growing Indiana congregations (St. Johns: Evansville; Broadway: Indianapolis; and First UMC Bloomington).

The Amersons live in Bloomington, Indiana. Their daughter, Lydia Murray, lives in Chicago and son, Andrew, in Oakland, California. Phil and Elaine enjoy work on several community service boards, travel and enjoy the multiple educational and cultural opportunity provided by Indiana University. The best part of their lives these days revolves around four grandchildren: Gus, Eleanor, Colin and Zack.

ACRONYMS

BOM	Board of Ordained Ministry
CCYM	Conference Council on Youth Ministries
CFA	Council on Finance and Administration
CPP	Comprehensive Protection Plan
DCOM	District Committee on Ordained Ministry
DS	District Superintendent
EA	East District
ELCC	Ethnic Local Church Concerns
GBCS	General Board of Church and Society
GBGM	General Board of Global Ministries
GBHEM	General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
GBOD	General Board of Discipleship
GCAH	General Commission on Archives and History
GCCUIC	General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns
GCFA	General Council on Finance and Administration
GCOSROW	General Commission on Status and Role of Women
GCRR	General Commission on Religion and Race
JFON	Justice For Our Neighbors
LPI	Lydia Patterson Institute, El Paso
ME	Metro District
MEF	Ministerial Education Fund
MHBT	McQueary/Henry/Bowles/Troy
MPP	Ministerial Pension Plan
NC	North Central District
NTC	North Texas Conference
NW	Northwest District
NYMO	National Youth Ministry Organization
P-PR	Pastor-Parish Relations Committee
P&Q	Division of Preparations and Qualifications of the Board of Ordained Ministry
SCJ	South Central Jurisdiction
S-PR	Staff-Parish Relations Committee
TMF	Texas Methodist Foundation
TUMCA	Texas United Methodist College Association
UMC	The United Methodist Church
UMCom	United Methodist Communications
UMCOR	United Methodist Committee on Relief
UMM	United Methodist Men
UMW	United Methodist Women
UMYF	United Methodist Youth Fellowship
VBS	Vacation Bible School
VIM	Volunteers in Mission
YSF	Youth Service Fund

STANDING RULES: PROCEEDINGS FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Motions by Function Chart

<i>Motion</i>	<i>What to say</i>	<i>Second?</i>	<i>Debate?</i>	<i>Amend?</i>	<i>Vote?</i>
Adjourn	"I move that we adjourn."	Yes	No	No	Majority
Adopt a report	"I move that the report be adopted."	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Amend a motion on the floor	"I move to amend by [describe]."	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Complain about air conditioning, noise, etc.	"I rise to a question of privilege."	No	No	No	No vote. Chair rules
Divide motion into parts to be voted on separately	"I move that we divide the question to consider separately [specify]."	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
End debate	"I move the previous question."	Yes	No	No	Two-thirds
Introduce a main motion	"I move that . . ."	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Give closer study	"I move to refer the matter to committee."	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Protest a breach of rules or conduct	"I rise to a point of order."	No	No	No	No vote. Chair rules
Reconsider an action	"I move to reconsider the vote on [specify]."	Yes	same as original motion	No	Majority
Request information	"Point of information."	No	No	No	No vote. Chair responds
Suspend an issue	"I move to table the motion."	Yes	No	No	Majority
Suspend the rules	"I move to suspend the rules so that [specify]."	Yes	No	No	Two-thirds
Take up a tabled matter	"I move to take from the table [specify]."	Yes	No	No	Majority
Vote on a chair's ruling	"I appeal from the decision that [specify]."	Yes	No	No	Majority

Motions by Rank Chart

Ranking Motions The ranking motions are listed in order of rank. When any one of these motions is immediately pending, those above it are in order and those below it are not in order.		Principal Requirements		
<i>Privileged Motions</i>	Second Required?	Debatable?	Amendable?	Vote Required
Adjourn	Yes	No	No	Majority
Raise a question of privilege	No	No	No	No vote. Chair rules
Call for order of the day	No	No	No	No vote. Chair rules
<i>Subsidiary Motions</i>				
Table	Yes	No	No	Majority
Move the previous question	Yes	No	No	2/3
Refer to committee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
<i>Main Motions</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Non-Ranking Motions Whether these non-ranking motions are in order depends upon the business already under consideration and what purpose they may serve when introduced.		Principal Requirements		
<i>Incidental Motions</i>				
Appeal	Yes	No	No	Majority
Divide the question	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Parliamentary inquiry	No	No	No	No vote
Point of order/point of information	No	No	No	No vote. Chair rules/responds
Suspend the rules	Yes	No	No	2/3
Withdraw a motion	No	No	No	Majority
<i>Motions that Bring a Question Back</i>				
Reconsider	Yes	per original	No	Majority
Take from the table	Yes	No	No	Majority

2021 AWARDS

HARRY DENMAN EVANGELISM AWARDS

For over 42 years, The Foundation for Evangelism has partnered with annual conferences to present the Harry Denman Evangelism Awards to youth, clergy, and laity whose ministries help to nurture and empower disciples so changed by their relationship with Jesus Christ that they cannot stop themselves from serving as Christ served, or sharing “Why Jesus” in all aspects of their lives.

Harry Denman, a noted lay evangelist and leader in the Methodist Church in the 1950s, believed that each person must live their call to make disciples of Jesus Christ through relationship, mission, and preaching. Denman’s words still inspire more than forty years after his death: “Today...the only way we can see Christ is to see him wrapped in a person...” What relevant words for the times we live in now!

CLERGY

Rev. Derek Jacobs

The Village United Methodist Church in Desoto, Texas



Rev. Derek Jacobs knows what it is like to tackle challenges and keep preaching and inviting people into a relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the founding pastor of The Village UMC in Desoto, Texas, where he has served for 9 years. Most of those years have been spent reaching out to the community, building relationships, and being church even without a permanent church home. Evangelism has always been at the forefront of Pastor Jacob’s heart. When asked to share a story about how he and the church reach people for Christ, he went straight to two stories about praying for people who needed a miracle. Those stories included becoming involved in the lives of people who needed hope. They also included tears. During this pandemic, the church took the opportunity to put The Village on “the map” by serving as a food distribution parking lot site, hosting the Red Cross Blood Mobile, and giving out Blessing Bags to kids returning to school. At Christmas, a church member identified six single moms who were taking classes at Mountain View College and the church assisted with Christmas gifts for their children. Two of those families became a part of the weekly worshipping community at The Village. Each of these connection points included evangelism (sharing Christ) and an invitation to be a part of Christ’s saving work. People have experienced the Grace of God and the love of Jesus through the witness of Rev. Derek Jacobs and The Village congregation.

The Village has its roots as the “South Campus,” a ministry of St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church in Dallas. From worshipping in the home of Don and Cecilia Edwards in Desoto, TX, in January 2010 to a larger gathering at First United Methodist Church in Cedar Hill and then relocating to a storefront shopping center in DeSoto, the South Campus continued to connect people to Christ in every space they inhabited. The South Campus became an independent fellowship in 2012. They officially changed their name to The Village and Chartered on Sunday, April 14, 2013. Twelve acres of land was awarded to The Village by the North Texas Conference to build a bigger facility and an even bigger following for Christ.

Under the leadership of Rev. Jacobs, The Village UMC Church facility was completed over 10 years after the first meeting in the home of a parishioner. Pandemic restrictions have kept them from coming together in their new worship and education space for more than five months. With the hope of new life and resurrection, the congregation gathered for worship in the parking lot on Easter Day 2021. Covid-19 restrictions still in place, they opened the building for tours of their new church home. Generous congregants and now invested newcomers were finally able to see all that had been built for God’s work.

Although the church doors have not yet opened for worship (as of this writing), the praise and worship team meet weekly to create an excellent experience of virtual worship. Worshiping with this format was not new to Rev. Jacobs and his team. Social media innovation was part of their DNA from the beginning. The strange pause of this pandemic gave them time to research and plan. The new worship space gave plenty of creative opportunity to develop a vibrant and engaging online worship experience that everyone is thrilled about; so thrilled that the worshipping congregation has invited their friends to “viewing parties” every Sunday for worship. Online worship numbers show that this outreach and excitement is producing fruit. They are certainly living out their vision - “It takes The Village to EMPOWER and EQUIP individuals of all ages to EXCEL in their faith and God given potential to make an impact in the world.” We thank and honor Rev. Derek Jacobs for his persistent and inspiring ministry!

YOUTH

Haven Emery

Lovers Lane United Methodist Church



Haven Emery, a senior at Lovers Lane UMC in Dallas, lives out her love for God and love for others through service and invitation in all that she does. She models Christ’s example of love by serving others. People’s lives have been changed by her care, compassion, and willingness to stand up for what is right. Haven serves in as many places as she can and has expressed her experience of the love of God in powerful ways while doing so. She volunteers at Scottish Rite Hospital in the Dyslexia Center and Orthopedic Inpatient Unit, welcoming children and making them feel at ease playing with them while they are waiting for treatment. Haven serves over 150 hours each year with the Lovers Lane UMC Rays of Light Respite Program offering individualized care and attention to children with special needs and their siblings. She leads within her church by helping to coordinate missions, worship, student activities, VBS, Confirmation, Sunday School, and small groups. She is also a leader in the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, serving as Worship Chair during the 2020-2021 year and a speaker at Midwinter 2021. Haven lives into Lovers Lane’s mission of “loving ALL people into relationship with Jesus Christ.

Another example of Haven’s commitment to showing God’s love in service to others is through a volunteer club that she founded at her school, the School for the Talented and Gifted at Townview, called “Students Embodying and Defining Service” (SE&DS). This club encourages all students, no matter their faith or background, to learn to serve and find ways to love others through service. Haven recognizes that our need to love and serve others comes from God and helps others see that too. She invites the SE&DS group to serve within the mission opportunities at Lovers Lane and has also started a morning devotion time at school to encourage her friends and classmates in their faith. She serves as a bridge-builder between people who come from all different walks of life, welcoming new people to youth group and sharing her compassionate heart with other students. Haven has a passion for Jesus that has become a passion for others to know Jesus as well and is the epitome of what it means to be the good news of Jesus Christ to others.

LAITY

Dana Phillips

Trietsch United Methodist Church

The North Texas Conference 2021 Harry Denman Evangelism Award for Laity is awarded to Dana Phillips. Dana began her walk with Christ when she was in the 6th grade and has maintained a close affinity with the United Methodist Church ever since. Her life has been busy raising five children with her husband, Neil, and making many job-related cross-country moves. But it is through her current lay ministry at Trietsch United Methodist Church that she has been able to bring people into life transforming relationships with Jesus Christ.



Dana reflects innovative evangelism in three ways. First, she uses social media to reach others during COVID-19 social distancing. Dana has a robust following on Facebook where she posts daily messages to encourage, uplift, and share the love of Christ. Not only has Dana shared Christ's love by posting scripture, devotions, and testimony, she has also conducted long term Bible studies to groups spanning large geographical areas thanks to the use of technology.

The second way Dana shares the Good News in innovative ways is through her use of remote digital worship. Because of her broad network across many states, Dana has introduced many people to the digital resources available through Trietsch United Methodist Church. Some in Minnesota and New York worship exclusively at Trietsch via the internet because of Dana. When one thinks of an innovative approach to birthing new churches electronically, Dana has set a

standard to be emulated.

And finally, Dana has continued a ministry of evangelism by adhering to John Wesley's teachings on "Class Meetings" as an essential part of growing in relationship with Christ. At Trietsch, Dana has helped to launch and grow Life Groups. She assisted in the planning of the groups and the development of a leader guide, and she has personally led multiple groups and developed new leaders to start their own Life Groups. Trietsch Senior Pastor Rev. Daniel Humbert affirms, "Dana has a unique ability to share her faith with people in personal, relatable, and relevant ways. She can do it in such a way as to encourage a person and uplift their soul. I have been particularly impressed with the frequency and capacity with which she has used digital technology throughout the pandemic to introduce people to Jesus and invite people into a growing relationship with him."

ONE MATTERS AWARD

Button Memorial United Methodist Church

Rev. Melissa Hatch



Rev. Melissa Hatch

As United Methodists we believe every single person who is brought into deeper faith through membership in the church matters. That is the driving force behind the One Matters Award. It is given to the church that has increased their Professions of Faith from zero to at least one in the previous year and comes with a \$1,000 cash gift.

This year, we are pleased to present the One Matters Award to Rev. Melissa Hatch and Button Memorial United Methodist Church. Despite the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the church was able to launch a Confirmation class for the first time since 2018. The group met from August to October with CDC safety protocols in place, and – on All Saints Day 2020 – Button Memorial

UMC celebrated nine professions of faith including three baptisms.

This would not have been possible without the leadership, determination, and commitment of Rev. Melissa Hatch who shepherded this diverse group of students in grades 7-10. Throughout the process, the students enjoyed engaging tough questions and had lively discussions on matters of faith. They were each paired with a prayer partner and



**Button Memorial UMC
Confirmation Class 2020**

received study bibles to deepen their engagement with scripture. Together the students wrote a credo that was used in the Confirmation. Additional family members of the Confirmands have also joined Button Memorial UMC since they began this Confirmation process.

We celebrate Rev. Melissa Hatch and Button Memorial UMC for this expanded engagement with the youth in their mission field and look forward to seeing how this Confirmation formation becomes an annual tradition in the years to come.

BISHOP WILLIAM B. ODEN ECUMENICAL AWARD

Rev. Richie Butler and Greenland Hills United Methodist Church



The North Texas Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns has chosen two recipients for this year's Bishop William B. Oden Ecumenical Award. They are Rev. Richie Butler, Senior Pastor of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church, and Greenland Hills United Methodist Church.

Rev. Butler is the founder of Project Unity. In May 2020, Project Unity launched Together We Test, which set up and operated at five churches of various denominations as well as a shopping center location and provided free COVID-19 testing to more than 7,000 people. As the year continued, Rev. Butler worked with UT Southwestern Medical Center to host vaccination Saturdays in underserved communities. On March 20, 2021, at the inaugural vaccination event, more than 600 people received their first dose. Two weeks later, on Good Friday, another 250 people received a shot. These events continue to be scheduled and are a blessing to the community.

Greenland Hills UMC has a rich history of outreach and ecumenical work. Their partnership with Emanuel Lutheran Church has provided groceries for families, monthly breakfast for homeless neighbors, and other supportive ministries. Presently, they are working in many creative ways to get vaccinations to nearby schools and older folks in their neighborhood. The congregation and



their pastor, Rev. Kerry Smith, are impacting their community through creative partnerships and are providing hope.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

LEGISLATIVE ITEM #1

LAY/CLERGY EQUALIZATION TABLE 2021 EQUALIZATION OF LAY AND CLERGY MEMBERSHIP

DISTRICT	CLERGY	LAY	RULE IIIA(1)	TOTAL RULE IIIA(1)	LAY EQUAL FACTOR
EAST	78	63	4	67	11
METRO	302	123	23	146	156
NORTH CENTRAL	198	111	13	124	74
NORTHWEST	92	63	4	67	25
TOTALS	670	360	44	404	266

STANDING RULE IIIA(1)

	EA	ME	NC	NW	TOTAL
Conference Lay Leaders/Assoc. Lay Leaders		2	1		3
Core Leadership Team		1	1	1	3
UMM President					0
UMW President		1			1
Youth Organization President		1			1
Wesley Foundation Directors	1	1	1		3
District Lay Leaders	1	1	1	1	4
Young Adults under 25 yrs.	1	1	1	1	4
Council on Youth Ministry	1	1	1	1	4
Diaconal Ministers		11	1		12
Agency Chairs/GBOGM Secretary		3	6		9
TOTALS	4	23	13	4	44

	Membership 2020	% of Total	To Be Elected
East	8,601	7%	19
Metro	53,718	43%	114
North Central	50,359	41%	109
Northwest	11,138	9%	24
TOTALS	123,816	100%	266

LEGISLATIVE**ITEM #2 AUTHORITY OF VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

FROM: Rev. Jason McConnell, clergy

I move:

that the clergy and lay members who are authorized to participate by voice and vote in the 2021 session of the North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church (*The Book of Discipline 2016* ¶¶ 602-606) on Monday, June 14 and Tuesday, June 15 shall conduct its business using remote technology;

and that all decisions made in this session shall have the same effect and have the same authority as an in-person session of the North Texas Annual Conference under the terms of

- the Constitution of The United Methodist Church [Division Two, Section VI, Article I (¶32), Article II (¶33), Article III (¶34), Article IV (¶35), Article V (¶36)],
- the laws of the Church, as enacted by the General Conference for the conduct of annual conference business, and
- the Rules of Order of the North Texas Annual Conference.

LEGISLATIVE**ITEM #3 EQUITABLE COMPENSATION ANNUAL DETERMINATION**

FROM: Center for Leadership Development (CLD)

BACKGROUND: The primary purpose of the Equitable Compensation Pastors Funds is to assist local churches in moving from part-time pastoral positions to full-time pastoral positions; these funds are meant to be transitional funds rather than long-term subsidies. Some congregations have the potential to reach a sustained average worship attendance of adults to move from a part-time to a full-time pastoral position with this short-term conference assistance. The time frame and benchmarks for moving from part-time to full-time should be reflected in yearly increases in worship attendance, Sunday School and small group attendance, professions of faith, those enrolled in annual confirmation classes, and annual increases in the number of individuals and families supporting the church's mission and ministry budget (operations) of the church. In essence, growing churches can move from a part-time to full-time pastoral position in three to five years. To continue receiving Equitable Compensation Funds, a congregation in such a transitional setting shall pay 100% of the annual apportionments.

The North Texas Conference also has a history of supporting missional settings where full-time pastors have been appointed to congregations not able to pay a full-time salary. Continued conversations with the pastor, congregation, and the Cabinet of the NTC are essential to ensure these congregations continue to be effective in reaching others, transforming lives, and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. Annually, congregations in missional settings must also manifest the fruitful increases in worship attendance, small groups, professions of faith, confirmation classes, along with annual stewardship training and education. To continue receiving Equitable Compensation Funds, a congregation in a missional setting shall pay 100% of the annual apportionments.

The Center for Leadership Development in consultation with the Bishop and the NTC Cabinet takes into consideration not only the appropriate minimum level compensation for full-time clergy of the conference but also the needs of the churches in determining whether they can afford a full-time pastor.

LEGISLATION: The CLD requests that Pastors Subsidies and Equitable Compensation support and administrative expenses be apportioned at \$50,832 for 2022.

A. Guidelines for Conference Members and Full-Time Local Pastors

1. Equitable Compensation for Conference Members be set at \$50,236 for the minimum equitable compensation. This compensation includes:
 - a. base salary,
 - b. utilities, which shall be provided with payments made by the local church or reimbursed when paid by the pastor,
 - c. dependent premium payments made by the local church,
 - d. dependent premium supplemental payments paid by the conference at the discretion of the District Superintendent,
 - e. and other conference subsidies received but excluding any reimbursement for Annual Conference expenses or grants to assist with the expenses to attend expected spiritual formation or continuing education events for all of the clergy members of the conference (e.g., the Clergy Retreat) for conference members in full connection, associate members and provisional members of the North Texas Conference serving full time for 2022.

Applying the same formula adopted by the 2006 Annual Conference at the recommendation of CF&A for changes to the District Superintendent level compensation, there will be no change in the Equitable compensation amount for clergy appointed full-time.

2. Adjustments for years of service:

Years of Service	Equitable Compensation Amounts
0-5	\$50,236
6	50,336
7	50,436
8	50,536
9	50,636
10	50,736

3. Compensation for additional churches on a charge: Each charge with more than one church shall receive \$200 additional for the second church and \$100 each for the third through the fifth additional churches.

4. Housing shall be provided in a church-owned parsonage or provided for with a monthly allowance. It is expected that the minimum housing allowance that will be paid by those churches or charges that do not provide a parsonage for their pastor will be \$12,000 per year. Requests for equitable compensation salary supplements where housing allowances exceed \$12,000 will not be considered.

5. Local Pastors serving full time:

Five years or less	\$44,360
Six years or more	\$44,460
Expense recommendations same as above.	

6. Deacons serving under salaried appointments in a local church:

- a. are not eligible to receive Equitable Compensation support from the Annual Conference;
- b. shall be granted the same minimum salary as an elder in full connection when their primary appointment is within a local church. * **

*(Judicial Council decision #807)

** (2016 *Book of Discipline*, Paragraphs 331.10b, 625.4)

B. The following policies are proposed to the North Texas Annual Conference for the distribution of equitable compensation assistance in 2022.

1. A local church exists to serve, not to be served. All churches should be motivated to a larger sense of ministry. Churches whose pastors receive salary subsidy should be open to linkage with other churches in order to utilize efficiently the service of full-time conference members to reduce the need for subsidy.

2. Equitable Compensation levels can best be met when appointments are open to all ministerial members without regard to race or gender. We continue to urge every conference member to make the subject of a fully open Conference and adequately supported ministry at the local church level a matter of daily personal prayer. Only as the love of Christ dwells in us can an annual conference be a communion of caring persons.

3. Growth in stewardship should be achieved by all below-minimum remuneration churches. In making application for salary subsidy, District Superintendents are to provide evidence of stewardship education and growth of the church.

4. Tenure payments are designed to honor the years of service of pastors who continue for more than five years in ministry to below-minimum compensation charges because of the needs of the Conference. The Bishop and the Cabinet are urged to make every effort to move pastors to above-minimum compensation charges within five years after they begin full-time service.

5. Applications for salary subsidy from Equitable Compensation are to be made by the District Superintendent on the prescribed forms.

6. The Charge Conference of any charge unable to pay the minimum salary set by the Conference shall be informed by the District Superintendent of the guidelines for receiving equitable compensation assistance. The Charge shall be informed of the amount required to bring the compensation level up to the minimum and shall be challenged to move toward the goal of full self-support at the earliest possible time. On the application for salary assistance, the District Superintendent shall certify that the charge has been duly notified. The amount of subsidy granted to a pastor shall be acknowledged annually at the Charge Conference.

7. Equitable Compensation assistance is not available to pastors serving as associate pastors or in staff positions other than pastor-in-charge. In order that such persons receive an equitable wage and to be in compliance with Judicial Council decision #807, however, it is expected that local churches use Conference minimum standards as minimum guidelines for setting associate and staff salaries.

8. Pastors who decline an appointment which would reduce or eliminate compensation support are ineligible for the Equitable Compensation tenure payment given for years of service.

9. Equitable Compensation assistance is not available for a North Texas Conference member appointed to serve in another annual conference, nor is it available to members of other annual conferences serving under appointment in the North Texas Conference.

10. There shall be no lump sum payments to persons receiving Equitable Compensation assistance, unless such sums are too small for monthly payments to be made.

11. It shall be the responsibility of the pastor receiving Equitable Compensation subsidy to inform the District Superintendent of any increase in remuneration or any changes in eligibility which occur after an application for Equitable Compensation has been approved.

EXCEPTIONAL REQUESTS BY THE CABINET:

All requests for exceptional support (assistance requested by the Cabinet in excess of the 25% maximum standard) shall be submitted in writing to the Center Director for Leadership Development and to the Center Director for Connectional Resources. The requests shall include the amount of assistance requested, length of time for assistance, and reason(s) for exceptional request.

LEGISLATIVE

ITEM #4 2022 BOPHB APPORTIONMENT BUDGET

FROM: Board of Pension and Health Benefits

BACKGROUND: The two previous apportionments to fund the work of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (Insurance Subsidies and Board of Pensions) were combined beginning in 2009 to recognize that they are closely related and to allow for transferring funds between the two areas as needed. The Board of Pensions was incorporated as a separate entity, wholly owned by the Annual Conference, in 2016 to provide clarity on the designation of the benefits set aside to fund various long-term obligations of the conference for the benefit of its lay and clergy participants.

The proposed 2022 BOPHB apportionment budget shows an increase of 1.83% or \$28,042. There is a slight increase in the pension expense and retiree health costs. The majority of the increase comes from the anticipated insurance supplement line item.

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits created an Economic Projection Team in 2016 to do an in-depth study of all the long-term funding obligations of the North Texas Annual Conference. The Team consisted of members from the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Council on Finance and Administration, and a representative from the Appointive Cabinet. The Team was presented with a compilation of 12 different projections using regression analysis of over 4,000 scenarios for each of the funds, assuming changes in population, age, market returns, and actuarial gains and losses. The team met again in 2017 to review the updated projections. The team determined that we are currently on the right track to remain fully funded for all of our benefit liabilities on a funding basis using conservative assumptions that would allow for a significant drop in the financial markets, and therefore recommends no change to the current benefits funding plan. In the spring of 2021, with the addition of new committee members, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits decided to revisit the projections in greater detail during the coming year.

Legislation passed at the Special Called Conference of 2019 includes a provision for churches that choose to leave the denomination to pay the unfunded portion of their pension liabilities as determined on a market basis. Our pensions remain fully funded on a funding basis. When a church leaves, they are in essence “selling” their responsibility for the long-term liability to the conference. The market basis is what it would cost to sell this liability to a third party who would then assume the risks of market declines. The funding plan applied by the denomination in compliance with federal laws governing church plans recognizes the value in keeping the expense of the pension plan to the projected funding basis, with only a small buffer to the conference in the event of a market downturn. This plan assumes the churches will continue to fund the liability as needed, with the opportunity to spread the additional liability resulting from a sharp downturn in the market over several years. The market basis funding liability for the North Texas Conference last year was an additional 12.6 million dollars. Wespath has provided an updated market funding liability as of September 1, 2020 for the North Texas Conference of \$60,738,223. This increase is primarily driven by a drop in the weighted market discount rate from 3.16% to 2.26%. As you are likely aware, market interest rates are at all-time historic lows, and these low rates have a significant impact on the market liabilities. Note the calculation of the liability is at 110% of today’s value. This liability would only become due in full if all churches left the denomination at the same time.

**Conference Benefits
Proposed Budget for 2022**

	<u>2019 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Employee Expenses						
Salary	\$120,492	\$119,000	\$116,574	\$123,000	\$123,000	
Total Compensation	\$120,492	\$119,000	\$116,574	\$123,000	\$123,000	0.00%
Employer FICA, Medicare	\$9,124	\$9,500	\$8,877	\$9,800	\$9,800	
Lay Pension	\$7,229	\$7,200	\$6,994	\$7,500	\$7,500	
Employer Health Insurance	\$21,264	\$22,500	\$19,778	\$23,000	\$23,000	
Life Insurance	\$1,154	\$1,400	\$1,187	\$1,400	\$1,400	
Workers Compensation	\$424	\$600	\$399	\$600	\$600	
Total Benefits	\$39,196	\$41,200	\$37,235	\$42,300	\$42,300	0.00%
Total Employee Expenses	\$159,688	\$160,200	\$153,809	\$165,300	\$165,300	0.00%
Travel-Staff	\$4,976	\$3,300	\$473	\$5,200	\$5,200	
Meals-Staff	\$67	\$1,200	\$0	\$400	\$400	
Total Travel and Meetings	\$5,043	\$4,500	\$473	\$5,600	\$5,600	0.00%
Dues and Subscriptions	\$225	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200	
Supplies-Office	\$667	\$1,000	\$452	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Postage	\$1,415	\$1,800	\$1,065	\$1,800	\$1,800	
Printing	\$1,152	\$800	\$789	\$800	\$800	
Total Administrative Expenses	\$3,460	\$3,800	\$2,306	\$3,800	\$3,800	0.00%
Total Operations	\$168,190	\$168,500	\$156,588	\$174,700	\$174,700	0.00%
BOPHB Disability	\$0	\$0	\$16,003	\$0	\$0	
Retiree Expenses	\$5,991	\$10,000	\$1,090	\$10,000	\$10,000	
CRSP Supplement	\$5,388	\$10,000	\$10,057	\$12,000	\$12,000	
CPP	\$671,500	\$710,000	\$499,907	\$700,000	\$705,500	
Total Pension Expenses	\$682,879	\$730,000	\$527,058	\$722,000	\$727,500	0.76%
Expenses						
Insurance-Medical Leave	\$32,300	\$55,000	\$31,218	\$52,000	\$52,000	
Insurance-Supplement	\$9,530	\$25,000	\$19,678	\$22,800	\$35,342	
Total Health Insurance Expenses	\$41,830	\$80,000	\$50,896	\$74,800	\$87,342	16.77%
Actuarial Services Retiree Medical	\$14,500	\$16,000	\$10,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	
Insurance-Retiree Current Year	\$304,181	\$330,000	\$325,773	\$330,000	\$340,000	
Pcori Expense	\$434	\$700	\$462	\$700	\$700	
Insurance-Retiree Med for New Entr	\$215,000	\$215,000	\$184,190	\$215,000	\$215,000	
Total Retiree Health	\$534,115	\$561,700	\$520,425	\$561,700	\$571,700	1.78%
Total Net Program and Events	\$1,427,013	\$1,540,200	\$1,254,967	\$1,533,200	\$1,561,242	1.83%

LEGISLATIVE**ITEM #5**

**RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE RENTAL HOUSING ALLOWANCES
FOR RETIRED OR DISABLED CLERGYPERSONS OF THE NORTH
TEXAS CONFERENCE**

FROM: Board of Pension and Health Benefits

BACKGROUND: To be in compliance with Internal Revenue Service Revenue Ruling 75-22, 1975-1,49, as it relates to clergy housing, the North Texas Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolutions relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, or disabled clergypersons of the Conference:

LEGISLATION: WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which the North Texas 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”); and

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension 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 Wespeth during the year 2022 by each active, retired, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespeth and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespeth plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference 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 there under 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 Conference 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.

LEGISLATIVE**ITEM #6 PRE-1982 SERVICE YEAR RATE FOR 2022**

FROM: Board of Pension and Health Benefits

BACKGROUND: Paragraph 1506.7 of the *2016 Discipline* states that the responsibility for past service annuity rate for ministerial service rendered before 1982 be determined by each annual conference. Legislation passed at the 2012 General Conference removed the wording from Paragraph 1506.7 requiring the Past Service Rate increases be a minimum of .8% based on the Conference Average Compensation (CAC). Furthermore, General Conference 2012 passed legislation requiring full funding of any Past Service Rate increases by December 31 of the year preceding the proposed increase. In order to provide an increase in retirement benefits that keeps pace with inflation, the North Texas Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits is recommending the adoption of the percentage increase known as the “Cost-of-Living Adjustment” (COLA) as published by the Social Security Administration as the established rate for the annual increase in the Past Service Rate with a cap of 4%. The cap can be increased on recommendation of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits and approval by the Annual Conference.

LEGISLATION: That the pre-1982 Service Year Rate for 2022 be increased by 2.5%, in accordance with the COLA rate as published by the Social Security Administration and established at \$823 for approved service of clergy members in full connection, probationary members, associate members and local pastors of the conference.

LEGISLATIVE**ITEM #7 APPROVAL OF COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN**

FROM: Board of Pension and Health Benefits

BACKGROUND: The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits recognizes its obligation to develop, adopt, and implement a formal comprehensive benefit funding plan before submitting it to the Annual Conference in accordance with the 2016 *Book of Discipline* ¶ 1506.6. Due to the timing of the receipt of the actuarial data from both the Retiree Medical Plan and the Pension plans, along with access to the Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan template required by Wespeth, the earliest possible date to receive a favorable written opinion from Wespeth is mid to late April. This timeline does not allow the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits to conduct a full review of the plan and submit it for approval of the Annual Conference before our scheduled Annual Conference in June. In order to be in full compliance with this requirement of the Discipline, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits voted to ask the Annual Conference to empower the Board to take the necessary steps to obtain on behalf of the Annual Conference the favorable written opinion from Wespeth.

LEGISLATION: The North Texas Annual Conference appoints the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits to review, approve and submit the Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan in the course of its regularly scheduled meetings. The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits will continue to present the summary plan in the journal printed each year, provide a copy of the plan to the Annual Conference prior to the current year’s Annual Conference on the Conference website as a part of its annual report, and make the full report available on request to the conference benefit office. The approval of the Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan by the Annual Conference will be recognized upon approval of the report submitted by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

LEGISLATIVE**ITEM #8 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

FROM: Council on Finance and Administration

INTRODUCTION

The North Texas Conference recorded a payout of 89% of our total apportionments for 2020. The apportionments received were approximately 6% lower than the average normally received by the conference over the last ten years. This is consistent with last year's comparison for the previous 10 years.

The total paid for apportionments was \$11,523,286 and the total paid for all benevolent causes beyond the apportionment was an additional \$408,377.

While the Council recommends that local churches strive to designate at least 25% of their total annual budgets for causes beyond their churches, it is expected that apportionments be given first claim by churches in their beyond-the-local church payments, with advance specials and other benevolences viewed as second-mile giving.

The Council continues to expect 100% payout of our apportionments and urges every church to take seriously the recommended ten-month payment plan in which 10% of the annual apportionment amount is remitted monthly. Without doubt, making monthly payments beginning in January or February is an important step in paying apportionments in full.

Paragraph 622 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* states that the Board of Pension and Health Benefits apportionment, the Episcopal Fund, the District Superintendents Fund, and Equitable Compensation are apportioned funds which are to be paid on the same schedule as the pastor's salary is paid. The Cabinet joins the Council in urging each church to adhere to this mandate monthly.

All churches are also encouraged to make contributions to their District Second-Mile Fund. This is an important way to assist districts and the conference as a whole to achieve 100% payment of our total apportionments.

The Council and the Conference Treasurer continue to update reports in order to provide the information conference leaders and members expect in a more open and transparent way. The Council takes seriously its fiduciary responsibility and is working with conference leaders to ensure faithful and effective stewardship of conference funds.

END-OF-YEAR 2020 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

1. The 2020 apportionment payout was 89%.
2. The total operating reserves held by the conference treasurer at the beginning and end of 2020 were \$4,799,255 and \$5,316,239 respectively. Although the apportionments received were down from the prior years, the conference was able to curtail spending to preserve the operating reserves. The conference treasury held \$8,745,300 in the operating account and \$6,552,618 in reserves at the Texas Methodist Foundation. In addition, \$1,113,919 is held at Wespath for the Metro District parsonage, \$531,362 for the North Central parsonage, \$498,339 for the Episcopal Parsonage, and an additional \$38,827,694 in deposits at Wespath for the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The reserves held by the Board of Pension and Health Benefits are designated to provide the funding for accrued retiree medical and pension benefits as well as an operating reserve for the direct billing function for the current year health insurance, pensions, and CPP (Comprehensive Protection Plan).
3. The 2020 financial reports may be found in the Conference Reports of this Journal.

FURTHER INFORMATION**A. Pre-1982 Pension Liability**

The *2016 Book of Discipline* requires the submission of an annual comprehensive funding plan for all of our benefit liabilities including our pre-1982 pension liability.

B. Retiree Medical Liability

A plan to address the conference's Retiree Medical Liability was adopted by the 2002 Annual Conference session and updated by the 2006 and 2008 Annual Conference sessions. A study group, under the leadership of Jerry Pinkerton, revisited our progress towards funding this liability in the fall of 2012. The Conference moved to OneExchange in 2013 as our connector to Retiree Supplemental Insurance coverage, resulting in a significant decrease in costs to both the retiree and the conference. In 2018, OneExchange changed its name to Via Benefits in an effort to avoid confusion with the Affordable Health Care Exchange name.

In 2015, an Economic Projection team was formed to re-evaluate our current funding of all liabilities, including the Retiree Medical Liability. The team recommended a reduction of \$115,000 in apportionments as the extensive study showed we would remain fully funded even if the market performed at 25% of assumed rates. This team met again in the summer of 2016 as well as the summer of 2017 to monitor the funding of all our liabilities and their impact on our apportionments. In the spring of 2021, with the addition of new committee members, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits decided to revisit the projections in greater detail during the coming year.

C. Salary, Benefits and Expenses for District Superintendents

As stated in the NTC Standing Rule II.A.10, "the salary of a district superintendent shall be adjusted annually by the average percentage change in the base compensation of all full-time pastors appointed to serve local churches or appointments for which the conference is responsible." This policy was started in 2008 and called for a periodic review to confirm that the increases maintain a salary level that falls at about 90% of the declension of salary packages of full-time elders. The Council on Finance and Administration reviewed the policy in the spring of 2014 and determined that the current formula is maintaining the status set by the Annual Conference in 2008.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION**I. CONFERENCE TREASURER**

The Council recommends Christy Drenner for election as the Conference Treasurer for the quadrennium.

II. AUDITOR FOR THE CONFERENCE TREASURY

The Council recommends Ratliff & Associates, P.C. as the auditing firm for the Conference Treasury for the 2021 audit.

III. 2022 APPORTIONMENT BUDGET RECOMMENDATION**BACKGROUND**

The Annual Conference budget includes the Episcopal Area fund, the Communications Office, the District Superintendents Fund, and the four centers: (1) the Center for Leadership Development, (2) the Center for Church Development, (3) the Center for Missional Outreach, and (4) the Center for Connectional Resources.

The District Administration Fund budgets come from the District Conferences and are set at the District Conferences slated for May 23, 2021. They are not included in the total apportionment budget recommendation as they are not considered by the Council. These apportionment items are billed to the churches within each district.

In setting the budget for 2022, the financial implications of the pandemic to the local churches, and the denominational uncertainty going into General Conference 2022 have been carefully considered. Given the almost 12% decrease in apportionments from 2020 to 2021, the Council voted to recommend a budget that represents only a slight increase of \$44,480 compared to last year. The increase is primarily related to projected expenses in the CCR budget line items for administration (technology support) and the Board of Pension and Health Benefits line.

The four center directors worked together to streamline many tasks over the past year, sharing in personnel and resources. The directors are confident that such efficiencies can be obtained again this next year. As each center presented their proposed budget to the Council, the directors noted the focus on empowering ministry in the local church and providing resources to navigate the trends in the worldwide United Methodist Church. The new statement of functional expenses required for non-profits beginning in 2018 and presented in the Council reports section illustrates the focus on grants and resources for the local church. The staff budgets are aligned with their respective centers.

According to the NTC Standing Rule II.A.10, the District Superintendent base salary would have increased but due to the challenges presented by the pandemic, for the second year in a row the Council is recommending the standing rule be suspended for 2022. This suspension would freeze the salaries for the District Superintendents and the Center Directors at the 2020 pay rate. The current base salary is \$122,809. Parsonages or a Housing Allowance are provided by the districts. Travel and other business expenses are reimbursed through an Accountable Reimbursement plan.

2022 Apportionment Budget Recommendation

Description	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	% Change
GENERAL CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENTS					
World Service Fund	\$ 1,977,321	\$ 1,693,991	\$ 1,318,214	\$ 1,318,214	
MEF - Global	\$ 501,000	\$ 429,113	\$ 334,000	\$ 334,000	
MEF - North Texas Conference	\$ 166,847	\$ 57,294	\$ 111,231	\$ 111,231	
Black College Fund	\$ 266,398	\$ 228,226	\$ 177,599	\$ 177,599	
Africa University Fund	\$ 59,619	\$ 51,076	\$ 39,746	\$ 39,746	
Interdenominational Coop Fund	\$ 52,230	\$ 44,746	\$ 34,820	\$ 34,820	
General Administration Fund	\$ 234,791	\$ 201,148	\$ 156,527	\$ 156,527	
Episcopal Fund	\$ 585,565	\$ 585,565	\$ 582,067	\$ 582,067	
Total Expenses	\$ 3,843,771	\$ 3,291,159	\$ 2,754,204	\$ 2,754,204	0.00%
JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE					
Lydia Patterson Institute	\$ 72,897	\$ 62,452	\$ 72,897	\$ 72,897	
Jurisdictional Administration	\$ 44,918	\$ 33,037	\$ 44,918	\$ 44,918	
Sub-Total	\$ 117,815	\$ 95,488	\$ 117,815	\$ 117,815	0.00%
TOTAL GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL	\$ 3,961,586	\$ 3,386,647	\$ 2,872,019	\$ 2,872,019	0.00%

	Description	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	Change
1						
2						
3	CENTER FOR CHURCH DEVELOPMENT					
4	Staff	\$ 443,865	\$ 354,587	\$ 300,000	\$ 321,650	
5	Travel and Meetings	\$ 45,500	\$ 10,040	\$ 43,000	\$ 21,500	
6	Administration	\$ 12,550	\$ 9,150	\$ 18,756	\$ 8,050	
7	NFNS	\$ 143,500	\$ 113,604	\$ 32,000	\$ 136,500	
8	Vitalization	\$ 102,460	\$ 57,713	\$ 27,000	\$ 63,800	
9	New Faith Communities	\$ 13,000	\$ 330	\$ 70,850	\$ 53,000	
10	New Campuses	\$ 490,162	\$ 337,862	\$ 567,056	\$ 500,500	
11	Planters	\$ 140,000	\$ 113,599	\$ 140,000	\$ 95,000	
12	TOTAL	\$ 1,391,037	\$ 996,886	\$ 1,198,662	\$ 1,200,000	0.11%
13						
14	CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT					
15	Staff	\$ 610,739	\$ 577,703	\$ 610,739	\$ 610,739	
16	Travel and Meetings	\$ 24,200	\$ 5,296	\$ 20,200	\$ 20,200	
17	Administration	\$ 11,350	\$ 6,827	\$ 11,350	\$ 11,350	
18	Board of Ministry (Professional Ministries)	\$ 52,150	\$ 33,342	\$ 52,150	\$ 52,150	
19	Board of Laity	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,656	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	
20	Faith & Leadership Formation	\$ 36,500	\$ 17,904	\$ 29,250	\$ 29,250	
21	Texas Methodist Colleges	\$ 50,000	\$ 42,825	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
22	Effective & Fruitful Leaders Program	\$ 26,800	\$ 7,728	\$ 21,800	\$ 21,800	
23	Conflict Management	\$ 12,600	\$ 15,105	\$ 12,600	\$ 12,600	
24	Campus Ministries	\$ 537,777	\$ 503,947	\$ 537,777	\$ 537,777	
25	Equitable Compensation	\$ 45,832	\$ 11,262	\$ 50,832	\$ 50,832	
26	Intentional Interim Pastors	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	
27	Transitional Care for Clergy	\$ 35,000	\$ 33,721	\$ 35,000	\$ 25,000	
28	Emerging Leadership Programs	\$ 15,000	\$ 4,070	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	
29	Leadership Dev Standing Committee	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
30	Coaching Initiative	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,202	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
31	Camping Ministries	\$ 418,050	\$ 322,414	\$ 373,050	\$ 383,050	
32	TOTAL	\$ 1,929,998	\$ 1,596,002	\$ 1,851,748	\$ 1,851,748	0.00%
33						
34	CENTER FOR MISSIONAL OUTREACH					
35	Staff	\$ 353,614	\$ 347,709	\$ 316,530	\$ 320,000	
36	Travel and Meeting	\$ 22,000	\$ 3,864	\$ 8,500	\$ 17,000	
37	Administration	\$ 46,694	\$ 3,926	\$ 118,090	\$ 118,090	
38	Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns	\$ 1,000	\$ 180	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
39	Church & Society	\$ 3,500	\$ 352	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	
40	Ethnic Local Church Concerns	\$ 119,000	\$ 96,450	\$ 116,620	\$ 116,620	
41	Global Ministries	\$ 16,000	\$ 7,769	\$ 16,000	\$ 18,000	
42	Extension Ministries	\$ 55,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
43	Ministry With	\$ 148,064	\$ 80,040	\$ 89,632	\$ 70,662	
44	Journey Towards Racial Justice			\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	
45	TOTAL	\$ 764,872	\$ 590,290	\$ 734,872	\$ 734,872	0.00%
46						
47	CENTER FOR CONNECTIONAL RESOURCES					
48	Staff	\$ 561,900	\$ 555,888	\$ 561,900	\$ 561,900	
49	Travel and Meeting	\$ 27,500	\$ 7,427	\$ 22,500	\$ 22,500	
50	Administration	\$ 144,900	\$ 165,884	\$ 154,900	\$ 170,000	
51	Administrative Agencies	\$ 42,400	\$ 47,223	\$ 47,400	\$ 47,400	
52	Annual Conference	\$ 94,000	\$ 46,274	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	
53	Ministry Center Operations	\$ 188,800	\$ 176,094	\$ 197,000	\$ 197,000	
54	Ministry Center Debt Service	\$ 260,000	\$ 211,470	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	
55	Board of Pension & Health Benefits	\$ 1,540,200	\$ 1,254,967	\$ 1,533,200	\$ 1,561,242	
56	Moving Fund	\$ 110,000	\$ 56,361	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	
57	TOTAL	\$ 2,969,700	\$ 2,521,589	\$ 2,966,900	\$ 3,010,042	1.45%
58						
59	EPISCOPAL OFFICE					
60	Area Office	\$ 75,000	\$ 30,994	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	
61	Episcopal Residence	\$ 32,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,000	
62	TOTAL	\$ 107,000	\$ 72,994	\$ 107,000	\$ 107,000	0.00%

Description	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	Change
COMMUNICATIONS					
Staff	\$ 291,275	\$ 231,414	\$ 291,275	\$ 301,738	
Administration	\$ 223,880	\$ 174,679	\$ 203,880	\$ 193,417	
TOTAL	\$ 515,155	\$ 406,093	\$ 495,155	\$ 495,155	0.00%
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS					
Administration	\$ 84,000	\$ 34,361	\$ 74,000	\$ 74,000	
Staff	\$ 532,480	\$ 534,970	\$ 532,480	\$ 532,480	
TOTAL	\$ 616,480	\$ 569,331	\$ 606,480	\$ 606,480	0.00%
ANNUAL CONFERENCE TOTAL	\$ 8,294,242	\$ 6,753,185	\$ 7,960,817	\$ 8,005,297	0.56%
TOTAL BUDGETED APPORTIONED EXPENSES	\$ 12,255,828	\$ 10,139,832	\$ 10,832,836	\$ 10,877,316	0.41%

Notes:

1. The General Conference apportionments are allocated to the annual conferences based on the expenditures of the annual conference and adjusted for an income factor related to geographical area. The apportionments for General Conference presented here reflect the proposed changes to the budget prior to the onset of the COVID-19 virus. The proposed budget reflects a 28% decrease in General Church apportionments. While the delay of General Conference necessitated the formerly established formula be used in presenting the budgets to the annual conferences, the General Agencies have prepared their budgets in alignment with the budget we believe will be adopted at General Conference when it meets in 2022. At that time, the budgets will be adjusted to the final amount as passed by the General Conference.
2. The Jurisdictional apportionments are expected to remain the same for each of the four years of this quadrennium.
3. The Council is recommending suspension of the standing rules for District Superintendent Salaries for the 2022 budget to allow the proposed salary to remain flat.

GUIDELINES FOR APPORTIONMENTS FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

A. Formula for Two-Part Decimal:
1/3 membership and 2/3 finance

B. Procedure for Computation of Decimal for Each Church:
The membership part is computed by dividing the total 2020 church membership of the Annual Conference (less discontinued churches and fellowships = 123,816) into the 2020 membership of each church. This becomes the church's membership decimal.

The finance part is computed by adding the amounts of the operating expenses reported paid by each church in columns 41a, 41b, 41c, and 43-47 of the 2020 Statistician's Report. (No funds reported in other statistical columns are included in this computation.) This total is then divided by the Conference total of these same columns (less discontinued churches, new church starts, missions, and fellowships = \$87,153,753). This becomes the local church's finance decimal.

The finance decimal is doubled. The membership decimal is added to the doubled finance decimal. This total is divided by three to become the apportionment decimal.

C. Procedure for Computation of Apportionments for Each Church:
The apportionment decimal for each church is multiplied by the Conference total of each apportionment to determine the amount that each church is asked to pay toward the apportionment.

- D. Margin for Correction:
To assure that 100% of the amount of each apportionment will be distributed to the churches, no more than one quarter of one percent may be added to each apportionment when needed.

LEGISLATIVE

ITEM #9

CLOSING OF BONHAM WESLEY UMC – EAST DISTRICT

FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND: Because only a small number of members remain at the Bonham Wesley UMC, Fannin County, the remaining members agreed that they cannot continue. Members of the church concluded that now is the time to close the church.

LEGISLATION: The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the closure of the Bonham Wesley church. The property will return to the North Texas Conference in accordance with the Trust clause.

LEGISLATIVE

ITEM #10

CLOSING OF GROVE HILL UMC – EAST DISTRICT

FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND: Because only a small number of members remain at the Grove Hill UMC, Fannin County, the remaining members agreed that they cannot continue. Members of the church concluded that now is the time to close the church.

LEGISLATION: The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the closure of the Grove Hill church. The property will return to the North Texas Conference in accordance with the Trust clause.

LEGISLATIVE

ITEM #11

CLOSING OF OAK PARK UMC – EAST DISTRICT

FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND: Because only a small number of members remain at the Oak Park UMC, Lamar County, the remaining members agreed that they cannot continue. Members of the church concluded that now is the time to close the church.

LEGISLATION: The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the closure of the Oak Park church. The property will return to the North Texas Conference in accordance with the Trust clause.

LEGISLATIVE**ITEM #12****CLOSING OF TELEPHONE UMC – EAST DISTRICT****FROM:**

North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND:

Because only a small number of members remain at the Telephone UMC, Fannin County, the remaining members agreed that they cannot continue. Members of the church concluded that now is the time to close the church.

LEGISLATION:

The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the closure of the Telephone church. The property will return to the North Texas Conference in accordance with the Trust clause.

LEGISLATIVE**ITEM #13****RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE OF THE
WEBB CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CONGREGATION****From:**

North Texas Conference Board of Trustees

WHEREAS the Webb Chapel United Methodist Church located in Dallas County was founded on May 5, 1845, with the first service having been held on March 19, 1844, and having a long and faithful history, as well as the distinction of being the first church established in Dallas County; and

WHEREAS having held multiple meetings, looking at and discussing the realities regarding membership, income, and expenses, and concluding that the congregation is no longer able to sustain the ministry financially, the Church Council of the Webb Chapel United Methodist Church has recommended on this date, February 28, 2021, to close the congregation; and

WHEREAS the district superintendent has recommended closure of the Webb Chapel United Methodist Church Congregation and transfer of membership to various United Methodist Churches in the area; and

WHEREAS the superintendent has recommended that the property be transferred to the ownership of the North Texas Conference and evaluated for possible conveyance to Immanuel Korean United Methodist Fellowship; and

WHEREAS the consent to close has been granted by the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and the cabinet and all proper *Disciplinary* requirements have been complied with;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Webb Chapel United Methodist Church Congregation be closed effective April 30, 2021, and that the property shall be transferred to The North Texas Conference. A closing worship service will be held in the Sanctuary on April 24, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

LEGISLATIVE**ITEM #14****MERGER OF WILLIAMS CHAPEL UMC WITH AVERY UMC–
EAST DISTRICT****FROM:**

North Texas Conference Trustees

BACKGROUND:

Because only a small number of members remain at the Williams Chapel UMC, Red River County, the remaining members agreed that they cannot continue. Members of the church concluded that now is the time to merge the church with the Avery UMC.

LEGISLATION:

The North Texas Conference Board of Trustees recommends the merger of the Williams Chapel church with the Avery UMC. The property of the Williams Chapel UMC will be merged to the Avery UMC in accordance with the Book of Discipline.

LEGISLATIVE**ITEM #15****A RESOLUTION TO END RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION AND
EXCLUSIONARY HOUSING BASED ON RACE/ETHNICITY
AND/OR INCOME****FROM:**

Demetria McCain, Lay St. Luke “Community” UMC, Inclusive Communities Project; Rev. Michael Baughman, Union Coffee; Rev. Danielle Kim, Custer Road UMC

WHEREAS, this country’s history of residential segregation based on race/ethnicity, nationality and/or income is well-documented as are its harms; and

WHEREAS, the government and private industry both played active roles in historic housing discrimination and residential segregation as recently documented in the book, *The Color of Law: a Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*; and

WHEREAS, systemic racial inequities in housing have yet been dismantled and too often continue to be perpetuated in North Texas; and

WHEREAS, baptized Christians are called “to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever form they present themselves” and our congregations have the power of pulpit, voice and vote to influence public policy; and

WHEREAS, Paul presents in Romans 2:11 that “God shows no partiality;” and

WHEREAS, the Social Principles of the Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church states, “[w]e support the basic rights of all persons to equal access to housing...”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on all elected and appointed officials to immediately address policies and practices that perpetuate residential segregation, exclusionary housing, and all housing discrimination based on race/ethnicity, nationality and/or income; and

THAT the North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on all congregants, residents, and neighbors to raise their individual voices against residential segregation, exclusionary housing, and housing discrimination based on race/ethnicity, nationality and/or income; and

1 **THAT** the Secretary of the North Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church send a copy of this
2 resolution to city council members of all cities within Dallas, Collin, Rockwall, and Denton counties.
3

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church
5 fully supports inclusionary policies and practices that help create and maintain racially/ethnically and economically
6 inclusive communities for individuals, children, and families; and
7

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the North Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
9 confesses the silence and complicity of the Annual Conference and many of its members to inequitable housing
10 policies across North Texas.
11

12 13 **LEGISLATIVE**

14 **ITEM #16 A RESOLUTION AGAINST GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION** 15 **DISCRIMINATION** 16

17 **FROM:** Rev. Rachel Baughman, Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, Rev. Michael Baughman,
18 Union Coffee; J Nicole Johnson, Union Coffee; Ryan Wager, Oak Lawn United Methodist Church
19

20 **WHEREAS**, in Christ there is neither male nor female; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the 2019 gathering of the North Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church affirmed its
23 aspirational desire to function as if the One Church Plan had passed at the 2019 General Conference of the United
24 Methodist Church; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, God calls people to ordained ministry regardless of their sexual orientation, gender-identity and the
27 gender-identity of their partners; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the church prohibits same gender couples from being married, therefore preventing them from a
30 church-sanctioned expression of their romantic relationship; and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, sex and gender are fluid concepts; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, we are made in the image of God who transcends gender binary distinctions, as evidenced by the Holy
35 Spirit;
36

37
38 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Annual Conference direct District Superintendents to not hinder
39 candidates for ordained ministry from meeting with their District Superintendent in pursuit of candidacy for
40 ordination, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or partner status; and
41

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Annual Conference direct the Chairpersons of the District Committees
43 of Ordained Ministry to not hinder candidates for ordained ministry from meeting with their District Committee
44 on Ordained Ministry regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or partner status. This directive shall
45 apply to all candidates including those seeking certification as candidates, annual reviews, or referrals to the Board
46 of Ordained Ministry for Commissioning. These candidates shall they be hampered from appearing on meeting
47 agendas; and
48

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Annual Conference direct the Chairpersons of the Board of Ordained
50 Ministry to not hinder candidates for ordained ministry from meeting with the Board of Ordained ministry in pursuit
51 of their call to ordained ministry; and
52

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that conference communication policy regarding the death of same-gender partners for clergy members will be shared, upon the request of the bereaved, with other clergy members in the Annual Conference in the same fashion that the death of a spouse, parent or child is generally shared; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Annual Conference discourage appointment changes for the sole reason that a clergy person seeks marriage, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

LEGISLATIVE

ITEM #17 A RESOLUTION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE NORTH TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FROM: Rev. Rachel Baughman, Oak Lawn United Methodist Church
Rev. Mitchell Boone, White Rock United Methodist Church

WHEREAS, in Luke 14:28, Jesus advises his disciples to “count the cost” in preparation for a significant undertaking; and

WHEREAS, the organizational and financial future of the United Methodist Church is uncertain; and

WHEREAS, the North Texas Annual Conference has a long story of fraternity, service, and fidelity to the gospel of Jesus Christ that we want to continue into future generations; and

WHEREAS, matters of church discipline, federal law, and non-profit governance may require significant expertise to navigate; and

WHEREAS, our General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation (GC/JCD) is representative of the North Texas Annual Conference as duly elected clergy and lay persons.

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Texas Annual Conference charge its GC/JCD with the responsibility to research, report and make recommendations regarding the possibility of forming an entity or entities that connect churches across North Texas in the Methodist tradition as the United Methodist Church moves into an uncertain future. The GC/JCD shall report at scheduled meetings of the Core Leadership Team, at Cabinet meetings as requested, and to the North Texas Annual Conference gatherings in 2022 and 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Texas Annual Conference budget \$150,000 to be used by the North Texas Annual Conference Delegation to General Conference with the following guidelines.

- Funds will be tracked and disbursed by the Center for Connectional Resources according to a budget approved by simple majority of the GC/JCD.
- Any attorneys, consultants or hired staff will report to a sub-committee determined by the Delegation.
- The Delegation may convene a working group that extends to Annual Conference members who are not on the GC/JCD with attention to expertise, diversity, and equity.
- Funds will be made available to the Delegation by August 1st and must be used in 2021 and 2022. Any unused funds will be divided evenly among the North Texas Annual Conference centers to be used in fulfillment of their respective missions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2022 Annual Conference gathering dedicate at least 30 minutes for the GC/JCD to report on their findings to this matter as well as present any resolutions they deem appropriate.

NOMINATIONS

CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Convener: Bishop Michael McKee

Vice Chair and Conference Lay Leader:

Kim Brannon (C/A)

Lay Members:

EA Stephen Gillem (C/A) 2023

ME..... Phiebie Hutchins (B/A)..... 2025

NC Tim Crouch (C/A)..... 2022

NW Jordan McLarty (C/A) 2024

Appointed by Bishop:

ME..... Alfred White (B/A)

NC Taylor Smith (C/A)

NC Mary Beth Hardesty-Crouch (C/A)

District Superintendent Debra Hobbs Mason (C/A)

Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Center for

Missional Outreach Andy Lewis (C/A)

Director of Center for Leadership Development

..... Cammy Gaston (C/A)

Director of Center for Church Development

..... Owen Ross (C/A)

Director of Center for Connectional Resources

..... **Christy Drenner** (C/A)

CONFERENCE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Assistant to the Bishop: Andy Lewis (C/A)

Conference Lay Leader and Vice Chair:

Kim Brannon (C/A) 2024

Conference Lay Leader Elect:

Mary Nickson (B/A) 2024

District Superintendents:

EA **Cassie Wade** (C/A)

ME..... **Edlen Cowley** (C/A)

NC **Debra Hobbs Mason** (B/A)

NW Todd Harris (C/A)

Lay Members:

EA Becky Kegans (C/A) 2023

ME..... **Mae Alexander** (C/A)..... 2025

NC Herman Totten (B/A) 2024

NW Trumanell Maples (C/A)..... 2022

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

Chair: Elects Own Chair

Laywomen:

Cynthia Dooley (H/L) 2024A

Anne Aaron (C/A)..... 2024A

Kim Brannon (C/A) 2024A

Laymen:

Dave Farish (C/A)..... 2024B

Tom Sellers (C/A) 2024A

Richard Stewart (B/A) 2024A

Clergy:

Jenna Morrison Johnson (C/A)..... 2024A

Lynda Mayberry (B/A) 2024A

Pavielle Jenkins (B/A) 2024A

At-Large:

Denise Peckham (C/A) 2024A

Andy Stoker (C/A)..... 2024B

Fred Marsh (B/A)..... 2024A

Appointed by Bishop:

Tommy Brumett (C/A)..... 2024A

Susan Robb (C/A) 2024A

Pat Deal (C/A)..... 2024B

Members of the Jurisdictional Committee

on Episcopacy:

Kelly Carpenter (C/A)..... 2024

Clayton Oliphint (C/A) 2024

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Susan Hale (C/A)..... 2024A

Eric Markinson (C/A) 2024A

Christopher O'Riley (B/A) 2024B

Angela Williams (B/A) 2024B

Carol Montgomery (C/A) 2024A

Evan Jones (C/A) 2024B

Rosedanny Ortiz (H/L) 2024A

Dana Norton (C/A) 2024B

Gretchen Toler Debus (C/A) 2024B

BOARD OF LAITY

Chair and Conference Lay Leader:

Kim Brannon (C/A) 2024

Conference Lay Leader Elect:

Mary Nickson (B/A) 2024

Conference Associate Lay Leader:

Dave Farish (C/A) 2024

District Lay Leaders:

EA	Stephen Gillem (C/A)	2024
ME.....	Holly Lee (C/A)	2024
NC.....	Kenneth Wolverton (C/A)	2021
NW.....	Anne Aaron (C/A)	2024

Conference Council on Youth Ministries

Worship Chair: Haven Emery	2021
Activities Chair: Jillian Jackson.....	2021
Communications Chair: Addie Hicks	2021
Youth Service Fund Chair: Will Peterman	2021

Youth Lay Leaders:

EA	TBD	2021
ME	Jillian Jackson.....	2021
NC	Reece Sartain	2021
NW	Maggie Fleming.....	2021

President of Conference United Methodist Women:

Julie Noel (C/A)

President of Conference United Methodist Men:

to be elected by UMM

Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries:

Susan Anderson (C/A)

COMMITTEE ON RELIGION AND RACE

Chair: Silvia Wang (A/P)	2024
Dee Weaver (H/L)	2028
Dan Perkins (C/A).....	2028
Lucretia Facen (B/A)	2028
Silvia Wang (A/P)	2028
Mitchell Boone (C/A)	2024
Georgia Harrison (C/A)	2024
Joshua Manning (B/A).....	2024
Rosedanny Ortiz (H/L)	2024

**COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS AND
ROLE OF WOMEN**

Chair: Samantha Parson (C/A).....	2024
Rozalind Dickerson Cleaver (B/A).....	2028
Abril Goforth (C/A)	2028
Nalda Tucker (H/L).....	2028
Evelyn Kelly (B/A)	2028
Samantha Parson (C/A).....	2024
Dave Farish (C/A).....	2024
Deana Lowe (C/A).....	2024
Heather Gottas (C/A)	2024
UMW President: Julie Noel (C/A)	

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Chair: Chris Dowd (C/A).....	2024
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Vice Chair: Kay Eck (C/A)..... 2028

Registrar: Marsha Middleton (C/A)

Candidacy Registrar: Kelly Carpenter (C/A)..... 2024

Chair of Order of Elders: Derek Jacobs (B/A)..... 2024

Chair of Order of Deacons: Patty Froehlich (C/A). 2024

Chair of Fellowship of Local Pastors:

Deniece Mason (C/A)

Cabinet Representative: Cammy Gaston (C/A)

Clergy Members:

Chris Dowd (C/A).....	2024
Patty Froehlich (C/A).....	2024
Paul Gould (C/A).....	2024
Anna Hosemann-Butler (C/A)	2024
Derek Jacobs (B/A).....	2024
Don Lee (A/P).....	2024
Kwang Bae Park (A/P).....	2024
Alexandra Robinson (C/A)	2024
Jack Soper	2024
Preston Weaver (B/A)	2024
Edgar Bazan (H/L).....	2028
Brian Dierolf (C/A).....	2028
Dyan Dietz (C/A).....	2028
Kay Eck (C/A)	2028
Matt Gaston (C/A)	2028
Levy Laguardia (A/P)	2028
Ed Lantz (C/A).....	2028
Paul Maletic (C/A).....	2028
Deniece Mason (C/A)	2028
Cassie Wade (C/A).....	2028
Ann Willet (C/A).....	2028
Mitchell Boone (C/A)	2032
April Bristow (B/A)	2032
Frank Drenner (C/A).....	2032
Lucretia Facen (B/A)	2032
Ricky Harrison (C/A).....	2032
Patrick Hoffman (C/A).....	2032
Scott Holcomb-McLain (C/A)	2032
Barry Hughes (C/A).....	2032
Allison Jean (C/A)	2032
David Lessner (C/A)	2032
Caroline Noll (C/A)	2032
Tom Palmer (C/A).....	2032
Ramsey Patton (C/A)	2032
Margaret Jenkins Proshek (A/P)	2032
Amy Spaur (C/A).....	2032
Adam Spore (C/A).....	2032

Lay Members:

Rod Bishop (C/A)	2024
Kelly Carpenter (C/A).....	2024

Pat Deal (C/A).....	2024
Gretchen Toler Debus (C/A).....	2024
Herman Totten (B/A)	2024
Linda Parks (C/A)	2028
Joel Eichler (C/A)	2028
Jeff Bouis (C/A).....	2032
Mary Nickson (B/A)	2032
Mary Anne Knolle (C/A)	2032

Committee on Investigation – Clergy

Chair: Elects Own Chair

Members:**Clergy:**

Jeremiah Booker (B/A)
Tommy Brumett (C/A)
Dyan Dietz (C/A)
Linda Roby (C/A)

Laity:

Gary Southard (C/A)
Sharon Spratt (B/A)
Richard Stanford (C/A)

Alternates:**Clergy:**

Debbie Chapman (C/A)
Lucretia Facen (B/A)
Clay Womack (C/A)

Laity:

Susan Anderson (C/A)
Don Wiley (C/A)
Clay Johnson (C/A)

Committee on Investigation – Diaconals

Chair: Elects Own Chair

Members:**Clergy:**

Chuck Aaron (C/A)
Karen Chraska (C/A)
Liz Talbert (C/A)

Laity:

Kim Brannon (C/A)
Janie Covington (C/A)
Stanley Mays (B/A)
Dan Perkins (C/A)

Alternates:**Clergy:**

Rebecca Bruff (C/A)
Jeff Hall (C/A)
Joan La Barr (C/A)
Walt Marcum (C/A)
Greg Neal (C/A)

Laity:

Tom Busby (C/A)
Serena Eckert (C/A)
Alina Esquivel (H/L)
Alys Richards (C/A)
Sue Watson O'Neill (C/A)

Committee on Administrative Review**Members:**

Pat Beghtel-Mahle (C/A)
Henry Masters (B/A)
Ben Shinn (C/A)

Alternates:

Frank Drenner (C/A)
Margie Steele (B/A)

CENTER FOR CHURCH DEVELOPMENT**Function Area of Multiplying the Local Church:**

Silvia Wang (A/P)	2024A
Peter McNabb (C/A)	2024A
Jacob Fields (C/A)	2024A
Lois McNeal (B/A)	2024B
Kriss Brooks (B/A)	2024B
So Young Yun (A/P).....	2024B
Marcus Womack (C/A)	2024B
Steven Martinez (H/L)	2024B
Katie Klein (C/A).....	2024B
Kwang Bae Park (A/P).....	2024B

Function Area of Church Planting:

Ricky Harrison (C/A).....	2024A
Josh Fitzpatrick (C/A).....	2024A
Baranda Fermin (B/A)	2024A
Josh Esparza (H/L).....	2024A
Courtney Schultz (C/A)	2024A
Stacey Piyakhun (C/A)	2024B
Andrew Forrest (C/A).....	2024B
Chris Yost (C/A).....	2024B
Shellie Ross (C/A)	2024B

Function Area of Finance, Property and Location:

Kent Roberts (C/A)	2024A
Jessica Vittorio (C/A)	2024A
John Allen (C/A)	2024A
Mike Lish (C/A)	2024B
Kenneth Wolverton (C/A)	2024B
Danielle Volfe (H/L)	2024B
Katie Bristow (C/A)	2024B

CENTER FOR MISSIONAL OUTREACH**ADVISORY TEAM**

Chair: Jonathan Perry (C/A)	2024B
Andrew Fiser (C/A)	2024B
Payton Parker (B/A)	2024B
Clay Womack (C/A)	2024A
Jessica Wright (C/A)	2024A
Caesar Rentie (B/A)	2024A
Jana Grimone (C/A)	2024A
Martha Valencia (H/L)	2024A
Launny Thies (C/A)	2024A
Adam Spore (C/A)	2024A

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Co-Chair: Cynthia Rives (C/A)	2022
Co-Chair: Marcus Jones (B/A)	2022
Katie Newsome (C/A)	2024
Patrick Littlefield (C/A)	2024
James Minor (B/A)	2024
Abigail Evans (C/A)	2024
Marcus Jones (B/A)	2022
Phil Dieke (C/A)	2022
Ernestine Rhynes (B/A)	2022
Cynthia Rives (C/A)	2022

COMMITTEE ON ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH CONCERNS

Chair: Phiebie Hutchins (B/A)	2022
Rosalyn Hilburn (B/A)	2024
Cynthia Dooley (H/L)	2024
Dana Norton (C/A)	2024
Sung Chol Kwon (A/P)	2024
Jeff Hall (C/A)	2022
Phiebie Hutchins (B/A)	2022
Joshua Manning (B/A)	2022
Peter McNabb (C/A)	2022

BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Chair: Randall Lucas (C/A)	2022
Sec. of Global Ministries: Keva Green (C/A)	2024

Clergy:

Jennifer Chickering (C/A)	2024
Keva Green (C/A)	2024
Keri Lynn Lucas (C/A)	2022
Ouida Lee (B/A)	2022

Laywomen:

Judy London (C/A)	2024
Janet Fisher (C/A)	2024
Lauren Eichler (C/A)	2022
Susie Parker (C/A)	2022

Laymen:

Bill Savuto (C/A)	2024
Roy Evans (C/A)	2024
Randall Lucas (C/A)	2022
Josh Medlock (C/A)	2022

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY AND INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS

Chair: Cheryl Murphy (C/A)	2024
Shirley Ison-Newsome (B/A)	2024
Cheryl Murphy (C/A)	2024
Marian Williams (B/A)	2024
Debbie Chapman (C/A)	2024
Bill Matthews (C/A)	2022
Tom Waitschies (C/A)	2022
Norma Matthews (C/A)	2022
Levy Laguardia (A/P)	2022

CENTER FOR CONNECTIONAL RESOURCES**COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

President:.. Larry Womack (C/A)	2024B
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Laywomen:

Mary Jo McCurley (C/A)	2024A
Constance Harp (B/A)	2024A
Vicki Partridge (C/A)	2024A
Janet Peterson (C/A)	2024A
Nancy Chadwick (C/A)	2024B
Juliet Patterson (B/A)	2024B

Laymen:

Matt Jones (C/A)	2024A
Tim Griffy (C/A)	2024A
Riley Simmons (B/A)	2024A
Steve Watkins (C/A)	2024A
James Cook (B/A)	2024A
Larry Womack (C/A)	2024B

Clergy:

Stephen Cotten (C/A).....	2024A
Zack Landis (C/A)	2024A
Bryant Phelps (B/A).....	2024A
Brian Bosworth (C/A).....	2024B
Holly Bandel (C/A).....	2024B
Joe Pool (C/A).....	2024B
Kathryn Strempeke (C/A).....	2024B

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair: Elects Own Chair

Class of 2025:

Dana Coker (C/A)	2025A
Geoffrey Moore (C/A).....	2025A
Richard Stewart (B/A).....	2025A

Class of 2024:

Cottrell King (B/A).....	2024A
Ed Volfe (H/L)	2024A
Kelly Wade (C/A)	2024A

Class of 2023

Chris Yost (C/A).....	2023A
Tom Hippman (C/A).....	2023B
Driskoll Tubbs (C/A)	2023B

Class of 2022:

Harry McCalla (B/A).....	2022A
Rick Simmons (C/A).....	2022A
John Rosenburg (C/A)	2022B

BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

Chair: Ann Willet

Laywomen:

Necia Dexter (C/A).....	2028
Alicia Spears (B/A).....	2028
Eva Cherry (C/A).....	2028
Rozalind Dickerson-Cleaver (B/A)	2025
Mallory Young (C/A).....	2024
Deborah Vela (H/L).....	2024
Jane Helberg (C/A)	2023

Laymen:

Henry Lessner (C/A).....	2028
Dub Newman (C/A).....	2028
Micah Carlton (C/A).....	2028
Phil Bush (C/A).....	2024
Tom Sample (C/A).....	2024
Kelvin Walker (B/A).....	2024
Tom Talbert (C/A).....	2023

Clergy:

Craig Clark (C/A)	2029
Roy Spore (C/A)	2029
Larry George (C/A).....	2028
Ugonna Onuoha (B/A).....	2028
Steve Robertson (C/A).....	2028
Bill Mauldin (C/A).....	2026
Ann Willet (C/A).....	2024

STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

Chair: Herman Totten (B/A)	2024B
Helayna Trask (C/A)	2024A
Jeff Hall (C/A)	2024A
Sam Caldwell (C/A).....	2024A
Judy Gilreath (C/A).....	2024A
Thalia Matherson (B/A)	2024B
Don Pellikan (C/A)	2024B
Kathryn Strempeke (C/A).....	2024B

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Chair: Kent Roberts (C/A).....	2023B
Judy Gilreath (C/A)	2025A
Sammie Perry (C/A)	2025B
Mary Brooke Casad (C/A).....	2024A
Greta McKelvey (B/A)	2024A
Melissa Potter (C/A).....	2024A
Jo Biggerstaff (C/A).....	2024A
John Earl Taylor (C/A).....	2024B
Conchita Franco (H/L).....	2023B
Marilyn Hamilton (C/A)	2023B
Ben Shinn (C/A)	2023B
Frances Long (C/A)	Ex Officio

MEMOIRS COMMITTEE

Chair: Tom Christian (C/A)	2025B
Judith Reedy (C/A)	2024A
Bill Matthews (C/A)	2025B
Christy Drenner (C/A).....	Ex officio

CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR

Pam Liston (C/A).....	2024
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SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES**Clergy:**

Michael McKee.....	2018-2022
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Lay:

Pam Slaughter Bush.....	2019-2022
Elizabeth Yeager	2019-2022
Laura K. Hinson.....	2021-2024

TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2022:

Will Green
Larry Haynes
Gail Utter

Class of 2023:

Richie Butler
Jeff Lust
Kelvin Walker
Julie Yarbrough

Class of 2024:

Katherine Glaze Lyle
Andrew Stoker

PROJECT TRANSFORMATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2021:

Caesar Rentie
Deborah Vela
Susan Robb

Class of 2022:

Meredith McKee
Pennie Beauchamp
Dianne Boone
Bob Dupuy
Debra Hobbs Mason

Class of 2023:

Karen Kendall
Andy Lewis
Jodi Smith

Ex-officio: Kirsten James

COMMITTEE ON CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

Ex-Officio:

Beau Taft (C/A)..... Bridgeport Director
Cliff Dyer (C/A)..... Prothro Director
Joseph Bradley (C/A) CLD Staff
Kelly Carpenter (C/A)..... CLD Assoc. Director
Cammy Gaston (C/A) CLD Director

Bridgeport Board of Directors

Chair: Cheryl Murphy (C/A)
Rene Lawson (C/A)
Emma Piyakhun (C/A)
Meredith (Hinton) Williams (C/A)
Heather Gottas (C/A)

Prothro Board of Directors

Chair: Donny Haywood (C/A)
Dyan Dietz (C/A)
Kay Yeager (C/A)
Jen Chickering (C/A)

CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Paris Junior College Wesley Foundation

Rick Erickson (C/A) President
Tim Marks (C/A) Vice President
Callie Thompson (C/A)..... Treasurer
Michelle Wood Wesley Director
Cassie Wade (C/A)..... District Superintendent
Kelly Carpenter (C/A)..... CLD Assoc. Director
Carolyn Karrer (C/A)
Greg Hollje (C/A)
Edrue Dodd (C/A)
Mark Hutchison (C/A)
John Wright (C/A)

Synergy Wesley Foundation

James Mitchell (C/A)..... President
Carolyn Kennington (C/A) Secretary
Brittany Burrows (C/A) Wesley Director
Cammy Gaston (C/A) CLD Director
Kelly Carpenter (C/A)..... CLD Assoc. Director
Scott Gilliland (C/A)
Joyce Patton (C/A)
William Proshek (C/A)
Jack Soper (C/A)
Charles Taylor (C/A)
Larry George (C/A)
Leslee Light (C/A)

Texas A&M Commerce Wesleyan

TBD..... Chair
 Mariann Andrews (C/A) Treasurer
Payton Parker (B/A) Wesley Director
Michael Elwell (C/A)..... WCM Assistant
Cassie Wade (C/A)..... District Superintendent
 Kelly Carpenter (C/A)..... CLD Assoc. Director
 Sam Caldwell (C/A)
 David Owsley (C/A)
 Mike Rowe (C/A)
 Craig Clark (C/A)
 Carole Walker (C/A)
Derryle Peace (B/A)
Sally Vonner (B/A)

Wichita Falls Wesley Foundation

John McLarty (C/A)..... Chair
 Marcus Jones (B/A) Wesley Director
 Todd Harris (C/A) District Superintendent
 Kelly Carpenter (C/A)..... CLD Assoc. Director
 Don Pellikan (C/A)
 Sheldon Wang (A/P)
 Patrick Hoffman (C/A)
 Sylvia Wang (A/P)
 Justin Miller (C/A)
 Jeff Pehl (C/A)
Zachary Landis (C/A)
Jemimah Walulya (B/A)

Denton Wesley Foundation

Kent Carpenter (C/A)..... Chair
Marianne Brown-Trigg..... Wesley Director
 Cammy Gaston (C/A) CLD Director
 Kelly Carpenter (C/A)..... CLD Assoc. Director
 Patty Clark (C/A)
 Baranda Fermin (O/E)
 Paige Dixon (B/A)
 Angela Brewer Isma (C/A)
Jordan Cramer (C/A)
Marel Smietana (C/A)

[Bolded names designate new nominations.]

ETHNICITY CODES

A/I American Indian
 A/P Asian, Asian-American,
 Pacific Islander
 B/A African-American, African
 C/A Caucasian, Euro-American,
 Afrikaner
 H/L Hispanic, Hispanic-American,
 Latino, Latina
 NA Not Available
 OE Other Ethnicity

2021 NTC CONFERENCE REPORTS



2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

“The sin of racism must die; our African-American brothers and sisters in particular need to hear that the responsibility for its demise is not in their hands alone. We all have a role and a responsibility in removing it from our society forever.”

(An excerpt from the letter signed by Bishop Michael McKee, the Appointive and Extended Cabinet, and the Journey Toward Racial Justice Coordinating Team in response to the killings of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and the discrimination experienced by Christian Cooper)

At Covenant Day in January of 2020, Bishop McKee cast a vision for a new initiative, the “Journey Toward Racial Justice” (JTRJ). This work will center around three particular focuses:

- **Vital Conversations**, which call us to engage one another in conversations about racism, cultural diversity and institutional injustice in ways that are candid, respectful, holy, and transformational.
- **Intercultural Competence**, which calls us to cultivate leaders with the skills and awareness to make disciples across cultures so that the North Texas Conference will be more diverse and better reflect our mission field.
- **Institutional Equity**, which calls us to build systems, policies, and processes in the North Texas Conference that level the playing field for all people.

The work of the NTC JTRJ Team has borne much fruit in the 2020-2021 ministry year. This work is driven by two teams, our Lead Coordinating Team and our Supporting Advisory Team. The JTRJ has drafted and approved its own constitution made up of the founding statements listed below:

MISSION STATEMENT:

- **To create disciples of Jesus Christ who are courageously anti-racist in a broken and hurting world.**

VISION STATEMENT:

- **To end active and passive racism and create an equitable future for all people in the North Texas Conference and the communities we serve.**

FOUNDATION SCRIPTURE:

- **Romans 12:2 NRSV**
Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

JTRJ ACTIVITY MATRIX:

- **We will fulfill our mission and achieve our vision by coordinating our activities and energies through our activity matrix. The activity matrix creates simple pathways for engaging systems and people groups through our three overarching portals/strategies.**

We will work to impact these systems and people groups:

- **Annual Conference**
- **Bishop and Cabinet**
- **Districts**
- **Clergy**
- **Laity**
- **Greater Community**

by leveraging resources and partners through our three portals/strategies:

- **Vital Conversations**
- **Intercultural Competency**
- **Institutional Equity**

ACHIEVEMENTS IN OUR 2020-2021 MINISTRY YEAR

In the 2020-2021 NTC ministry year, we have completed the following:

1) Congregational Journey Toward Racial Justice

This experience, which falls primarily under our Vital Conversations strategy, is designed for primarily Anglo congregations. It was conceived, written, designed by a diverse team from the NTC and has been successfully launched in twelve pilot congregations in each of our four districts. The CJTRJ is a local church and individual journey. It is a curated conversation and experiential learning about racism and its historical and current impact on our society and within the bounds of our conference. A Journey Toward Racial Justice Guidebook was created and is available at <https://ntcumc.org/congregational-journey>. The CJTRJ experience culminates in congregations taking faithful steps of action, advocacy, and activism to dismantle racism and work toward racial equity and justice. With the pilot phase complete, the CJTRJ experience is open to all interested churches in the 2021-2022 conference ministry year.

The list of pilot congregations participating in the CJTRJ include:

- **Arapaho UMC**
- **First UMC Denton**
- **First UMC Richardson**
- **First UMC Terrell**
- **Flower Mound UMC**
- **Grace UMC, Sherman**
- **Grace Avenue UMC**
- **Northaven UMC**
- **Oak Lawn UMC**
- **Stonebridge UMC**
- **Vista Ridge UMC**

2) Ethnic Local Church Itineration

This experience, which falls under our Vital Conversations and Institutional Equity strategies, is important to understanding that the work of the JTRJ is not only to encounter and impact the perspectives, understandings, and attitudes of Anglo congregations and persons; we have a broader call to hear from persons and communities of color as well. Our team has broken into sub-teams and are conferencing with congregations by ethnicity with the following delineations:

- **African-American**
- **Latinx/Hispanic**
- **Asian-Pacific Islander**
- **African**
- **Native American**

Just as we have designed the CJTRJ for Anglo congregations, the feedback and data produced from our Ethnic Local Church iteration will be used to create and develop the strategy(s) we will employ to reach out to our Ethnic Local Churches. There will not be one cookie-cutter strategy as context is very important in this work. Our strategy, which will be conceived, written, designed, and launched during the 2021-2022 ministry year will be included in our 2022 Annual Conference Report.

3) The Promise for Ministry Leadership Scholars:

Through this new partnership between our conference and the Texas Methodist Foundation, we will, in light of our commitment toward Institutional Equity, offer this experience for the purpose of enhancing the skills of our younger and newer ethnic clergy. This will happen through a series of classes and experiences curated by TMF and taught by some of their leading teachers and experts. The vision is for the Promise for Ministry Leadership Scholars to become an annual experience.

Our inaugural class of scholars includes:

- **Rev. Montreal Martin, Wheatland UMC**
- **Rev. Rosedanny Ortiz, Casa Linda UMC**
- **Rev. David Rangel, Custer Road UMC**
- **Rev. Carlos Ramirez, Agape Memorial UMC**
- **Rev. Martha Valencia, Elmwood El Buen Samaritano UMC**
- **Rev. Silvia Wang, Archer City UMC**

We appreciate the hospitality and creativity of **Rev. Carol Montgomery, TMF's Director of Area Staff. She has been a pivotal partner in the creation of this program and will oversee the launch of this program personally.** We ask for your prayers for our first class of PML Scholars as they begin work in August.

4) General Commission on Religion and Race Racial Equity and Inclusion audit of the NTC:

Bishop McKee's vision for JTRJ included his desire for us to work toward equity throughout our NTC system. So that we can have an accurate and true reference point for where we are, and so that we can have a true grasp of where we need to be, Bishop McKee has invited GCORR to come into the conference and do a full audit of our conference along several data points. After an initial meeting with Garlinda Burton (Interim General Secretary of GCORR) and Elaine Moy, this work is under way. The audit is going to cover the following areas:

- 1) People (Demographics and Representation)**
- 2) Finances**
- 3) Clergy Credentialing Processes**
- 4) Conference Policies and Norms (written and unwritten)**

As of the writing of this report, the audit for #1 is complete and the findings will be shared at this Annual Conference and made widely available. We anticipate the full audit will be completed by early 2022.

5) 2022 National Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Training Event:

Under our strategy on Intercultural Competency, beginning in 2022, the JTRJ Team, along with the Centers for Leadership Development and Church Development will become the lead partners with the Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Ministry Spring Training event that has been curated, offered, and hosted by Rev. Edlen Cowley since 2018. This conference has grown larger each year and hosted over 125 persons (Bishops, District Superintendents,

Clergy, Lay Leaders, and Laity) in 2020 and 2021. This partnership means this training will be offered to our North Texas Conference Clergy serving in CR/CC appointments at no cost, and it will continue to position the NTC as a leading nationwide resource in preparing clergy for this unique ministry opportunity. The partnership also will yield financial benefits in that after operating expenses, 100% of the income from the event will be used to support outreach ministries of the NTC. Our 2022 ministry beneficiary is the Dallas Bethlehem Center. Different conference ministries will be selected as beneficiaries each year.

As you can see, we have been very active in the 2020-2021 conference year. As Rev. Edlen Cowley transitions to the role of District Superintendent of the Metro District, the 2021-2022 work of the JTRJ will continue under the leadership of **Rev. Silvia Wang (Chair)** and **Rev. Joshua Manning (Vice-Chair)**. We ask for your prayers as we continue our work.

For additional resources on the Journey Toward Racial Justice, please visit <https://ntcumc.org/about/combating-racism>.

Coordinating Team:

- Rev. Edlen Cowley, Chair
- Rev. Silvia Wang, Vice Chair
- Rev. Allison Jean, Secretary
- Rev. Andy Lewis, Assistant to the Bishop
- Rev. April Bristow
- Cynthia Dooley
- Rev. Joshua Manning

Advisory Team:

- Rev. Andrew Fiser
- Rev. Cammy Gaston
- Rev. Emma Williams
- Rev. Richie Butler
- Rev. S. Dianna Masters
- Fred Marsh
- Rev. Doris Smith
- Rev. Rosedanny Ortiz
- Rev. Rosalyn Hilburn
- Rev. Peter McNabb
- Rev. Wally Butts
- Rev. Levy Laguardia
- Rev. Kenneth Park
- Sharon Spratt
- Rev. Chad Johnson
- Rev. Adam Young

CENTER FOR CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

The uniqueness of the 2020-2021 Annual Conference year cannot be overstated. In spite of unprecedented challenges, the [Center for Church Development \(CCD\)](#) experienced monumental advances in our work to equip local churches to gather faces in new spaces for Christian discipleship. These advances will shape the future of the CCD.

The vision, mission, purpose, and values of the CCD are the following:

- **CCD Vision:** *Every church multiplying.*
- **CCD Mission:** *Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*
- **CCD Purpose:** *Equip congregations to gather new faces in new spaces for Christian discipleship.*
- **CCD Values:** *Spirit-led – Innovating – Collaborating – Stewarding - Transparent*

The vision, mission, purpose, and values of the CCD directed the work of the CCD during this unique Annual Conference year.

New Faces in New Spaces (NFNS)

With the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the CCD quickly adapted our work to assist congregations to gather in online spaces. Multiple zoom meetings/trainings/webinars brought in best practices and made available experts in technology and in online ministries to pastors and laity in the NTC. Moreover, the funds set aside for starting new spaces was reallocated to provide New Faces in Online Spaces grants to over a third of the congregations in the NTC.

The application for NFNS grants moved online with interactive videos offering training and explanation to assist pioneers in thinking about their new space and in filling out the application. NFNS pioneers were invited into the planter's cohort to receive the same training as church planters. As gathering in-person becomes safer, the CCD will leverage the groundwork done during the pandemic to equip churches to launch NFNS during the 2021-2022 annual conference year.

New Campuses

The CCD revolutionized how funds from sold NTC assets (primarily closed churches) are utilized. The Accelerated Church Expansion (ACE) program was launched that enabled Melissa UMC (a site of First McKinney) to build and open its building in 2021 and enabled Grace Chapel (a site of Grace Avenue) to purchase land in the fast growing community along 380 in west Prosper/east Aubrey. North Central District Lay Leader Kenneth Wolverton designed this program and was instrumental in its development. The program leverages funds from closed churches to finance acquiring land and building churches.

Even in this challenging year, new churches were born. The CCD in partnership with FUMC Rowlett and the North Central District gave birth to Jahweh Rafah, a new Spanish-language mission congregation that has given the United Methodist Church the first UMC presence in the town of Balch Springs. The CCD also collaborated with the Metro District to constitute Immanuel Korean as a mission congregation.

Finally, when Christ North Texas UMC closed in 2020, the CCD worked in collaboration with the Metro District and the North Central District for First Korean UMC to move to move into this campus, giving a Korean witness in the growing area around Fairview, Texas.

In all, the CCD gave grants to plant or further develop 17 faith communities in 2020-2021. The demographics of these faith communities are 9 Latinx, 4 White, 3 Black, and 1 intentionally multiracial. 76% of new church grants go to churches focusing on underrepresented populations in the NTC, namely populations of color. Funding from the CCD is leveraged and contextual. The vast majority of grants are matching grants with amounts and formulas that

will be based on the growth, phase, and context of the project. This has resulted in greater revenues from the those most benefitting from the new ministries.

Planter Preparation

To prepare church planters and multipliers, in early July of 2020 the CCD launched the third iteration of the Genesis cohort with 18 participants. The goal of the Genesis cohort is to connect planters relationally, to help the CCD assess potential planters to see where they need the most development, to give potential planters a place to discern whether or not planting is for them, and finally, to expose our planters to tools and resources to help them develop a vision and start a new faith community.

During the 12-month cohort, participants developed a mission centered understanding of the church; they explored ways to live more incarnationally in their context; they have worked with their team to develop vision, values, and strategy for their ministry context; and they have built teams, developed leadership skills, and a discipleship ecosystem for their new faith community. Participants in the Genesis Cohort have read books, participated in online discussions, attended webinars as well as weekend trainings, received 1 on 1 coaching, developed a plan and began to execute their plan in their mission field. Those who completed the Genesis Cohort in 2019 and were working on a church multiplication project being supported by the CCD were enrolled in the Launch Cohort.

The Launch Cohort has seven participants, and when the 2020/2021 Genesis cohort finishes up in June, three more graduates from the Genesis Cohort will join in on Launch. The Launch Cohort focuses on peer learning and adult pedagogy. The participants help craft the learning focus for each year based on what they feel is most needed at the time and meet monthly to work on design projects, discuss readings, and mentor one another. Each participant in the Launch cohort also meets monthly for one-to-one coaching with the Associate Director of the CCD as well as with their Project Coach. In addition to this every project being funded by the CCD participates in trimester stakeholder calls three times each year. Stakeholders in the NTC include our support star which surrounds planters with a project coach, pastoral coach, developer, supervisor, and intercessor. In our trimester call, each of the partners in support star, along with the planter talk about goals, celebrations and challenges. The purpose is to make sure as the planter lives into their vision, they have people around them to give them the coaching and encouragement necessary to be successful.

Our goal for this past year and moving into the next has been three-fold. First, we want to make sure planters in the North Texas Conference are given all the support necessary as they seek to launch a new faith community. Secondly, we are seeking to strengthen our existing plants that were started prior to launching these new support initiatives. Finally, as a conference we are getting out of the church planting “business” and focusing our attention and resources on supporting churches that plant churches. We are doing all of this to align our work to our primary vision of - Every Church Planting.

Black Church Initiative (BCI)

With the retirement of Rev. S. Dianna Masters, the first and only director to date of the Black Church Initiative (BCI) in July 1, 2020, the CCD has committed to continue its investment in the Black Church. Rev. Masters contracted with the CCD to continue that work. Rev. Masters organized trainings in fall 2021, and 6 BCI teams were organized in 6 churches. These churches and BCI teams were matched with coaches and began working the assessments in Spring 2021.

Latinx Lay Leadership Fellowship

The most underrepresented group in the North Texas Conference is the Latinx community. 26% of the NTC Mission field is Hispanic/Latinx, yet Hispanic/Latinx persons only make up 3% of the NTC. CCD is committed to identifying and raising up LatinX leaders through our LatinX Fellowship. The goal of the LatinX Fellowship is to find Latino/Latina’s under the age of 30 who are still in a stage of vocational discernment and invite them to experience a two-year transformative process of leadership development where they explore and practice missional engagement,

grow in their understanding of Wesleyan Theology, and experience a macro immersion in a local faith community combined with micro immersion in multiple contexts. We currently have four participants in this program and have found it to be incredibly successful. Past graduates of the fellowship have gone on to become planters, youth pastors, licensed local pastors, and lay staff members of churches.

Staff

The CCD experienced the largest budget cut of any of the centers during the 2020-2021 year. To protect the CCD projects, staffing and staff expenses were cut dramatically while maintaining the CCD's quality of services and of equipping local churches. As stated, Rev. S. Dianna Masters, CCD Associate Director for the Black Church Initiative, retired in 2020 but has continued to support the work of the CCD as a coach and consultant. Rev. Matt Temple, CCD Associate Director for Church Planting, moved to part-time. Liliana Rangel sought other opportunities outside of the NTC but left a legacy of ministries begun and strengthened during her more than a decade of service to the NTC. The CCD hired Jessica Vargas as the new CCD Mission Coordinator, and she began her service to the NTC on January 1, 2021.

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (CLD)

The Center for Leadership Development seeks to make principled Christian leaders for the transformation of the world. The global pandemic created a leadership challenge for the church like none other. Leading the church and discipling in our mission field required new skills and abilities. Our Center's work pivoted to online platforms for events, education, resourcing, and training. Clergy Cohorts were established to provide spiritual support and communal relationships. Our Advanced Leadership Coaching program offered 141 clergy and lay professionals monthly coaching to focus on their creative ideas, skills, ministry plans, and spiritual needs.

The Journey Toward Racial Justice work took center stage this year as members of our staff worked with the "JTRJ" team to create educational materials for clergy and laity (see the report on Journey Toward Racial Justice). We sponsored a training for cross cultural and cross racial appointments. We also deployed our Dismantling Racism education team to churches, Board of Ministry Residents, Ministry Center staff, and the Cabinet. Racial justice education has also been incorporated in our faith formation events for children and youth.

Over the past several years, the Center for Leadership Development has created an 'ecosystem' which cultivates young (35 and under) and culturally diverse leaders. We believe that United Methodist Christians live out their faith through social holiness. We seek to ground ourselves in the vitality of Christ and to empower and equip lay and clergy leadership in ministry. I am grateful for the ministry of Kelly Carpenter, Rev. Emma Williams, Joseph Bradley, Mariel Vela, Pastor Liz Greenwell, and Rev. Marsha Middleton who invest in Wesleyan Formation, Leadership Development, Professional Development, and North Texas Conference Connectional life.

—Rev. Cammy Gaston, CLD Director

For more information about the Center for Leadership Development visit [ntcumc.org > Leadership Development](https://ntcumc.org/Leadership-Development), join our Facebook page, [NTC Center for Leadership Development](https://www.facebook.com/NTCCLD), and follow us on Social Media, @ntcleadership.

A Time for Children (ATFC) is completing its sixth year of learning cohorts in North Texas. We continue to see the support and education provided by this program nurture our children's ministries by equipping children's ministry professionals to deepen and strengthen their programs. Our 2020-2021 ATFC cohort took on a new format to respond to the COVID-19 safety protocols, with training spread out over the entire academic year, rather than concentrated in two in-person events, supported by monthly meetings. Our NTC cohort joined with others from across the country to learn from and support each other in virtual and hybrid ministry innovation.

Advanced Leadership Coaching – The Fall of 2020 was our 4th round of launching an 8-month season of 1-1 coaching relationships between over 50 laity and clergy with our trained Advanced Leadership Coaches. (Unlike everything else, coaching was already an online and over the phone initiative that didn't require adaptation!) That did not stop us from innovation. In response to the lack of fellowship opportunities that happen in the natural course of events and the increased 'unchartered' territory of 2020 we launched clergy cohorts. In a two-week registration window, over 88 clergy registered to join a monthly clergy cohort with 8-12 of their peers. We launched eleven groups using a coach approach model to gather for networking, support and exploring possibilities together. We were also able to send two clergy to our International Coaching Federation (ICF) approved 60 hours of coach training to continue expanding our offerings.

Bishop's Rally – Bishop's Rally creates a unique opportunity to usher Children into Youth Ministry and introduce them to Bishop Michael McKee of the North Texas Annual Conference. Because of COVID-19 safety protocols, Bishop's Rally 2021 has been moved to October to allow for a larger in-person gathering. The CLD looks forward to partnering once again with Creekwood UMC in welcoming confirmation and 5th-7th grade students from across the North Texas Conference to play, serve and worship together.

BOM Residency – The NTAC Residency program was hosted by the Center for Leadership this year via Zoom platform. Monthly meetings began in September and ended in April. The three-hour sessions began with an educational component provided by guest speakers and facilitators. The residents moved into preaching and covenant group meetings for continued learning. The 2021 Residency class had twenty-four participants. Thank you to the Covenant Group leaders and Preaching Mentors who invested in the growth of the Commissioned pastors and to Perkins School of Theology Center for Preaching Excellence at SMU for their education materials and training.

Camp Bible – One of the best ways for children to be formed in faith is to learn how to explore the Word of God. Children's Ministers from across the Conference once again planned and led Camp Bible for 3-5 graders, but this year, Camp Bible went virtual. Children, children's ministers, and volunteers from across the conference came together for "The Journey," a weekly online gathering during Advent 2020 that followed different journeys to the birth of the Christ Child.

Clergy Covenant Day – Led by Bishop Michael McKee, the clergy engaged in celebrating Wesley's Covenant Service on January 21. Music was provided by First United Methodist of Richardson who hosted the virtual event. Dr. Alyce McKenzie provided the historical context for the covenant service. Members of the Journey Toward Racial Justice team provided leadership during the service. Clergy were asked to examen their lives utilizing "John Wesley's 22 Questions for Private Devotion" and to recommit themselves utilizing "Wesley's Covenant Prayer." Bishop McKee presided over Holy Communion as clergy participated virtually. Thank you to Rev. Dr. Clayton Oliphant, Rev. Pavielle Jenkins, and the First United Methodist church staff for hosting and producing and providing music for the service.

Clergy Retreat – Clergy Retreat was one of many 2020 experiences that was canceled in its prior format and elements offered in alternate methods. The Clergy Retreat Design Team convened around May and asked purpose questions. How does Clergy Retreat fit into the larger cycle of events such as Annual Conference and Covenant Day? Rest, Retreat and Renewal emerged as some of the primary purposes and the team went to work on offering resources for retreat to our clergy in the form of *Summer Selah*. Individual clergy and their households could arrange to stay at Prothro Camp and Retreat Center, the team compiled welcome baskets, continuing education and professional development resource options, and pulpit supply. A list of clergy available for preaching recorded, online, and in-person remains on the Center for Leadership Development website. We hope to hold the next North Texas Conference Clergy Retreat on October 11-13, 2021 at Tanglewood Resort.

Committee on Religion and Race (CORR) - The NTC Committee on Religion and Race has the goal of strategic planning in the areas of diversity, cultural competency, racial justice, reconciliation and equity, and communication/

advocacy for change. The committee had representatives serving on the Journey Toward Racial Justice team and presented Cultural Intelligence training to both the North Texas Conference Cabinet and the residents preparing for ordination. NTC CORR members also serve as Journey Companions for the Congregational JTRJ and will be part of the groups facilitating intentional conversations around racial equity in NTC racial/ethnic minority churches.

Committee on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) - The work of the current Committee on the Status and Role of Women is being shaped this quadrennium by the legislation passed at Annual Conference in September of last year. As with many things in 2020, our work was delayed by the impact of COVID 19.

There were three immediate goals of the legislation:

1. to invite senior pastors to preach on God's call to all Christians, both men and women to serve in all vocations within the body of Christ and the Church, including ordination and consecration;
2. to recommend that every United Methodist Church in North Texas will have women, lay or clergy, preach at least once a year,
3. and COSROW will provide a list of female clergy who are available to fill the pulpit.

To follow up with those immediate goals, we have created a questionnaire for our senior pastors to complete to see how this first year has gone in terms of feasibility and the completion of being able to preach on vocational ministry for men and women alike, and to fulfill the recommendation of inviting a woman to preach at least once during the previous appointment season. COSROW has ensured that in the Pulpit Fill Resources and list of on-call preachers 8 of the 17 are female.

The legislation outlined several other actionable items, and we have set our short term and long term goals accordingly:

2021-2022 Goals

In order to create an instrument of receptivity for a church to welcome a female senior pastor, COSROW will:

1. Build relationships and establish meetings with District Superintendents.
2. Build relationships and continue communicating with Senior Pastors.
3. Set up a Facebook Page for COSROW to serve as an information/resource hub and collect data.

2021-2024 Goals

In order to implement lasting change and impact the appointment process in order to prioritize equality of appointments and salaries in the North Texas Annual Conference, COSROW will:

1. Finalize the instrument of receptivity for a church to welcome a female senior pastor.
2. Develop relationships and resources to encourage youth and young women to consider a call to ministry.
3. Continue to develop our Facebook Resource and Information page.
4. Establish Leadership for the 2024 quadrennial transition.

Each year COSROW is to report on statistics to track trends and success in achieving equality of appointments and salaries. Below find the data female clergy as reported in the 2020 North Texas Annual Conference Journal.

- Out of all the clergy (Provisional and Full Elders and Deacons, Full and Part-Time Licensed Local Pastors and Associate Members), 42% are female and 58% are male. 34% of elders (provisional and full connection) are female, 66% are male. 69% of deacons are female and 31% are male. 44% of LLPs (full and part-time) are female and 56% are male.
- Of the 28 churches in the North Texas Conference with memberships of over 1000, twenty-two have male senior pastors, and six have female senior pastors. Of the 126 clergy serving in these churches, 69 are male and 57 are female.
- Of the churches in the North Texas Conference during the 2020 appointment year, 27% were led by a fe-

male senior pastor. When examining the percentage of churches in the NTC led by a female senior pastor, 30% of the East District churches were female led, 26% of the Metro District churches, 17% of the North Central District churches, and 33% of the Northwest District churches.

Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM) – CCYM is honored to represent the youth of the North Texas conference throughout the year. CCYM is a diverse compilation of youth from 6th to 12th grades. The 2021 Midwinter Retreat brought with it the new challenge of lifting up youth leadership in a virtual space. Instead of inviting an adult to lead the camp in worship, six students stepped up to provide messages of hope and steadfastness in finding your identity and purpose in God. Youth not only led in worship, but in all aspects of the weekend – facilitating small group discussion, offering praise and worship music, planning and implementing group games, and creating a community of joy and openness. You can find the CCYM video messages and corresponding scripture and discussion questions for use with your youth group at bridgeportinabox.com/mw2021. In addition to being a place where students and adults can grow in their faith and in their connection to each other, Midwinter is also an opportunity to raise money for our Youth Service Fund, also known as YSF. This year our funds were collected through a competition and raised for the North Texas Conference Peace with Justice Grant. The Peace with Justice Grant is awarded by the NTC Board of Church and Society to United Methodist projects that further the work of reducing and eliminating the disproportionate effects of injustice in our communities.

Conference Camp Youth Leadership Program (CCYLP) – This program seeks to provide leadership training and opportunities to youth attending Bridgeport Summer Camp, who are selected to be Junior Counselors and Youth Counselors.

Junior Counselors are tasked with assisting in small groups and participating in a daily reflection time to discuss what they are learning about leadership, where they are experiencing God at camp, and to prepare for the following day's lessons.

Youth Counselors are older youth that are tasked with leading the Junior Counselor reflection time, along with being given the opportunity to shadow our camp directors throughout the week. This experience provides these Juniors and Seniors in High School an opportunity to experience first-hand what it takes to direct a camp. They are also given the opportunity during this time to get to know these directors on a personal level, many of which are ministry staff at churches in our conference. This ministry was initially funded by the Young Clergy Initiative (YCI) of the General Board of Higher Education.

Like many things that happened in 2020 we were forced to pivot away from in-person camping and suspended the program. We are happy to say that along with once again having in-person camp at Bridgeport Camp we are bringing back the CCYLP. This year we will complete our original goal of implementing our program at every level of our summer camping model, from Children's to Senior High Camp.

There is a lot of excitement from our returning Youth Counselors and Junior Counselors that the program will be back up and running. Our next steps are to build out the program to extend past high school graduation and into college aged young people. The hope being that if we can retain their connection to the camp that it might also help them feel more connected to our conference as a whole while they explore whatever is next in their lives.

Congregational Assessment, Response and Transformation (CART) Teams – CART Teams are equipped to assist District Superintendents, clergy, and congregations move through the difficult work of grief, anger, mistrust, loss, and change. There are two separate CART teams: The Crisis Response and Care Team led by Liz Greenwell and The Conflict Resolution Team led by Lisa Hancock.

This year, the Crisis Response and Care Team served ten churches through in-person direct intervention, consulting, individualized training, and resourcing. The team also provided consulting and resourcing services for District Superintendents, lay leaders, and conference staff. Eleven Resource Persons (laity on the Crisis Response Team who are specially trained to work one on one with someone affected by misconduct or a crisis in the church) were

appointed this year by Bishop McKee. Resource Persons serve the North Texas Conference by providing safe space for confidential conversations, finding appropriate resources for personal and familial healing, and offering support and guidance to both the aggrieved and the accused during a formal complaint process.

This year the Conflict Resolution Team, led by Lisa Hancock, Conflict Resolution Specialist, served several churches, providing conflict resolution intervention, and weekly or biweekly consultations to clergy, staff, and laity in various ministry settings in the conference. Resources, trainings, and workshops included self-awareness, the role of anxiety and change, leadership, and information regarding the Enneagram. Please contact your District Superintendent or Liz Greenwell directly greenwell@ntcumc.org or (972)562-5040 for more information on how to access the help of the CART Teams.

District Lay Training Day - Our usual district laity training events were replaced this year with a conference laity training event on January 31, 2021. The Center for Communications and Kim Brannon, the Conference Lay Leader, offered leadership, skills, and creativity in producing the event. Training videos were launched on the day of the event and for future use by church staff, and committees. The training modules are housed on the Center for Leadership Development website ntcumc.org/district-laity-training.

Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) - Interim ministers are experienced clergy persons, committed to Wesleyan theology and the UMC, who have proven effective in their service to Christ and the church. Intentional Interim Ministers adapt well to a congregation's context and particular needs, are highly relational, and provide pastoral leadership and management for a season of ministry. IIMs are vetted by the Bishop and NTC Cabinet, trained and certified through an accreditation process, and may be deployed across conference boundaries. IIM's serve many contexts which include: Sabbatical, Renewal or Study Leave; Pastoral Transitions; Conflict Management; Disability, Terminal Illness or Death of a Pastor; Clergy Misconduct. In 2020-2021 the Cabinet and the Center for Leadership Development made one Intentional Interim Ministry placement.

For more information on IIM training or deployment, contact Rev. Cammy Gaston, Director of The Center for Leadership Development of the NTC, at cgaston@ntcumc.org or go to Transitional Intentional Interim Ministry Specialists Association at <https://tiimsa.org/>.

Journey Toward Racial Justice (JTRJ) - The Center for Leadership Development is in partnership with the Center for Mission and Outreach to resource the commission Bishop McKee established to address systemic racism in our Conference, mission field, and in our world. This year, the JTRJ Advisory team and cross conference partnership worked together to produce the Congregational Journey Toward Racial Justice, a guidebook that walks churches through assessing, learning, growing, and implementing change in their own contexts. The Congregational JTRJ includes partnering churches with Journey Companions who help groups navigate the process of congregational awareness and action. The pilot churches officially began in early 2021, with plans to roll out the Congregational JTRJ conference-wide in fall 2021, after incorporating the learnings and suggestions of the pilot participants.

Vocational Discernment and Candidacy – 2020 and a pandemic did not stop folks from discerning their call. Fifteen inquiring candidates attended virtual Candidacy Summits held in August of 2020 and January 2021. Candidacy Summit is an orientation to the candidacy process event focused particularly on preparing people for the certification interview and building connections with representatives of the Annual Conference and other inquiring candidates. Summit also launches the first of six group mentoring sessions of the inquiring candidacy process. Vocational Discernment resources such as the 5 Cups of Coffee brochures, Christian as Minister, resources for the SPRC interview, and more can be found on the North Texas Board of Ordained Ministry website <https://ntcumc.org/bom/call-to-ministry/discerning> and by contacting Kelly Carpenter, Kelly@ntcumc.org.

Youth – The CLD partners with Youth Ministry Staff from across the Conference to host several events through the year. These events are designed to assist in faith formation and inspire youth to live a Christian life. Our sponsored events are Youth Midwinter, Bishop's Rally and the "ONE" event. The ONE event has again been postponed due

to gathering restrictions, but we anticipate its return in 2022. Midwinter 2021 moved online, and was facilitated by our wonderful CCYM students, who showed true leadership and discipleship.

To find more information on all these events and programs, to host an event at your church or get involved, please visit <https://ntcumc.org/leadership-development> or email Rev. Emma Williams at emma@ntcumc.org.

2021-2022 Center for Leadership Development Dates and Events

All dates subject to review in light of COVID-19

- Candidacy Summit – August TBD
- Advanced Leadership Coaching Launch – August
- Lay Servant Ministries Laity Event – August 14, 2021
- A Time for Children/Youth Fall Cohort Training – September 2021 kick-off
- Camp Bible (3rd – 5th grade students) - Bridgeport Camp – September 17-18, 2021
- Fall Confirmation Camp – Bridgeport Camp – October 1-3, 2021
- Bishop's Rally (5th - 7th grade/Confirmation students) – Creekwood UMC – October 3, 2021
- Clergy Retreat – Tanglewood Resort – October 11-13, 2021
- Wonderfully Made Camp (Upper Elementary- Middle School) – location TBD – October 22-24, 2021
- Winter Confirmation Camp – Bridgeport Camp – January 14-16, 2022
- Clergy Covenant Day – January 2022
- District Laity Training Day – January 30, 2022
- MidWinter Retreats 2022 (Middle & High School) – Bridgeport Camp - January 28-30, February 11-13
- Bishop's Rally (5th - 7th grade students) – location TBD - Spring 2022
- Wonderfully Made Camp (High School) – location TBD – March 25-27, 2022
- ONE Worship Event (Middle and High School Youth) – April 2022

To find more information on all these events and programs, to host an event at your church or get involved, please visit <https://ntcumc.org/leadership-development> or email cldadmin@ntcumc.org.

CAMPING AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center (BCCC) - In April, 2020, we made the difficult decision to cancel summer camps as we normally have done them. While this announcement brought with it a great deal of sadness for what was lost, it also allowed the opportunity to expand camping into a new digital space through virtual camps. Thanks to the hard work of our curriculum team and CLD staff we were able to transition our summer curriculum to something that could be utilized in an online space. We then took this curriculum and used it as the main content for our virtual camps, known as Bridgeport in a Box, offered to campers throughout the NTC via the Zoom platform.

This content is hosted on our Bridgeport In a Box website <https://www.bridgeportinabox.com> and is available to churches and families throughout the conference. We have since continued to update this site with even more curriculum from camps such as MidWinter and Camp Bible, as well as adding past summer camp curriculum. Our goal is to continue to update this site with future content in hopes that it can be a constant resource for churches and families.

We spent the rest of 2020 closed to the public due to the pandemic, but we were able to open the facility in January 2021. Our groups that normally attend have been few and far between as we slowly get back to a sense of normal during the pandemic. We are very excited to say that we are opening back up for summer camp, with a condensed scheduled and operating at a limited capacity. We will offer one session each of Children's, Junior High, and Senior High camp. We are also trying out a new Family camp. We will also offer virtual camp again this summer to help fill in the gaps for students that can't be with us on campus this summer for whatever reasons.

We appreciate your continued prayer and support as we move into these new spaces and try and return to what has made Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center a special part of our conference for over 70 years. For more information on Bridgeport Camp follow us @bridgeport.camp and check out our new website www.bridgeportcamp.org.

Prothro Center at Lake Texoma - Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Prothro Center was restricted on group gatherings and mass lodging. In a year like no other, we brainstormed ways that we could improve our facilities and have a positive impact on society. We realized that families were simply needing space, change of scenery, and fresh air. With our 100 acres of incredible trails, lake views, and beautiful landscape, we organized times where families could come out and take advantage of what we could offer. The response was overwhelmingly grateful, and we were able to build rapport with many guests that will lead to future guests. As time progressed, and information on the virus became more clear, we slowly started opening cabins to individual families.

With our buildings being vacant for so long, it gave us time to really go through the detailed fixes. Our Boyd house received new paint, fencing, trellis work, deck repair, and repairs to siding/fascia. We were also able to do the same type of work to the beach house and wildwood cabin. We decided to go with pastel colors to tie in the lake theme, instead of traditional earth tones. Our dining hall also got an update with new shelving, paint, and tables built by our very own staff.

This was a very tough year for everyone, but we were so happy and fortunate to serve in the capacity that we could.

Take a closer look at our updates and reserve space for your next church or family retreat. Find [Prothro Center at Lake Texoma on Facebook](#), our website www.prothrocenter.org and by emailing prothro@ntcumc.org.

COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES

Denton Wesley (UNT/TWU/NCTC) – The Denton Wesley serves the students of the University of North Texas, Texas Women’s University, and North Central Texas College. DWF is “an intersectional, affirming, compassionate community creating life and stumbling toward Christ together.” We are striving to offer students experiences of the living God and opportunities to serve God and neighbor in Christian leadership.

House Worship has reached new and existing students while implementing safety requirements. We have gathered for worship safely outside on our porch and online simultaneously. Our Home Groups ministry has worked diligently to keep students connected and to help new students find community. We’ve hosted arts and crafts nights, table readings of favorite movies, and workshops on caring for the bodies and souls God has given us. In keeping with our vision of connecting students with their gifts and calling and empowering them to create life and lead, our social justice Bible study, *Intersect*, is totally student-led. Students address current issues and think theologically about the world God wants and our part in bringing God’s Reign on Earth.

This year we have created an Access Team which oversees our food pantry and works to ensure accessibility to all students for our ministries. The Shiloh Food Pantry, a partner agency of the Tarrant Area Food Bank, has served an increasing number of clients dealing with food insecurity. Students stock and organize the pantry, fill and deliver orders, and engage in long-term planning and visioning to better meet the needs of our community. During the winter storms in February, Shiloh opened for additional hours to serve over 200 students stuck on campus with limited access to food and water. Our Access Team has also worked to ensure our programming has American Sign Language interpreters to give better access to deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

The Faith Seeking Understanding Institute is a seminary preparation lecture series, taught by our Brite Divinity School Intern. This program is helping students begin the journey of thinking theologically and exploring topics brought up in seminary classes as they discern their interests and callings after college.

Rev. Marianne Brown-Trigg came on board as the Director and Campus Minister this spring and is thrilled to continue the amazing ministry at DWF. We are so grateful to our supporters who have invested their time, gifts, and prayers into the Wesley. You have made this space of radical welcome and transforming love possible for our students.

For more information visit www.thedentonwesley.org or contact Rev. Marianne Brown-Trigg at marianne@thedentonwesley.org

Southern Methodist University Wesley Foundation – Wesley House in 2020 was an interesting year. It is no surprise that the pandemic had extreme implications for the ministry. Nevertheless, Wesley House found a way not only to survive but thrive in these troubling times. We launched an initiative to provide community and further the reaches of hospitality through the United Groups and Wesley Vessels. Each month the Wesley Vessels provided students with a box containing gear and hand-crafted snacks. We saw the positive effects of this effort seep into a highly discouraged student body. Despite the pandemic we found a way to gather outdoors for worship where we saw as many as 150 students gathered together, social distanced and safe to worship and receive a message. We also found a way to bring together students for a Fall retreat that saw over 70 students gather together for a weekend of fellowship and worship.

Wesley House has always been a ministry of hospitality that creates spaces that look and feel like home. This year was no different! The mission of ‘Creating Deeply Devoted Followers of Christ’ shined through by providing a place where community is developed, questions are discussed, faith is deepened, and purpose is discovered. The ministry found a way to help students in their lifelong journey of becoming followers of Jesus Christ by providing a place to navigate life and faith and connecting them to the local church. Lastly, this year Wesley House empowered students to rise up in leadership in their faith so that the campus of SMU could be transformed through the workings of the Holy Spirit.

To find out more about the SMU Wesley House contact Campus Ministry Director, Isaiah Terry, terryi@hpumc.org, follow us on social media @thewesleyhouse and our website hpumc.org/college-ministry.

Synergy Wesley Foundation (UTD/Dallas College/Collin College) - The Synergy Wesley Foundation is a diverse and inclusive campus ministry providing supportive space for college students to build authentic relationships and community, grow in faith through study and conversation, discover their gifts, discern their vocational call, develop as Christian leaders, and serve alongside their neighbors to transform the world. Our ministry programming typically includes weekly worship, Bible study and small groups, retreats and leadership conferences, mission and volunteering, fellowship events at the center of campus, free weekly lunch and dinner, and ongoing leadership development programs.

Our ministry at UT-Dallas is thriving and growing, with more than 100 students involved in our Wesley discipleship ministries during the past year. The seven community colleges comprising the Dallas County Community College District have now merged to become “Dallas College,” and we have been expanding our reach to Dallas College students starting with the Richland and Brookhaven campuses. During the 2020-2021 school year, our programming moved online as our campuses restricted in-person meetings, which provided the unique opportunity to bring in a variety of guest speakers from across the country to facilitate dialogue online with our students. Our facilitators over the past year have included Andrea Gibson, Rev. Scott Gilliland, Rev. Dr. Ray Jordan, Fr. Shannon T.L. Kearns, Rev. Heather Gottas-Moore, Rev. Jonah Overton, Dr. Dawn Pleas, and staff from the organizations BorderLinks and Story of Stuff Project. They led students in a variety of programs, ranging from engaging our faith through spoken word poetry to talks on racial bias, climate change, sexual ethics, immigration, and more. Our programming has continued to expand this year, and we are reaching more students than ever before.

We are excited about the future of Synergy Wesley Foundation, and we are grateful for the church partners that support our work on an ongoing basis – Arapaho UMC, St. Andrew UMC, and Chapel Hill UMC. We are continuing to seek connection with new church partners to grow in our United Methodist presence on the campuses of each of the North Dallas area college campuses – we invite you to join with us in our mission to synergize students, churches, and organizations to reach and grow a rising generation of young Christian leaders for the transformation of the world!

For more information, visit SynergyWesley.org or contact our campus minister, Brittany Burrows, Brittany@SynergyWesley.org.

The Wesley Foundation at Northwestern State University - This year at The Wesley has been like a rollercoaster. Not the type of rollercoaster that is terrifying and evokes fear at the mere sight of it. The kind of rollercoaster that when the ride concludes we look at each other and exclaim, “Let’s do that again!” The reason we describe this year as such is because with all of the ups and downs, twists and turns, high-speeds and abrupt stops, we are having an experience that is both challenging and fun at the same time.

The ups and downs brought numerical growth and participation in the midst of COVID-19. Our Student Leadership Internship Program we started two years ago brought three new interns. Through their diligence, vision, and creativity, led to a 300% student participation and 200% growth in membership. Much of this growth is reflected in our Wesley on Wednesday (WOW) bible study, one of two programs we continued during the pandemic to ensure we were keeping to Northwestern State University gathering guidelines.

Due to the pandemic we had to discontinue our weekly free lunch, which served over 50 students per week. However, this void led us to creation of our Mission and Outreach team and a mobile food pantry that served many students with essential food needs. In addition to our Mission and Outreach team, two other ministries, Social Media Outreach and Male Engagement, were created that increased our social media presence and an increase of male participation, respectively.

Some of the twists and turns of this year resulted in a loss of resources due to cancellations caused by COVID. These losses led us to create an intentional fundraising campaign that gave us the much needed funds to continue serving our campus faithfully. The 30/30/30 for 30 campaign allowed us to find new ministry partners and church partners to join us in making our campus an open and inclusive space for our students. We are grateful for these partners and their faithfulness that has allowed us to continue vital ministry to our students and our MSU community.

We are excited about the growth and future of the Wesley at MSU and look forward to great things to come in the coming year. For more information about our programs, discipleship model, and ways to support our ministry, visit www.thewfwesley.org, or email Pastor Marcus Jones at mjones@wfwesley.org.

The Wesley Center at Paris Junior College is a campus, faith community committed to journeying together, boldly questioning and deepening our beliefs, and living in a way that makes the world more like God’s dream. Covid-19 has drastically changed the ways in which all ministries have operated over this past year. We have transitioned our weekly free community lunches into a to-go lunch with spaced seating available outside in our front lawn. These lunches support students on a financial level, as well as provide a weekly touchstone for conversation and encouragement beyond typical daily routines. Several students have been interested in cooking this year, so the weekly meal has provided space for them to hone their culinary skills and share their God-given gifts with their peers, school staff, and professors.

We have had two student interns this school year who planned and facilitated events and small groups as a part of their respective roles. Due to their hard work, we’ve been able to host fun events, such as an outdoor open mic night, pumpkin carving, video game night, splatter painting, and a very intensive, collaborative comic book table painting.

We've also had spaces for deeper reflection as one intern led us through conversations about culture in general, as well as about her experiences growing up with and alongside the Navajo Nation. Every Tuesday evening, we gather for Creative Journaling to write, draw, or create-in-some-form based upon the prompt of the day. The vast majority of our students are in the "none" or "done" category, so when we share about our journal creations, it's a time we can talk about life and faith and spirituality from one another's perspective to find a shared sense of community, hope, and acceptance. This year the PJC Wesley Center and FUMC Paris partnered up to offer a 12-week Enneagram Journey. Several students participated in the course, which led to exciting, new, and supportive relationships between the church members and students. Also, the students have been talking with other classmates about the Enneagram. It has opened up deep conversations around self-awareness and motivations, while giving them common language to dive deeper into their passions and desires.

The Loads of Love Laundry launched last school year and offers free laundry facilities for PJC students. It is currently open for laundry appointments, in order to control how many people are in the space at a time. Many times, students will come for a small group with their laundry bags in tow! Through the Loads of Love Laundry, students see a tangible example of God's love manifested and with that, seem to be more likely to open up about their thoughts and concerns and joys. Meaningful conversations happen and God shows up as clothes become clean in the next room over.

This will be our first summer sending students to Project Transformation North Texas!!! We're excited to see students longing to continue serving and giving back over the summer and love having wonderful nonprofits to partner with in that mission. We know that God is present and working in the lives of our students and we will continue creating spaces where that is cultivated and celebrated! Glory Be.

For more information, visit pjcwesleycenter.org or contact Michelle Wood at michellemwood15@gmail.com.

The Wesleyan Campus Ministry (TAMU Commerce) - The Wesleyan is an inclusive and affirming campus ministry, where ALL God's diverse children can Belong, Believe and Become! We are the grace-filled progressive ministry that speaks for the under-represented student groups on campus.

Following John Wesley's General Rules--Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God--we have been worshipping virtually since Spring Break 2020, and have transitioned most other programs to virtual only. To adapt to social-distancing times and to reach new people via strengthening relationships with TAMU-C faculty, in Spring 2021 we started a podcast: Taco Tuesday Theology Talk. This new program, that integrates theology with other academic fields, is made possible by a grant written by our Minister Assistant Michael Elwell funded by the Center for Leadership Development.

On-going ministries include; The Light Worship, Prophetic Bible study, Spiritual Check-in, Coffee and Create Craft Night, A.A.

Some of the vital ways we are serving our mission field on campus include partnering with various university departments and administration and student organizations to advocate for: mental health, theological and vocational discernment, diversity and inclusion, and improving relationships between police and students.

To stay updated and learn how to support us, go to tamucwesleyan.wixsite.com or join our group page on Facebook at [@TAMUCWESLEYAN](https://www.facebook.com/TAMUCWESLEYAN) and/or contact Rev. Brian Dierolf: Wesleyancampuspastor@gmail.com. Pastor Brian is available to guest preach for a donation to the WCM. Donate on [PayPal.com/paypalme/TamucWCM](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/TamucWCM).

Board of Ordained Ministry**2021-2022 Board of Ordained Ministry Calendar
North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church**

August, 2021	District Committees on Ordained Ministry begin interviews for the purpose of recommending eligible persons to the Committee on Preparation and Qualifications for possible commissioning in 2022. Districts should report recommended candidates to the Board of Ordained Ministry Officer.
September 13 – 15	Residency Orientation and Retreat
September 22	BOM Fall Meeting, 10am – 12pm (Christ UMC Plano)
October 1	Deadline for districts to submit names of those persons recommended to P&Q for possible commissioning in 2022
October 1	Deadline for provisional Deacons and Elders to submit their names to the Board of Ordained Ministry Officer for participation in the 2022 ordination selection process.
October 28	BOM Meeting with Commissioning and Ordination Candidates, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (NTC Ministry Center)
December 3	Commissioning paperwork deadline, 5:00 pm
December 17	Ordination paperwork deadline, 5:00 pm
January 23-26, 2022	Commissioning Interviews at Prothro Center
February 15	Deadline for districts to submit names of those persons recommended to attend Licensing School to BOM Officer
February 20-23	Ordination Interviews at Prothro Center
April 2	Licensing School Session 1 (at Ministry Center if possible)
April 7	BOM Spring Meeting, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (Christ UMC Plano)
April 9	Licensing School Session 2 (at Ministry Center if possible)
April 23	Licensing School Session 3 (at Ministry Center if possible)
April 30	Licensing School Session 4 (at Ministry Center if possible)
May 7	Licensing School Session 5 (at Ministry Center if possible)
May 14	Licensing School Session 6 (at Ministry Center if possible)
May 22, 6:00 pm, through May 27, 1:00 PM	Licensing School Sessions 7-12 (in Residence if possible)

United Methodist Women (UMW)

North Texas Conference UMW continues to actively put faith, hope, and love into action through a comprehensive program of spiritual growth, education for transformation, service, and advocacy programs. Here in the North Texas Annual Conference in 2020, United Methodist Women members generously donated over \$155,000 to support mission work locally, regionally, nationally, and globally on behalf of women, children, and youth.

Despite the social restrictions imposed upon us by the COVID-19 public health emergency, our mission work did not come to a grinding halt in 2020. In February 2020 – prior to the onset of the pandemic and the lockdown order issued in mid-March 2020 – First United Methodist Church Rowlett (North Central District NTC UMW) hosted NTC UMW's first annual racial justice and spiritual growth event, "Conversation. Community. Cultural Connections," using the text *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo as a resource for important faith-based discussions about race relations.

Local UMW units throughout the North Texas Conference continued to serve their communities in new and creative ways during the pandemic. UMW members across the conference generously supported local, community-based food pantries, outreach organizations, and advocacy efforts. NTC UMW members also supported two UMW national mission institutions in the Dallas area – Dallas Bethlehem Center (South Dallas) and Wesley-Rankin Community Center (West Dallas) – by either volunteering on-site (with strict safety protocols) and/or generously donating to the organizations financially. District UMW groups organized and mobilized to support Dallas Bethlehem Center's 2020 Thanksgiving Project by donating hundreds of pounds of non-perishable food items for the holiday meals of South Dallas families. UMW members from around the conference donated hundreds of hours to sort, pack, and distribute food items weekly at Dallas Bethlehem Center for Thursday food distribution to needy families. UMW members also stepped up to serve at Wesley-Rankin Community Center's drive-through ongoing food pantry distribution and/or serve as volunteer tutors or mentors for school-aged students in the Wesley-Rankin community.

While we are grateful to God for the gift of technology which enables us to stay connected during the "new normal" of the COVID-19 pandemic, we welcome the day when we can fellowship in person and celebrate the life-changing work of United Methodist Women. We invite Methodist women throughout the NTC UMC Annual Conference to join United Methodist Women and consider making a commitment of time, talent, and a financial pledge to its transformational work — no matter the obstacles or interruptions. For additional information, contact Julie B. Noel, President, NTC UMW, at jbnmw@gmail.com or check these websites: www.umwnorthtexas.org or www.united-methodistwomen.org.

—Julie B. Noel, President, NTC UMW

CENTER FOR MISSIONAL OUTREACH (CMO)

The mission of the Center for Missional Outreach (CMO) is to help local churches make disciples through ministry *with* their neighbors, particularly the poor and marginalized. In pursuit of this mission, the CMO is focused on investing in the local churches of the North Texas Conference (NTC) and being a catalyst for creativity and fruitfulness.

Since the last North Texas Annual Conference in September 2020, the disruption, division, and death associated with the COVID-19 pandemic has persisted, the harsh reality of racism has continued to rear its ugly head, and the state was rendered powerless in the face of Winter Storm Uri. In addition, the spring has brought the promise of COVID-19 protection through vaccinations and hopeful signs of what life on the other side of the pandemic will be. Through it all, local church leaders throughout the NTC have resisted the temptation to circle the wagons and focus merely on self-preservation and instead have remained faithful to the Church's core purpose of loving God

and loving neighbor. The CMO celebrates the resilience and witness of such faith leaders and has been privileged to come alongside them and invest in and support their work in relevant ways including the following:

- **Convened three sets of focus group conversations** for leaders from the East and Northwest Districts, the Metro District, and the North Central District to explore what needs among their neighbors they are seeing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; what new opportunities for ministry with their neighbors are emerging; and what faithful responses might look like. The discernment work of these focus groups led to the creation of a mental health design team to bring the resources of our conference to the anticipated tsunami of mental health needs in our communities in the coming years. The work of this design team should begin to bear fruit in the summer of 2021.
- **Supported the work of the NTC's Journey Toward Racial Justice (JTRJ) teams**, most notably by contributing to the development of the Congregational JTRJ process and recommended resources; recruiting, orienting and supporting a dozen churches from all four districts to pilot the aforementioned process; working with the General Commission on Religion and Race to initiate and oversee a racial equity and inclusion audit process for the conference; and communicate with the clergy and laity of the NTC about the JTRJ's progress. (For more information about the JTRJ's work, please see their full report or go to <https://ntcumc.org/about/combating-racism>)
- **Gave an initial matching grant of \$50,000** in late 2020 to support efforts by a wonderful collaboration of faith, non-profit, and hotelier partners to provide shelter for our homeless neighbors in Dallas on nights with sub-freezing temperatures during the pandemic. (This initial matching gift sparked giving from other United Methodist churches and yielded a total of over \$100,000 to this ministry and was followed up by a second gift from the CMO of \$25,000 in early 2021.)
- **Created a Winter Storm Grant opportunity** to 1) support local churches that sustained damage due to flooding from burst pipes as they rebuild their facilities and resume the life-changing ministry that happens in those spaces and/or 2) catalyze local church efforts to be in ministry *with* their neighbors who suffered as a result of the winter storm. (To date, \$31,000 has been granted to 4 churches as a part of this grant opportunity. For more information, go to <https://ntcumc.org/winter-storm-resources>)
- **Partnered with the Center for Church Development and the Metro District** in late 2020 to award 12 grants of \$5,000 each to smaller and mid-sized churches of color that support fulltime clergy for the purpose of helping them address the challenges of 2020 and position them for fruitful ministry in 2021.

While remaining nimble and responding to the unique opportunities that have emerged in this season, the CMO also has pursued its mission by keeping our eyes fixed on the following five areas:

1. Serve as a catalyst for bold, local church ministry “with” initiatives.
2. Provide leadership for making disciples who are anti-racist for the purpose of achieving racial justice and equity in the North Texas Conference and in the communities we serve.
3. Activate people of faith to be advocates – locally and nationally – around immigration issues in ways that reflect the compassion and grace of our Wesleyan heritage.
4. Equip local churches to be successful in establishing strong church-school partnerships or deepening already existing ones (One + One).
5. Facilitate an international partnership – marked by mutuality and empowerment – between the North Texas Conference and the United Methodist Mission in Honduras.

Below are highlights of the work of the CMO in the above focus areas. For more information, go to the CMO website (ntcumc.org/missional-outreach), explore, and then sign up to receive the monthly CMO e-newsletter by clicking “Subscribe” on the landing page. In addition, the CMO staff is eager and available to connect with you.

- Rev. Andy Lewis, Director – lewis@ntcumc.org
- Rev. Andrew Fiser, Associate Director – fiser@ntcumc.org
- Rev. Jeremy Basset, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator - disasterresponse@ntcumc.org
- Tracy Everson, Administrative Assistant – tracy@ntcumc.org

MINISTRY WITH

CONTINUED COVID-19 RESPONSE – In keeping with the CMO’s pivot toward more deeply listening to and equipping local churches for doing ministry with their communities, two COVID-19 Disaster Response Grant opportunities were offered to help them respond to COVID-19.

- *Racial Equity Response Grant*: The purpose of these grants was to amplify the efforts of churches that serve primarily in settings that allow them to make positive impacts in Black/Indigenous/Persons of Color Communities. Qualifying applications included relief-type efforts, as well as efforts aimed at advocacy or building a more racially just community in the wake of COVID-19’s effects.
- *Rural Response Grant*: The purpose of these grants was to amplify the efforts of rural churches with under 150 in average worship attendance that are in a position to make positive impacts for their neighbors most negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funds were made available as Direct Grants (non-matching) in the range of \$250-1000 or Matching Challenge Grants in the range of \$500 to \$2500 (for every dollar raised, the CMO contributes a dollar – to double the impact).

It was understood that many needed efforts would be relief and short-term oriented. Greatest consideration was given toward applications that also intended to live into the “ministry with” values:

- Come alongside neighbors in a spirit of friendship and mutuality. Listen to and learn from them.
- Build long-term relationships with neighbors.
- Uncover the often-undervalued gifts, talents, dreams, desires, and connections of neighbors.
- Adopt the iron rule: never do for others what they can do for themselves.
- Address the systems that perpetuate suffering and inequity rather than only deal with the symptoms of our broken world.
- Use a strengths-based approach that leverages the gifts and relationships of local partners.

Rural Response Grants totaling \$4500 were awarded to the following churches, with every application fulfilled:

- Calvary UMC’s Encouragement Ministry for Essential Workers – Local establishments supported by small gift cards, then given with handmade cards with notes from church members to clerks, nurses, and public servants.
- Henrietta UMC and the Clay County Food Bank – Matching grant to equip food bank for new location to serve community after damage to previous facility.
- Quinlan UMC – Back to School Mission through partner agency, Hunt County Kids.

No applications were submitted for Racial Equity Grants, though several churches expressed interest and ideas. The idea, though, laid the groundwork for the racial equity focus for the 2021 Ministry With Grant process.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE PARTNERSHIP – The CMO strives to listen for ways to help leverage and amplify innovative missional efforts by local churches. When COVID-19 hit in the spring of 2020, St. Stephen UMC and Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Moore were enlisted to help a lay member who directs North Texas blood donations. Blood donations from business and school settings had plummeted due to safety concerns. What is more, since the pandemic hit the Black community hard, blood from those of African ancestry was in critically short supply. Patients with sickle-cell anemia need up to 100 units per year to survive the disease and are best treated with blood from those of African ancestry.

St. Stephen UMC responded generously. By December 2020, St. Stephen (a church of around 100 in worship) had hosted 11 drives collecting more than 450 units of blood, while also meeting many Mesquite neighbors. With this

success at meeting an ongoing need., Rev. Dr. Moore and the Red Cross approached the CMO to explore how other churches could participate in a Spring 2021 campaign. This time, the goal would be to recruit enough donors to collect 2,000 units, with seventy percent of donors being of African ancestry.

The Red Cross further incentivized meeting our 2,000-unit goal by donating \$10 per unit, up to \$20,000, to a cause/organization of our choosing. UMC-related ministries working in hard-hit South Dallas–Fair Park (Dallas Bethlehem Center and The Zan Wesley Holmes Community Outreach Center) were selected to receive these funds. From the week around Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to Pentecost, twelve North Texas churches hosted blood drives. Red Cross teams set-up safe indoor donation stations or brought the mobile unit (bus) for outdoor donations. At the time of this writing, the campaign was on its way to raising the full 2,000 units, with \$20,000 dollars going to ministries in South Dallas – Fair Park. Churches will continue to be needed to host blood drives.

FOCUS GROUPS AND DESIGN TEAMS – In December 2020, CMO staff sought to intentionally listen for missional opportunities with clergy in a series of Focus Groups with Rural, Suburban and Metro leaders. In each of these gatherings, participants were asked four questions and their responses were collected:

- What needs among your neighbors are you seeing?
- What opportunities for ministry with your neighbors are emerging?
- What is God calling local churches to do in response? (Individually or Collectively)
- What might the CMO do to inspire, equip or connect local churches for this work?

PDFs of the responses from these Focus Groups are available for the [Metro](#), [North Central](#) and [Northwest & East](#) District gatherings. Additional insights and response are welcomed.

In early February, CMO staff reconvened these Focus Groups to share initial plans to respond to the two priority focus areas:

- *Mental Health* concerns were listed as needs across all demographic groups for both congregants, clergy, and neighbors. The variety of chaplains, congregational care teams, church produced podcasts and media, and connections to organizations like The Center for Integrative Psychology and Counseling present strong possibilities for collective impact.
- *Food Security* was recognized as a common issue for congregants and neighbors across North Texas. And food-related ministries are one common denominator for congregations. Churches often host pantries, food giveaways, community gardens, meal programs, etc. Within the NTC there are an abundance of connections to leaders and organizations who can help us think even more deeply about food security. Perhaps we can use these assets to begin to build food justice, especially considering how fragile food systems became during COVID-19.

Design Teams began to convene in March and April around each of these focus areas to discern ways we can act immediately, and throughout the next year. Both groups will use a design approach with the coaching help of Victoria Sun Esparza of In the Water Design. Additionally, groups requested that the CMO host calls around specific topics like mental health, food security, and other topics named in the focus groups. Stay tuned for these and other ways you can engage your community!

CLIMATE RESILIENCE – As many churches and communities continue to wrestle with the effects of February 2021’s winter storm, there is a greater urgency for discussing resilience and climate change in light of our Christian faith.

Our partners at Texas Impact and The Interfaith Center for Public Policy have created a [free](#) curriculum for communities of faith to understand and take action on climate change. It can be found at the-path-of-hope.org. This curriculum is one way to help create meaningful learning experiences about how people of faith can take action to care for our common home.

We will continue to explore ways to foster climate resilience across our conference churches and communities.

MINISTRY WITH GRANTS – The purpose of Ministry With Grants is to catalyze the “ministry with” dreams of local churches in the North Texas Conference. Grants are for new efforts or efforts that catalyze existing ministries with creativity and innovation. Grant award amounts in 2020 and 2021 have varied but have ranged from \$3,000 to \$10,000 previously.

2020 Grant Awardees Include:

- *FUMC Jacksboro’s Healthy Food, Healthy Hearts for Jack County*: Raising community health, improving relationships, and increasing economic and environmental sustainability using an advanced community garden and greenhouse for a hub of food security in Jack County. Build-out of the greenhouse was delayed due to a utility line discovery and property complications, but the build is expected to move forward. \$10,000.
- *Union’s Callback*: An innovative ministry to offer pastoral care to theatre practitioners, an opportunity for a central, Sabbath-centered hub for the community, and a support for productions and producing theatre alike. Union has through efforts like Rainbow Ink provided safe space for discipleship and growth for LGBTQ+ artists, as well as for outdoor or indoor video productions to continue to build relationships with struggling artists. These efforts have bridged into providing leadership in Union’s worship experiences. \$10,000

2021 RACIAL JUSTICE FOCUS – 2021 RACIAL JUSTICE FOCUS – This year, the Ministry With Grant application review process will pay particular attention to ways that efforts focus on building racial justice and equity led by or in mutual partnership with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Person of Color) churches and communities. As of this writing the CMO has received ten applications for 2021 grant funds. We are especially pleased to have two applications from Northwest District churches and look forward to helping cultivate further non-Metro applications. All applications have a focus on racial justice, approached in an assortment of ways. We look forward to announcing grant awards and working with each applicant to support their success.

For more information about any of the above Ministry With efforts, go to ntcumc.org/missional-outreach or contact Rev. Andrew Fiser.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Since September 2020, the CMO has continued to resource and encourage the clergy and laity of our churches through the Journey Toward Racial Justice (JTRJ) initiative as together we do the hard and critical work of self-reflection and learning that bears fruit in transformed hearts and minds as well as in courageous actions, advocacy, and activism that dismantle racism in our churches and communities. For a complete explanation of the Journey Toward Racial Justice initiative, see the JTRJ’s full report. To access and explore some of the anti-racism resources that the CMO has curated, go to ntcumc.org/missional-outreach or contact Rev. Andy Lewis and/or Rev. Andrew Fiser.

IMMIGRATION ADVOCACY

CARE FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS – In March 2021, federal agencies located a “decompression center” for up to 3,000 unaccompanied minors from Central America at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Center in Dallas. As teenage boys 13-17 began arriving from crowded Border Patrol Stations near the border, the CMO coordinated conference efforts to care for these young people. Federal agencies expected the teens to stay 3-5 days, during which their immediate basic needs would be met and arrangements made for them to be placed with family or other vetted custodians elsewhere in the United States.

The CMO worked with Bishop Michael McKee and other judicatory leaders in partnering with Catholic Charities Dallas, UNITE Greater Dallas, Faith Forward Dallas at Thanksgiving Square, and Dallas Area Interfaith to help care for these young people in ways that are helpful. Additionally, the CMO assisted in coordinating a United Methodist worship team to provide spiritual care and services in April and May. Many United Methodists joined the 4,000 diverse volunteers who signed-up to provide help at the Center.

During the partisan political battle surrounding these children, we hold sacred our common identity as made in the image of God. And we remember to care for the sojourner among us. *“The sojourner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the sojourner as yourself, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God (Leviticus 19:34).* Prayer and advocacy are needed to create a better future for our neighbors fleeing from and those remaining in violence, climate disaster zones and poverty in El Salvador, Honduras, Ecuador, and Guatemala.

MISSION TRIPS TO THE BORDER – In the summer of 2018, in response to the complex and heartbreaking realities for migrants at the Texas/Mexico border, the Courts and Ports program was born. Texas Impact (www.texa-simpact.org) crafted this powerful immersion experience in the Valley in partnership with various entities including the CMO through which people of faith can see with their own eyes what is really happening in our courts system and at ports of entry. Participants are equipped to serve as court monitors in federal undocumented entry trials in Brownsville and visit a border bridge where they can interact with people from the Northern Triangle in Central America and other countries from all over the world who are seeking asylum in the United States.

Courts and Ports trips to the Valley have been on pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the wheels are in motion to resume this program in the summer of 2021. For more information about Courts and Ports and additional emerging opportunities to do humanitarian work at the border, go to ntcumc.org/missional-outreach or contact Rev. Andy Lewis.

ONE + ONE INITIATIVE

The One + One Initiative was launched in 2015 with the vision of United Methodists being in one-on-one relationships with students through church-school partnerships. The CMO celebrates that today approximately 50 percent of local churches in North Texas are engaged in a church-school partnership and many of those partnerships have endured the challenges of the pandemic.

In the season ahead, as schools prepare to re-open and more students return to in-person learning, the CMO is eager to come alongside local churches to help them strengthen existing partnerships with schools and equip them with missional and relational tools for starting new partnerships. The CMO has developed a comprehensive resource for this purpose called the North Texas One + One Handbook (https://ntcumc.org/Church-School-Partnership_Handbook.4.1.19.pdf).

For more information about how the CMO can support local church efforts to live into the vision of One + One, contact Rev. Andy Lewis.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED METHODIST MISSION IN HONDURAS

For more than 20 years, the United Methodist Church has had a growing presence in Honduras. Today, the Mission there consists of over twenty congregations and numerous United Methodist-affiliated organizations. In January 2019, Bishop McKee was installed as the new episcopal leader of the Mission in Honduras, which has opened the door for an exciting international partnership.

In September 2019, Rev. Andy Lewis led a group of twenty clergy and laity from the NTC on a trip to Honduras to build relationships and explore ways to partner. The primary opportunity that emerged is the “Church to Church”

partnership program. This program aims to build long-term relationships between clergy and laity of two churches – one from the NTC and one from the UM Mission in Honduras. In keeping with the CMO’s “ministry with” values, these relationships are marked by mutuality and empowerment. Throughout the pandemic, local churches from the NTC have continued to step forward in support of the Mission, and we celebrate that every congregation in the Honduran Mission that is ready for a U.S. partner church now has one! To date, the following NTC local churches have entered into a Church to Church partnership: First UMC Prosper, Creekwood UMC, First UMC Dallas, Elmwood-El Buen Samaritano UMC, Christ’s Foundry Mission, St. Andrew UMC, First UMC Wichita Falls, and First UMC Denton.

Another impactful way to partner is to sponsor a student at the Juan Wesley School in Ciudad Espana, Honduras. Public schools in Honduras are often poor and only go through the 9th grade, and many young people cannot afford to go to school without financial assistance. An education at the Juan Wesley School can open the door to hard-to-find job opportunities in Honduras and provides an alternative to joining gangs. The Juan Wesley School’s sustainability depends on student sponsorships, which will go a long way toward creating a bright future for the school and its students.

Plans for mission trips to Honduras have been put on hold in 2020 and 2021, but in April United Methodists from across North Texas and the global connection came together for a virtual mission trip via Zoom. In partnership with the North Texas Board of Global Ministries and the Mission in Honduras, the CMO put together four evening experiences in which virtual mission trip participants were led in worship by pastors from the Honduran Mission, were introduced to unique aspects of Honduran culture, and learned about different facets of the work of the Mission.

For more information about the Church to Church program, the student sponsorship program, or how to be a part of the NTC’s developing partnership with the United Methodist Mission in Honduras, go to ntcumc.org/missional-outreach/honduras-partnership or contact Rev. Andy Lewis.

DISASTER RESPONSE

In response to the havoc and damage wrought by Winter Storm Uri in early February, the CMO team – led by Interim Conference Disaster Response Coordinator (C-DRC), Rev. Clay Womack – rallied together and worked closely with other conference and district leaders to assess and meet the needs of the local churches and communities in the NTC. Below is a snapshot of the CMO’s disaster response activities this spring:

- Surveyed local churches to inquire about building damage and any need for assistance
- Surveyed the districts to identify local churches with the capacity and openness to provide lodging and support for volunteer mission teams
- Surveyed areas in the conference to identify any local community unmet needs and anticipated responses
- Secured a \$10,000 UMCOR Emergency Grant to support the NTC’s winter storm response
- Established a Winter Storm Grant to invest in local churches’ efforts to rebuild their facilities as well as respond to the needs of neighbors who were impacted by the storm
- Provided a package of Winter Storm Resources including FEMA application helps, the Winter Storm Grant application in multiple languages, the TMF Microloan Program, a partnership with Ace Hardware, and Early Response resources
- Participated in a series of Zoom consultations with fellow Texas United Methodist Conference Disaster Response Coordinators to discuss Winter Storm Uri’s impact statewide and collaborate in our response
- In partnership with UMCOR staff, offered training for local church volunteers on assisting persons with preparing individual and household FEMA assistance applications
- Responded to the inquiries of clergy and laity in the NTC and served as a trusted source of disaster response information
- Assessed the readiness of local church volunteer teams to assist local churches and neighbors with clean up needs

- Recruited one such team from First UMC Rockwall to assist Cedar Hill UMC with clean up
- Monitored local and county assessments of Winter Storm Uri issues and emerging needs

The experience of Winter Storm Uri here in North Texas, along with the increasing number of significant weather events (hurricanes, tornados, wildfires, droughts, floods, etc.) in recent years in our region, served as a rude awakening to our conference's relative un-preparedness for responding to such disasters and a fresh source of motivation to focus on rebuilding our disaster response ministries.

Rev. Clay Womack tackled the challenge of reconstituting the NTC's disaster readiness and response ministries in the following ways:

- Recruited new district disaster response coordinators (D-DRCs) for the Northwest District (Rev. Jacob Fields and Rev. Martha Hagan-Smith)
- Reactivated the NTC's remaining Early Response Team/Early Responders trainers (Bobby Aga and Rev. Sue Gross) and secured Rev. Janet Bell Odom as a substitute ERT trainer
- Reconstituted and reconvened the NTC Disaster Response Task Force/Committee
 - C-DRC:..... *Rev. Jeremy Basset*
 - East District DRCs: *Bobby Aga and Rev. Sue Gross*
 - Metro District DRC: *Rev. Rene Lawson*
 - North Central District DRC: *Rev. Clay Womack*
 - Northwest District DRCs: *Rev. Jacob Fields and Rev. Martha Hagan-Smith*
 - NTC Communications Director: *Matt Jacob*
 - At-large:..... *Rev. Jennifer Chickering and Scott Shipley*
 - Ex officio: *Rev. Andy Lewis*
- Offered a new cycle of ERT basic and recertification training occasions beginning with April 24, 2021 at First UMC Henrietta
- Started communication efforts to re-establish contact with the NTC's current roster of certified Early Responders
- Re-established contact with several VOADs, COADs, and Offices of Emergency Management within the 20-county NTC area
- Explored how early response cleaning kits and roof tarping materials could be acquired and warehoused in each of the districts for use in disaster incidents
- Re-established relationships with the South Central Jurisdiction's DRC and UMVIM coordinator as well as the regional/Texas OEM & FEMA liaisons
- Consulted with the Texas Conference C-DRC on that conference's disaster response plan and organization for study by our C-DR Task Force as they seek to mature our plan

This spring, Rev. Clay Womack completed his tenure as the Interim Conference Disaster Response Coordinator and handed the baton of leadership to Rev. Jeremy Basset. Rev. Basset served as the Director of the Office of Mission in the Oklahoma Conference for fifteen years before retiring and relocating to North Texas and brings outstanding experience and wisdom to the role of Conference Disaster Response Coordinator. The CMO is grateful to Rev. Womack for rising to the challenge of Winter Storm Uri and laying a firm foundation upon which Rev. Basset will build.

—*Respectfully submitted by Rev. Andy Lewis, Rev. Andrew Fiser, and Rev. Clay Womack*

Board of Church and Society

This has been a year of rebuilding, regrouping, and reimagining for the North Texas Board of Church and Society. The board welcomed two co-chairs, Rev. Marcus Jones (clergy) and Ms. Cynthia Rives (lay). The committee is reimagining how the work of Church and Society can align with the vision of the conference in eradicating racism and social injustice. This alignment begins with following the lead of the Journey Toward Racial Justice (JTRJ) committee in their work and ensuring our committee is properly trained to assist JTRJ where necessary.

In addition to joining the work of the JTRJ, the board is creating opportunities to partner with local churches in their efforts to create spaces for justice work through the Peace with Justice Grant. The Peace with Justice Grant has been a stable contribution to the vision and mission of our local churches, empowering congregations toward a commitment to justice in their local contexts. The goal of the board is to continue to build, create, and generate vital partnerships, collaborating with churches, ministry groups, and other connectional resources to distribute as many grants as possible each year.

We invite justice seekers to join us in this work. For more information, email Rev. Jones or Ms. Rives at mjones@wfwesley.org or cynrives@yahoo.com or go to [NTC Board of Church and Society](#).

Board of Global Ministries

The United Methodist Church is a connectional church. Being connectional is the core of our work through the Board of Global Ministries. Global Ministries connects The United Methodist Church, its people and congregations to partner with others engaged in God's global work.

Our goal as the Board of Global Ministries is to inspire, challenge, educate, and support local churches to find ways to be in mission in the world. Whereas the traditional approach to mission is often needs-based and short-term relief, our goal is to learn new ways of doing mission which embrace asset-based, long-term development.

Therefore, the board's primary focuses this year have been to support the Center for Missional Outreach (CMO) and Bishop McKee in mission initiatives that have been set as a priority for our conference. Some of the areas we have focused on this year have been:

- Global Missionaries
- Global Health
- Disaster Response and Recovery
- Promoting the Honduran Mission through a virtual mission trip to learn about the mission and the "Church-to-Church" Partnership Program.

The Board of Global Ministries also encourages our local churches to establish a covenant relationship with at least one of our 300+ United Methodist missionaries. United Methodist missionaries are from everywhere and serve everywhere. United Methodist missionaries serve in over 60 countries around the world. Currently, there are three United Methodist missionaries from the North Texas Conference, two serving in South Africa and one in Cambodia. In January of 2021, the Board voted to financially support these missionaries with \$1,000.00 each:

- **Rev. Wes Magruder**, Lecturer of Theology, Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary, in Kwazulu/Natal, South Africa Advance # 14943Z.
- **Mrs. Leah Magruder**, Formation Department Assistant to Seth Mokitimi, Methodist Seminary in South Africa, Advance # 14944Z.
- **Patrick Booth**, from FUMC Lewisville, Co-Director for Project ARK (Advancing Resilient Khmer) to Methodist Mission in Cambodia, Advance #3022599

In the wake of the Covid 19 Pandemic, NTCBGM scheduled Hurricane Recovery Trips we suspended. However, in 2021, Rev. Clay Womack, a former Chair of the Board, was appointed as the North Texas Conference Interim Disaster Response Coordinator, and he has been diligently rebuilding the conference's disaster response ministries. The Board looks forward to supporting the conference's disaster response work in the future.

Another way every church in our conference can support relief efforts around the world is by giving to the United Methodist Committee of Relief (UMCOR). 100% of donations are directed to an earmarked project or relief effort. Our churches can also help fund the administrative expenses for UMCOR by designating a special offering on UMCOR Sunday, formerly called One Great Hour of Sharing.

The Board has planned a virtual mission trip to Honduras in April. Here are the details from Rev. Andy Lewis: As you well know, for over 20 years The United Methodist Church has had a growing, indigenous presence and witness in Honduras. Today, the United Methodist Mission in Honduras consists of 22 congregations, the Juan Wesley School and a host of other ministries that are serving faithfully in a very challenging time.

On April 26-29 in the evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m., the CMO and North Texas Board of Global Ministries invite you to take part in a virtual mission trip to Honduras. We hope that this virtual mission trip experience will help the people in your church already connected to the Mission deepen that relationship and offer our friends in Honduras some much-needed love and support. In addition, this virtual mission trip will be a great way to introduce new people in your church to the Mission.

Each evening, participants will have the opportunity to share in a devotional led by leaders of the Honduran congregations and experience a cultural moment, which will provide a glimpse of the Honduran culture. Go on this virtual trip one evening or all four! Each session will have a unique focus:

- **Monday** - Overview of the country and mission
- **Tuesday** – Exploring church-to-church partnerships (including breakouts for NTC churches to connect via Zoom with their Honduras partner church)
- **Wednesday** – Planning for UMWIM mission trips in 2022
- **Thursday** - Juan Wesley School

This virtual trip will be after this report is written but we look forward to sharing the results of the trip in our next report.

Our Board continues to find ways to engage in Global Ministries in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am so proud of the voice that each member brings to the board and look forward to new ways of engaging in Global Ministries in 2021-22.

Please check the conference website at [NTC Board of Global Ministries](#) for updates on ways we can help you and your church share the good news of Jesus Christ through engaging with Global Ministries during these unusual times. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served this year as the chair of the Board of Global Ministries.

—*Respectfully submitted by Randall Lucas, Board of Global Ministries, Chair*
Email: rlucas@llumc.org

CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Core Leadership Team (CLT) serves as a sounding board and strategic partner for the Bishop and the center directors in their leadership within the North Texas Conference (NTC). In the 2020-2021 conference year, the CLT met three times and engaged in faithful and fruitful discussion.

In October, the agenda featured a robust discussion about the “state of the church” in the NTC as the pandemic dragged on at that point for more than six months. The team also received a report from Kim Brannon, Conference Lay Leader, about work the Extended Cabinet did over the summer to refresh its vision, values, and strategy in light of the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and racism.

The **Vision Statement** developed by the Extended Cabinet to guide its work is as follows:

Prayer: We confess before almighty God that we are in need of reform, and—inspired by Jesus’ announcement of his mission in Luke 4:18-19 – we are called to be led by the Holy Spirit, to proclaim salvation and liberation to all people, and to bring transformation to our neighborhoods, nation and world. Amen.

Therefore, we envision a new day for United Methodism in the North Texas Conference as faithful churches and ministries follow the example of Jesus the Christ by reaching new faces in new ways, equipping laity for ministry, and working for social justice.

In February, the CLT received updates from each of the conference centers on their work. The Center for Church Development (CCD) shared about New Faces New Spaces and a February “Both/And” Zoom webinar intended to equip local church leaders for ministry in a post-pandemic reality. The Center for Missional Outreach (CMO) informed the team about a \$50,000 matching grant given in late 2020 to support efforts by a collaboration of faith, non-profit, and hotelier partners to provide shelter for our homeless neighbors in Dallas on nights with sub-freezing temperatures during the pandemic as well as the progress being made by the Journey Toward Racial Justice initiative. The Center for Connectional Resources (CCR) celebrated a strong apportionment payout for 2020 and talked through leadership transitions in that center, most notably Rev. Jodi Smith’s retirement and the Christy Drenner’s arrival. Finally, the Center for Leadership Development (CLD) presented the many ways their team has been providing support and guidance to pastors and adapting conference programming to disciple young people in the midst of the pandemic.

The April meeting of the CLT occurred after the submission of this report.

The CLT is convened by Bishop McKee and in 2020-2021 included:

- Vice Chair/Conference Lay Leader – Kim Brannon
- Lay members elected by each district – Phiebie Hutchins, Metro; Tim Crouch, North Central; Stephen Gillem, East; and Jordan McLarty, Northwest
- Three at-large members appointed by the bishop – Alfred White, Mary Beth Hardesty-Crouch, and Taylor Smith
- One District Superintendent – Debra Hobbs Mason
- Center Directors – Christy Drenner, Cammy Gaston, Andy Lewis, and Owen Ross

CENTER FOR CONNECTIONAL RESOURCES

Board of Trustees

A. Fidelity Bond for Local Churches

The North Texas Conference continues to provide a \$100,000 Employee Dishonesty (Crime) Bond as an integral part of our current conference wide mandatory insurance program for the employees and volunteers responsible for all aspects of finances in the local churches.

B. Electric Aggregation Program

Electric utilities in the state of Texas were deregulated effective January 1, 2002. Deregulation offered the opportunity for the churches of the North Texas Conference to join together to purchase electricity. With the encouragement of the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A), a group of large churches in the conference initiated an effort to secure a group contract for the purchase of electricity. All of the churches of the conference have been invited to participate in this effort.

Effective July 1, 2021, we will move to a contract with Reliant for 72 months at the rate of .0391 per kWh.

In order to compare our program with other providers, be aware that there are four primary charges regardless of the provider you select. The first is, of course, the kWh rate that we have negotiated. The second is the basic charge for delivery of your electricity by ONCOR. At this point, the rate for this service is .035 per kWh. Third, ONCOR does charge extra for high demand periods. The rate varies and may exceed all other charges on a kWh basis. The fourth component is related to your local utilities tax. The last three charges will apply regardless of which provider you select.

Commission on Archives and History

The last year has been a laboratory for innovation in church life. Within days and weeks of the initial shut-down, worship services, Sunday school classes and other small groups were up and meeting on various digital forums. As physical presence in the church building became impossible, the reach of the church expanded broadly outside of North Texas. As counter-measures to the coronavirus became better understood, permitting a limited return to our beloved buildings, the question became whether the gains realized through on-line worship would be lost in the desire to get back to more familiar ways of doing church.

All of this is history and the Commission on Archives and History has been active in preserving the testimony of these times. In May, the Commission sent out a message to our local church historians about the importance of these times and the need to preserve a full record of what the local churches were doing. We gave suggestions on where to find information and how to keep it safe and orderly. In June, the Commission invited our local church historians to participate in the denomination wide Local Church Historians School offered by the UMC's General Commission on Archives and History. Seven of our historians signed up.

In October, the Commission newly refreshed at Annual Conference met and decided to engage the members and pastors of the North Texas Conference with a contest "to bring together the stories of what faithful United Methodists of the North Texas Conference are doing during the COVID-19 pandemic." We asked a simple question, "What has this time been like in your local congregation?" The resulting essays were extraordinary and we announced the results of the contest on March 15, 2021. The essays are available by request at archivist@hpumc.org.

In any circumstance, the Conference Commission on Archives and History is tasked with preserving and presenting the history of the North Texas Annual Conference. Frances Long, our Conference Archivist, curates the historical records of the North Texas Annual Conference at Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Dallas. The renovation of Bridwell Library is complete but access is limited due to SMU's safety protocols. Notwithstanding this limitation, Frances continues to promptly answer questions regarding historical matters as they come in. She has also continued to receive new materials from various individuals and churches. The records of all closed churches should go to Frances for inclusion in the Conference archives.

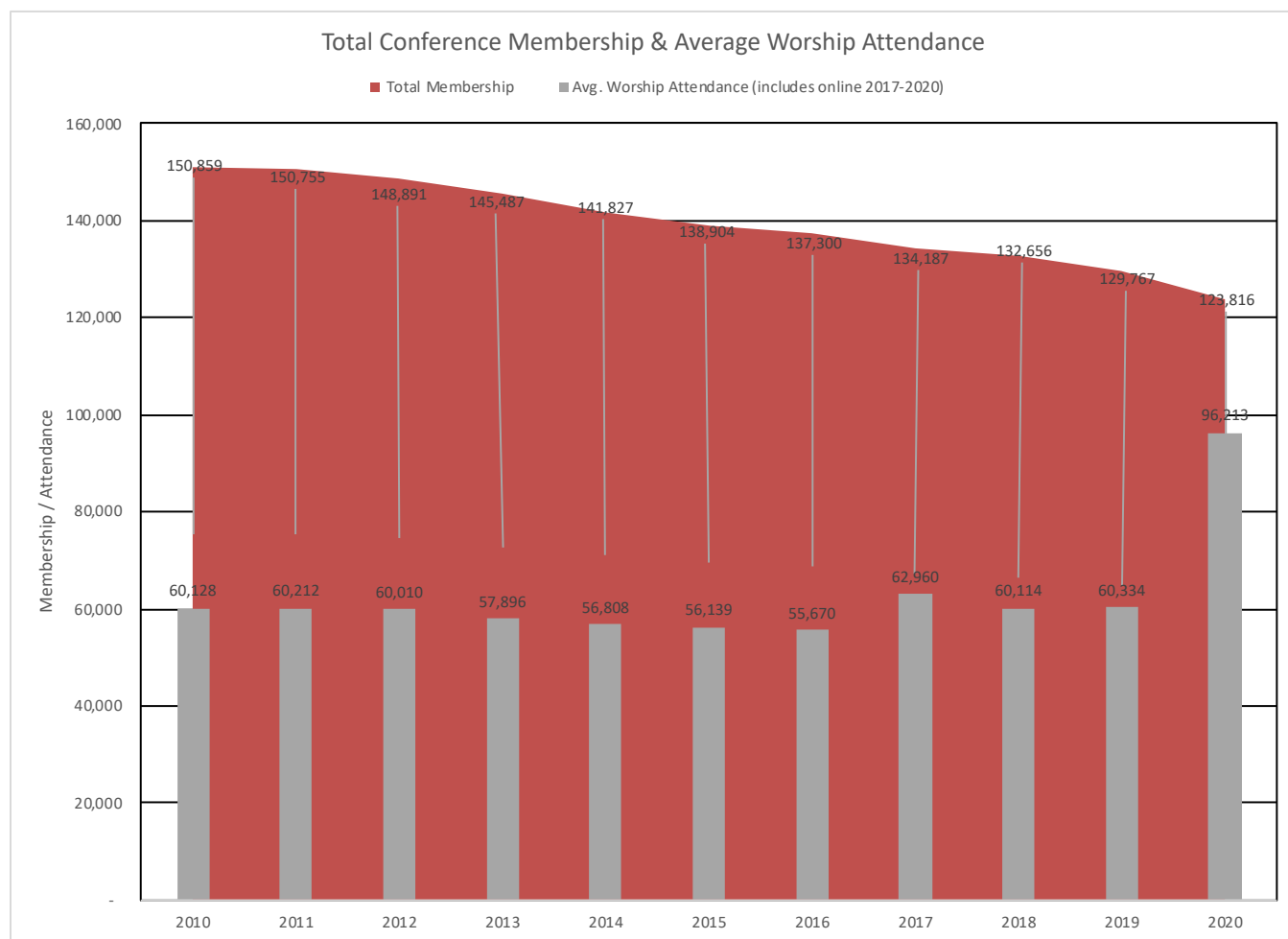
The UMC's General Commission on Archives and History honored Frances with its Ministry of Memory Award in November 2020. The Ministry of Memory Award honors "excellence in archival and historical work for the local church, annual conference, jurisdictional or central conference." It is well deserved. Frances has been the archivist at her home church, First United Methodist Church Richardson, Texas since 1976, for the North Texas Conference of the UMC since 1990 and for the South Central Jurisdiction of the UMC since 2012.

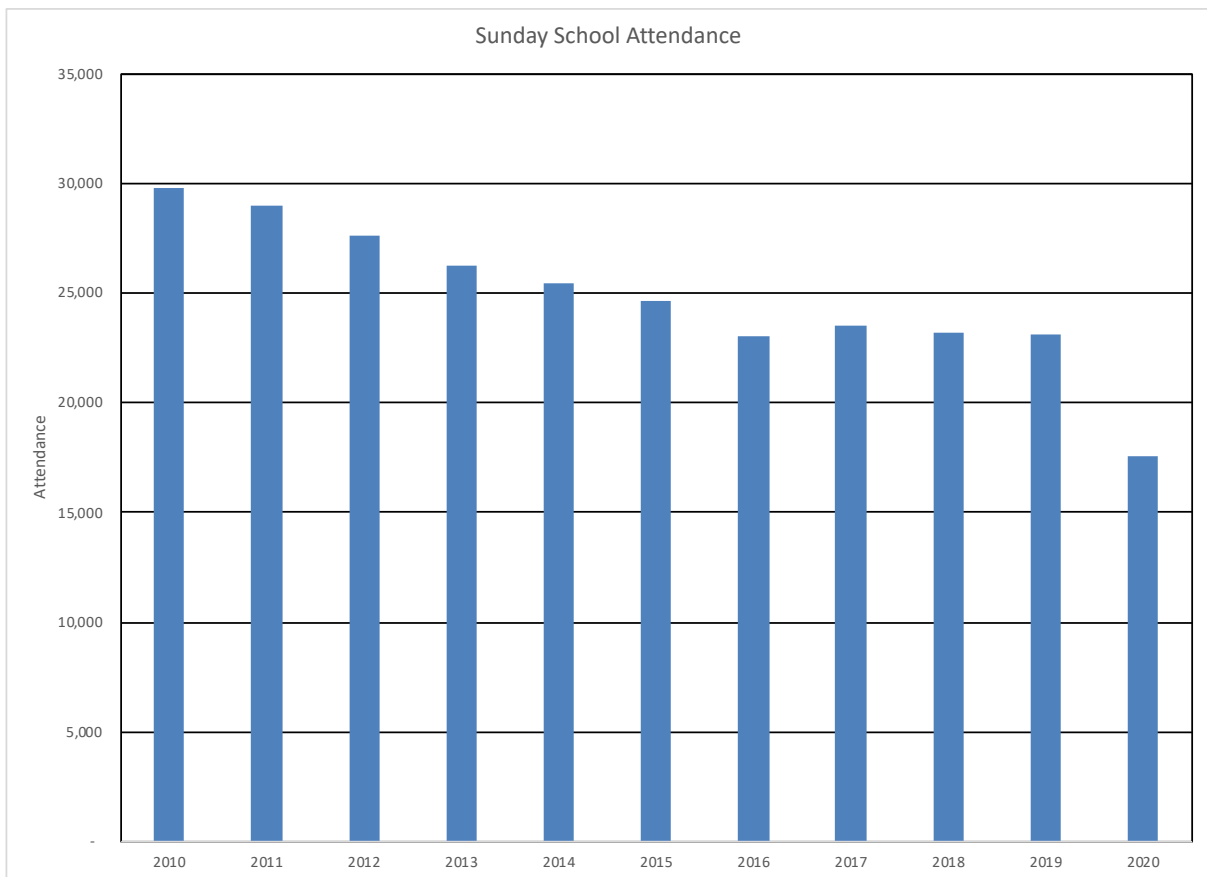
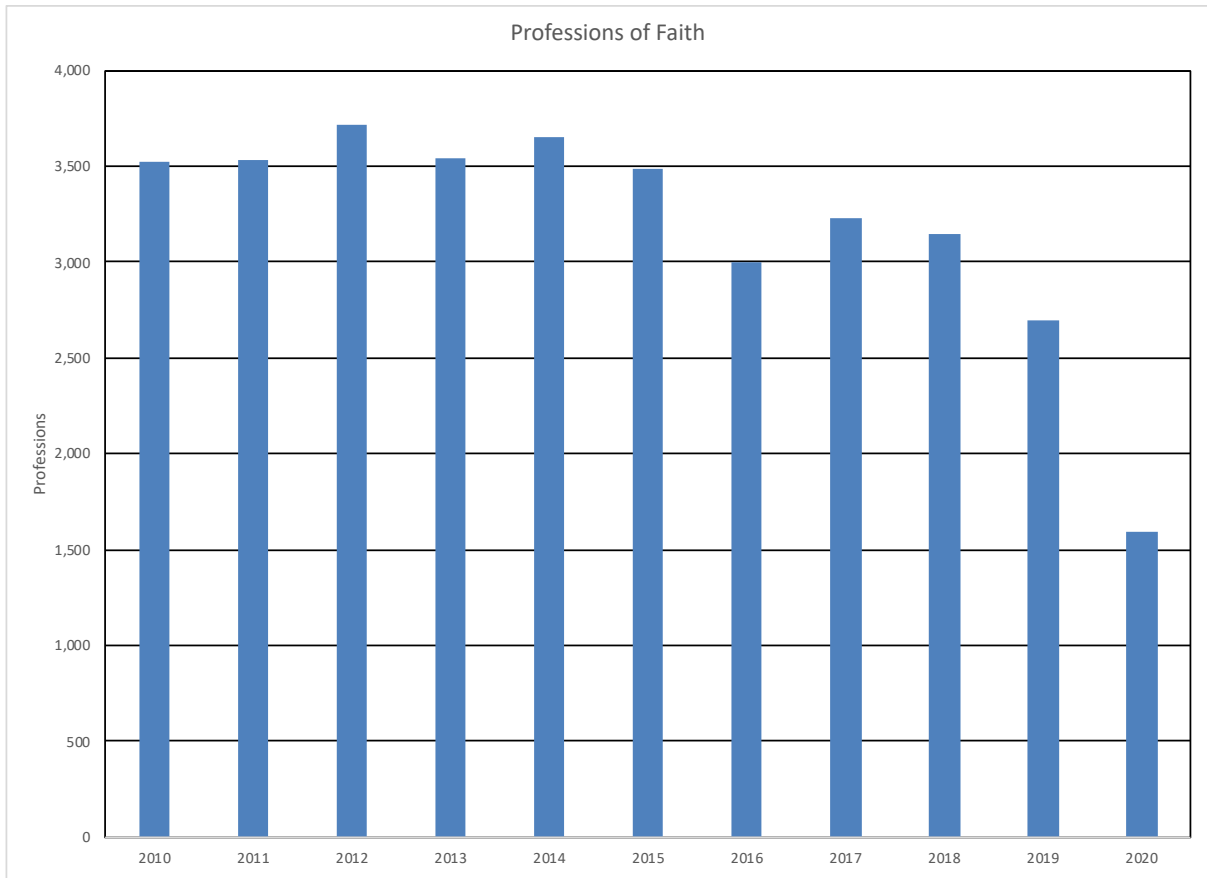
—*Kent Roberts, Commission on Archives and History, Chair*
—*Frances Long, Conference Archivist*

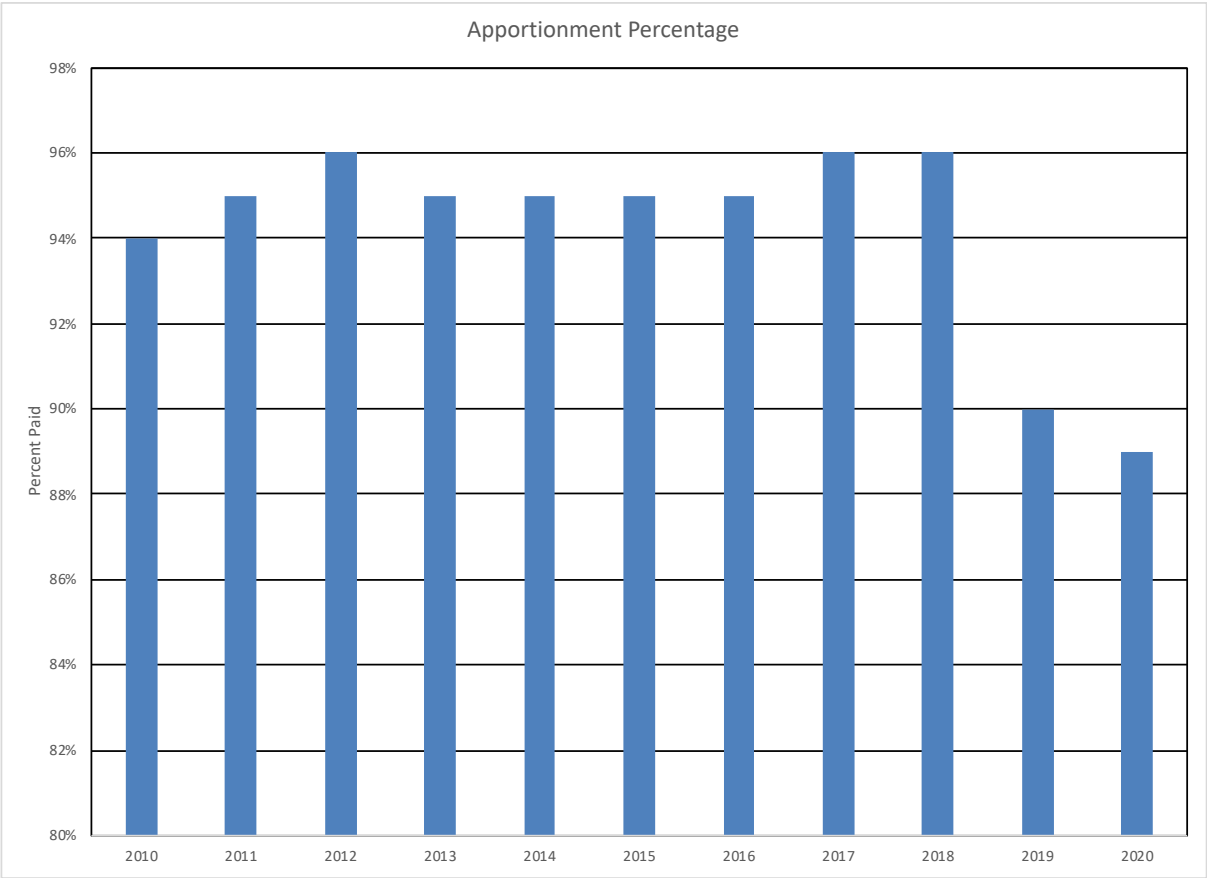
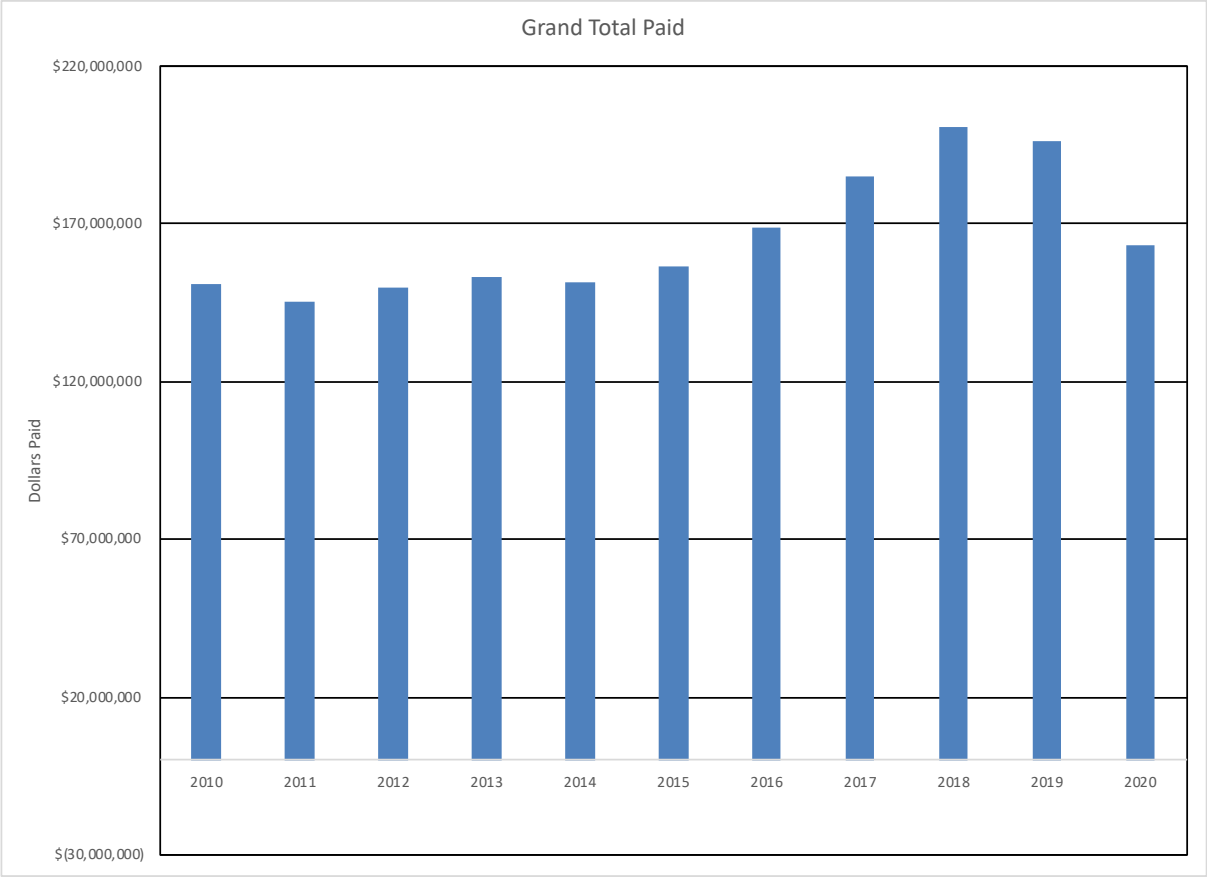
Report of Conference Statistician

2020 NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE STATISTICS AT-A-GLANCE

Total Membership	129,767
Average Attendance	41,994
Average Attendance Online	54,219
Sunday School Attendance	17,549
Assets (Property and Liquid)	\$ 1,411,157,844
Debt	\$ 155,506,521
Programs/Operations	\$ 27,611,579
Clergy Costs	\$ 30,149,458
Staff Costs	\$ 43,948,415
Churches (reporting stats)	279
1000+ Churches (Membership)	26
999-500 Churches (Membership)	21
499-250 Churches (Membership)	40







**COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
CONFERENCE TREASURER'S REPORT (UNAUDITED)**

REMITTANCES

	2019 RECEIPTS	2020 RECEIPTS
APPORTIONMENTS		
World Service.....	1,641,321.24.....	1,693,990.59
Ministerial Education.....	554,362.27.....	572,151.19
Black College Fund.....	221,130.28.....	228,225.81
Africa University Fund.....	49,488.00.....	51,076.19
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund.....	43,355.12.....	44,745.96
General Administration Fund.....	194,893.24.....	201,147.78
Episcopal Fund.....	574,282.00.....	585,565.00
Lydia Patterson Institute.....	62,513.72.....	62,451.58
Jurisdictional Administration Fund.....	38,519.98.....	33,036.69
Leadership Development.....	1,656,178.47.....	1,660,015.79
Center for Church Development.....	1,230,634.88.....	1,191,715.24
Center for Missional Outreach.....	685,520.58.....	655,273.47
Center for Connectional Resources.....	1,263,954.90.....	1,224,666.89
Area and Conference Administration.....	546,830.95.....	533,006.41
Conference Benefits.....	1,556,300.00.....	1,540,200.00
District Superintendents Fund.....	604,392.00.....	616,478.00
District Administration Fund.....	641,179.88.....	629,539.16
TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS.....	11,564,857.52.....	11,523,285.75

**COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
CONFERENCE TREASURER'S REPORT (UNAUDITED)**

REMITTANCES

	2019 RECEIPTS	2020 RECEIPTS
TARGETED CAUSES		
Second Mile Apportionment Fund.....	11,034.30	8,118.30
GENERAL ADVANCE SPECIALS		
UMCOR		
UMCOR Undesignated Gifts	37,514.25	31,120.20
UMCOR Relief Supplies	950.00	
UMCOR Domestic Disaster Response	37,416.82	27,994.50
UMCOR International Disaster Response	50,414.16	4,465.00
UMCOR Global Health	1,200.00	2,825.00
UMCOR Missionaries Around the World.....		120.00
UMCOR Sustainable Development.....		<u>1,300.00</u>
Total UMCOR.....	127,495.23	67,824.70
WORLD MISSIONS		
Regional Africa	7,650.00	5,400.00
Cambodia		1,000.00
Cameroon.....	300.00	0
Congo.....	3,200.00	956.00
Europe.....	1,000.00	0
Heifer International Fill the Ark		850.00
Russia.....	694.70	0
Poland	3,600.00	320.00
Latin America and the Caribbean	3,200.00	19,695.00
Vietnam.....	300.00	0
Global Migration.....	160.00	0
Haiti Advance Project	<u>1,800.00</u>	<u>1,935.00</u>
	21,904.70	30,156.00
TOTAL GENERAL ADVANCE SPECIALS.....	149,399.93	97,980.70
YOUTH SERVICE FUND		
	1,054.66	673.06

**COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
CONFERENCE TREASURER'S REPORT (UNAUDITED)**

REMITTANCES

	2019 RECEIPTS	2020 RECEIPTS
GENERAL CONFERENCE OFFERINGS		
UMCOR SUNDAY (One Great Hour)	18,489.00	4,253.43
World Communion.....	4,940.50	846.00
UM Student Day	806.00	480.00
Human Relations Day	810.83	1,169.00
Peace With Justice.....	970.00	264.00
Native American Ministries	<u>1,368.33</u>	<u>1,027.00</u>
TOTAL GENERAL CONFERENCE OFFERINGS	27,384.66	8,039.43
 OTHER CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES.....	 106,026.79	 93,566.00
 TOTAL NON-APPORTIONED FUNDS	 298,980.34	 208,377.49
TOTAL APPORTIONED FUNDS.....	11,564,857.52	11,523,285.75
TOTAL ALL CAUSES.....	11,863,837.86	11,731,663.24

North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church

Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited)

December 31, 2020

Assets	2020	2019
Current Assets		
Cash - Conference	\$9,064,412	\$6,763,240
Accounts Receivable	\$2,588,988	\$2,880,490
Prepaid Expenses	\$278,606	\$18,296
Investments	\$47,523,932	\$41,461,659
Total Current Assets	\$59,455,938	\$51,123,685
Other Assets		
Fixed assets, net of depreciation	\$4,912,043	\$5,100,787
Land and Bldgs held for resale	\$5,270,468	\$1,861,087
Investments	\$2,389,745	\$2,102,514
Total Other Assets	\$12,572,255	\$9,064,388
Total Assets	\$72,028,193	\$60,188,073
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$3,675,255	\$2,306,739
Current year postretirement benefits obligation	\$343,263	\$370,050
Total Current Liabilities	\$4,018,518	\$2,676,789
Non-current Liabilities		
Notes payable, non-current portion	\$5,565,984	\$1,770,579
Long term postretirement benefits obligation	\$9,876,986	\$8,899,503
Total Non-current Liabilities	\$15,442,970	\$10,670,082
Total Liabilities	\$19,461,488	\$13,346,870
Net Assets		
Net Assets Without Donor Restriction		
Operating Reserves	\$5,316,239	\$4,799,255
Board Designated Reserves	\$38,940,111	\$33,881,791
BOD Designated Reserves	\$665,554	\$629,930
Real and Personal Property Reserves	\$4,086,590	\$4,174,498
Conference Managed Reserves	\$446,867	\$416,513
Total Net Assets Without Donor Restriction	\$49,455,361	\$43,901,987
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions		
Temporarily Restricted	\$2,297,276	\$2,125,148
Permanently Restricted	\$814,068	\$814,068
Total Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	\$3,111,344	\$2,939,216
Total Net Assets	\$52,566,705	\$46,841,202
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$72,028,193	\$60,188,073

North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church
Statement of Financial Activities (Unaudited)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Changes in net assets without donor restrictions		
Revenues		
Revenues without donor restrictions		
Apportionment receipts	\$11,517,841	\$11,564,858
Unrestricted donations and grants	\$191,212	\$106,252
Program & Event Fees	\$44,883	\$2,096,586
Investment income (loss)	\$6,075,185	\$366,895
Services (health, pension, property)	\$15,099,259	\$15,506,425
Other	\$392,721	\$243,908
Receipts of legacy church facilities	\$694,149	\$5,885,419
Total Revenues without donor restrictions	<u>\$34,015,250</u>	<u>\$35,770,343</u>
 Total Revenues	 <u>\$34,015,250</u>	 <u>\$35,770,343</u>
Expenses		
Programs		
General programs	\$3,225,125	\$3,508,371
Missions	\$3,732,264	\$3,788,206
Supervisory	\$567,946	\$614,945
Services (health, pension, property)	\$17,187,683	\$17,892,465
Subsidiaries	\$953,782	\$3,054,781
Total program expenses	<u>\$25,666,800</u>	<u>\$28,858,768</u>
Support services		
General and administrative	\$2,087,335	\$1,855,361
Total Expenses	<u>\$27,754,135</u>	<u>\$30,714,129</u>
 Other changes		
Change in postretirement benefits obligation	(\$950,696)	\$1,321,261
 Total Changes in net assets without donor restrictions	 <u>\$5,310,419</u>	 <u>\$6,377,475</u>
 Changes in net assets with donor restrictions		
Contributions for programs	\$28,733	\$56,345
Investment return, net	\$386,350	\$364,660
Total Changes in net assets with donor restrictions	<u>\$415,083</u>	<u>\$421,005</u>
 Change in total net assets	 <u>\$5,725,502</u>	 <u>\$6,798,480</u>
 Net assets at beginning of year	 \$46,841,204	 \$40,042,724
 Net assets at end of year	 <u>\$52,566,706</u>	 <u>\$46,841,204</u>

North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church
Statement of Functional Expenses (Unaudited)
December 31, 2020

	Programs						Support Services	
	<u>Program</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Supervisory</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Subsidiaries</u>	<u>Programs subtotal</u>	<u>General & Admin</u>	<u>Total</u>
Natural Classification								
Staff	\$590,959	\$166,815	\$466,707	\$244,504	\$484,630	\$1,953,615	\$931,419	\$2,885,034
Employee Benefits	\$156,057	\$29,782	\$60,568	\$9,070,889	\$115,087	\$9,432,382	\$163,331	\$9,595,713
Travel & Meetings	\$85,751	\$2,173	\$17,003	\$4,813	\$15,677	\$125,416	\$15,783	\$141,199
Facility Occupancy	\$62,535	\$0	\$418	\$43,183	\$102,829	\$208,965	\$415,515	\$624,480
Property Insurance	\$8,223	\$0	\$0	\$7,355,263	\$15,424	\$7,378,910	\$6,167	\$7,385,077
Professional Fees & Contract	\$317,081	\$28,121	\$0	\$43,051	\$15,599	\$403,853	\$96,311	\$500,164
Supplies	\$75,975	\$8,847	\$2,451	\$32,624	\$136,397	\$256,293	\$42,095	\$298,388
Training & Continuing Education	\$572,295	\$1,055	\$0	\$0	\$5,891	\$579,241	\$0	\$579,241
Grants/Benevolence	\$1,287,495	\$3,495,472	\$20,800	\$393,357	\$48,903	\$5,246,027	\$313,583	\$5,559,610
Depreciation	\$68,755	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,343	\$82,098	\$103,132	\$185,230
Total Expenses	\$3,225,125	\$3,732,264	\$567,946	\$17,187,683	\$953,781	\$25,666,800	\$2,087,335	\$27,754,135

North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church
Designated Fund Summary - Condensed (Unaudited)
December 31, 2020

	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>YTD Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Disbursements</u>	<u>YTD Transfers & Adjustments</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Net Asset					
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions					
Operating Reserves					
Center for Church Development	\$1,309,146	\$1,245,139	\$1,046,306	(\$50,000)	\$1,557,980
Center for Leadership Development	\$122,403	\$1,608,411	\$1,457,407	\$143,847	\$129,560
Center for Missional Outreach	\$407,161	\$655,273	\$540,290	\$50,000	\$472,145
Center for Connectional Resources	\$1,709,127	\$1,145,574	\$1,032,497	\$0	\$1,822,204
Episcopal NTC Area Funds	\$153,142	\$61,490	\$30,994	\$0	\$183,638
Communications Office Operations	\$230,893	\$441,338	\$406,093	\$0	\$266,139
District Superintendent Fund Operations	\$180,312	\$606,478	\$555,831	\$0	\$230,959
East District	\$196,948	\$157,143	\$173,497	\$0	\$180,594
Metro District	\$125,542	\$161,464	\$164,020	\$0	\$122,987
North Central District	\$69,631	\$169,639	\$178,962	\$0	\$60,308
Northwest District	\$294,949	\$157,824	\$153,047	\$10,000	\$289,726
Total Operating Reserves	\$4,799,255	\$6,409,775	\$5,738,943	\$153,847	\$5,316,239
Board Designated Reserves					
Center for Leadership Development	\$186,091	\$61,430	\$2,475	\$0	\$245,047
Center for Missional Outreach	\$1,728	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,728
Center for Connectional Resources	\$269,759	\$94,238	\$56,361	\$0	\$307,636
Episcopal Reserves	\$363	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$363
DS Reserves	\$28,061	\$10,000	\$13,500	\$0	\$24,561
Conference Benefits - Health Insurance	\$1,373,033	\$9,768,755	\$9,564,829	\$0	\$1,576,959
Conference Benefits - Scholarships	\$227,338	\$1,483	\$2,665	\$0	\$226,156
Retiree Benefits Reserves	\$24,179,445	\$5,415,463	\$617,234	\$0	\$28,977,674
New Church Start Reserves	\$3,364,564	\$800,443	\$401,185	(\$20,848)	\$3,784,670
New Church Starts - East District	\$58,343	\$467	\$0	\$0	\$58,810
New Church Starts - North Central District	\$151,817	\$1,167	\$6,000	\$0	\$146,984
Legacy Property Held for Sale	\$979,388	\$95,790	\$283,221	\$20,848	\$771,109
District Reserves	\$384,800	\$250,755	\$11,094	\$0	\$624,460
Property Insurance Reserves	\$2,671,353	\$6,870,704	\$7,353,811	\$0	\$2,188,246
Camping Reserves	\$5,707	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,707
Total Board Designated Reserves	\$33,881,791	\$23,370,695	\$18,312,376	\$0	\$38,940,111
BOD Designated Reserves					
MEF Reserves	\$148,928	\$151,838	\$71,382	\$0	\$229,385
GCFA Episcopal Office Reserves	\$28,686	\$75,471	\$80,920	\$0	\$23,237
Urban Ministries Reserves	\$452,315	\$1,672,634	\$1,712,017	\$0	\$412,932
Total BOD Designated Reserves	\$629,930	\$1,899,943	\$1,864,319	\$0	\$665,554
Fixed Assets Reserves					
Conference Office	\$657,929	\$4,189,005	\$4,348,508	\$0	\$498,426
Parsonages	\$1,873,992	\$123,595	\$52,000	\$0	\$1,945,587
Camps	\$1,642,577	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,642,577
Total Fixed Assets Reserves	\$4,174,498	\$4,312,600	\$4,400,508	\$0	\$4,086,590
NTC Associated Entities - Held in Trust					
NTC Clergy & Lay Organizations	\$55,684	\$5,689	\$9,310	\$0	\$52,063
Wesley Foundations	\$89,348	\$38,538	\$149,871	(\$153,847)	\$131,862
Camping Reserves	\$271,481	\$38,424	\$38,424	\$8,539	\$262,942
Total NTC Associated Entities - Held in Trust	\$416,513	\$82,651	\$197,605	(\$145,308)	\$446,867
Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$43,901,987	\$36,075,665	\$30,513,751	\$8,539	\$49,455,361

	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>YTD Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Disbursements</u>	<u>YTD Transfers & Adjustments</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions					
Donor Designated Reserves					
Center for Church Development	\$3,680	\$0	\$3,680	\$0	\$0
Seek Scholarship Reserves	\$18,595	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,595
A Time for Children	\$10,000	\$0	\$600	\$0	\$9,400
North Texas Disaster Relief Reserves	\$213,869	\$24,748	\$133,982	\$0	\$104,634
CMO Reserves	\$484	\$132	\$0	\$0	\$616
Seminary Assistance Reserves	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
Communications Reserves	\$1,795	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,795
Perkins Funds for Retiree Assistance	\$1,281,756	\$358,495	\$67,584	\$0	\$1,572,667
Johnny Irish NW District Reserves	\$77,212	\$400	\$5,800	\$0	\$71,812
Bridgeport Playground Reserves	\$7,149	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,149
CUT Trust Reserves	\$271,269	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$271,269
Superannuate Required Reserves	\$89,338	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$89,338
Nannie Bean Earnings	\$0	\$2,965	\$2,965	\$0	\$0
Total Donor Designated Reserves	\$2,125,148	\$386,740	\$214,612	\$0	\$2,297,276
Permanently Restricted Endowment Corpus					
CMO Nannie Findlay Bean Trust	\$64,068	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$64,068
Reserves-Perkins Fund	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$750,000
Total Permanently Restricted Endowment Corpus	\$814,068	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$814,068
Total Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	\$2,939,216	\$386,740	\$214,612	\$0	\$3,111,344
Total Net Asset	\$46,841,202	\$36,462,405	\$30,728,363	\$8,539	\$52,566,705

2021 NTC CONNECTIONAL REPORTS

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

The opportunity to update and thank the North Texas Conference as a partner in ministry with [Africa University](#) is truly a joy.

Africa University is deeply grateful to the local congregations of the North Texas Conference for investing 86.18 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund apportionment in 2020. Thank you for supporting the ministry of Africa University with such faithfulness and generosity. By giving as you do, especially in challenging times, North Texas United Methodist congregations are a source of encouragement and strength.

The multilayered impact of COVID-19, and the measures instituted to control the public health crisis it has caused, have brought about profound and lasting adjustments in how we live, work, serve and connect. For Africa University, these include:

- **A shift to online-only teaching and learning from late March through December 2020.** Online teaching and remote work required more equipment and training for faculty and staff as well as creative actions to ensure consistent internet access for the students, regardless of location. As the only university in Zimbabwe accredited to offer online degrees, Africa University had the infrastructure and expertise to transition smoothly and break new ground with competency-based student assessment tools.
- Africa University is currently **ranked number one in Zimbabwe and 39th among the top 200 universities in Africa**, having risen 59 spots in the continental university rankings in 2020.
- **Gifts totaling more than \$300,000 from across the United Methodist connection were designated for COVID-19 relief efforts.** These second-mile gifts enabled Africa University to house, feed, and encourage close to 300 international students who were stranded on its campus between March and July 2020.
- **Excellent student retention and modest enrollment growth**, with the uptake of online learning by students of more than 99 percent. More than 3,000 students enrolled for the 2020-2021 academic year—16% more than the previous year—with 2,395 studying full-time. Fifty-seven percent of full-time students were female and 24% were international.
- **Innovation, outreach, and service** through:
 - The development and distribution of masks and hand sanitizer (*of its own design/formulation*), that have now been certified for commercial production.
 - The launch, via a web application, of farm to household delivery of fresh produce, meat, poultry, and milk products by the Africa University Dream Farm Trust.
 - Two student-led initiatives—***Feed a Family*** and ***Ben Hill UMC Women’s Residence Girl Child Support Program***—provided medical care, food, and school fees assistance to vulnerable families in the wider community. Campus-based and home-based students raised resources, procured supplies, and organized safe distribution to families.
- **The successful completion of two new buildings**—the Highland Park UMC-funded student union facility and a dormitory for female students. A new solar farm powers the Highland Park women’s dormitory.

Africa University’s online campus is here to stay, thanks to further infrastructure upgrades and the lessons learned while staying focused on its mission in 2020. Africa University is working to grow its pan-African presence and impact through new programs, partnerships, and an effective blend of in-person and online learning options.

Thank you, North Texas United Methodists, for helping to prepare young leaders to be “an aroma that brings life” to a world that is crying out for justice, compassion, healing, and wholeness (2 Corinthians 2:14-16). Through your prayers and gifts, you participate with the students, lecturers, and administrators in disciple-making by example.

The steadfast support of local churches for the Africa University Fund helps the institution to maintain its focus on equipping leaders to serve and transform communities. By investing in scholarships, individuals and congregations move young people from the margins of society into roles where they participate in making “the beloved community” a reality.

In journeying alongside Africa University in ministry and mission, North Texas United Methodists are the church in the world—seeding hope and sharing the love of Christ. You affirm that when we are all in it together, God’s grace is indeed sufficient. To God be the glory.

—James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Africa University Development Office

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



Boston University School of Theology

Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

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

BREAKING NEWS:

- **Virtual Learning:** Our faculty, staff, and library successfully pivoted to fully remote learning in Spring 2020 upon the COVID-19 lockdown, which continued through the summer terms. Fall 2020 offered a hybrid approach to learning, due to Boston University’s “Learn *from* Anywhere” initiative, which included a comprehensive on-campus testing program and strict COVID-19 precautions to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff. Students were given the most flexibility, with allowances to learn in-person in socially distanced and masked classes or in the comfort of their own homes via Zoom. The redirection to online learning served as an opportunity for BUSTH faculty to develop new online pedagogical proficiency and positions the School for greater engagement with current conversations concerning best practices in distance, hybrid, and online learning options for students worldwide.
- **Students:** We continue to increase and celebrate diversity in our student body, creating opportunities for in-depth exchanges and a rich virtual community life. Our Fall 2020 entering class was among our largest classes ever, with 128 new students enrolling in September, despite the fact that recruitment had to transition to be fully online.
- **Faculty:** We celebrated *dean emerita* Mary Elizabeth Moore’s 12-year service to the School as she stepped down on December 31, 2020. The institution will be forever grateful for her historic tenure as its dean. The new dean G. Sujin Pak began her appointment on January 1, 2021. Dean Pak is known for her commitments to academic rigor, social justice, and United Methodism, which made her a wonderful fit for the deanship of BUSTH at this time. In the coming months, the School plans to appoint a new Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership.
- **Lilly Endowment Grant for Thriving Congregations Initiative:** BUSTH was awarded a nearly \$1 million, four-year grant to work with urban congregations responding to trauma. The project will be focused on responding to congregants who are continually shaped by and reacting to compounding domestic and global traumatic events, such as systemic racism, gun violence, homelessness, or immigration stressors.

- **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry. Building student scholarships and housing opportunities remain key priorities. BUSTH also offers leadership fellowships to support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies: Raíces Latinas, Sacred Worth, Indigenous Studies, Korean Studies, Women in Leadership, and Black Church Studies.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** Through a generous grant from BU's Digital Education Incubator, BUSTH began to offer online mini-courses, workshops, and reading groups for interested professional and spiritual enrichment of alumni and other religious leaders. Inaugural groups covered topics such as religious Afro-futurism, spirituality through the writings of Howard Thurman, and rituals and practices of grief in a time of pandemic. To learn about or participate in the next BUSTH Lifelong Learning offerings, visit bu.edu/sth/oll.
- **Theology and the Arts Initiatives:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our traditional exhibits moved to an online space. The art of John August Swanson is available at <https://butheoartsgallery2020.wordpress.com/john-august-swanson-social-justice-artist>.
- **Development:** BUSTH's "On a Mission" campaign surpassed all expectations when it concluded in September 2019, raising \$29.4 million—well beyond the \$15 million goal set in 2010. These funds reflect broad support from alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students, with a far-reaching impact on the School's ability to pursue its mission. More than 2,800 donors, including 1,927 alumni (a 50% alumni participation rate), contributed to our campaign.

PARTNERING FOR MINISTRY AND TRANSFORMATION:

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

TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:

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

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE:

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

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

Blessings and gratitude, G. Sujin Pak, Dean

CC YOUNG Senior Living

Serving Seniors since 1922.

Greetings from CC Young!

We are happy that 2020 is behind us! The challenges our community faced were beyond anything we could have ever imagined. Our residents, families and team members were challenged to absorb, assimilate, and adapt to ever-changing infection control protocols and guidelines from CDC, Texas HHSC, Gov. Greg Abbott, and Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins as they unfolded. To put it mildly, it was a tough year not only for CC Young, but also for each of you reading this...and for the whole world.

In spite of COVID-19, there is good news to report for these last 12 months:

- **Our founder, Rev. Christopher Conley Young**, experienced the 1918 Pandemic with the Spanish Flu at which time he was quoted in the 1918 Dallas newspaper regarding the importance of faith during that crisis. The same holds true today and our Senior Life Ministries team provided that most needed pastoral support to residents and staff alike in response to COVID-19. Faith continues to sustain and guide us.
- **Our Community Outreach team** proactively and creatively utilized our Audio/Visual system to provide TV programming to all apartments on campus from the first moment The Point was closed in March 2020. In the process, the team created a “Staycation Guide” chock full of programming details, trivia, adult coloring, interesting websites, movie and website options, and more to keep our residents engaged. Since its inception, the piece has evolved into a 48-page monthly Lifestyle Guide for all residents to enjoy.
- **Our Life Enrichment teams** in licensed services revamped their programs and adapted to protocols for infection control. As a result, 1-on-1 room visits increased throughout our residences with licensed services. We also created a multi-disciplinary team to make note of those residents needing special attention. Again, our Senior Life Ministries team was instrumental in resident and staff support.
- **Communications were robust** using our broadcast system enabling us to share timely and regular voice messages and emails with residents, families and staff.
- **Because our campus was shut down to outside visitors**, our Maintenance Team became our screening team at The Vista’s front gate, 24/7. They also became CC Young’s own version of Amazon, FedEx, Uber Eats, etc., delivering packages all over campus. In December alone, they delivered more than 3,000 packages!
- **CC Young upgraded the Audio/Visual technology in The Point** which was completed by late summer, 2020. This new technology enabled HDMI cable signals to be sent to all resident apartments with enhanced graphic capabilities. This upgrade has been well-received!
- **Although the campus was closed to visitors until just recently**, sales have continued on The Terraces, our newest Independent Living offering. Our team is supporting that sales effort with virtual events including Podcasts and Webinars. Just recently, in-person tours resumed. Reservations are increasing! If you or someone you know is interested, you can experience unprecedented architecture, unmatched location and unequalled lifestyle and become a part of the CC Young family.
- **Our new healthcare building, The Vista**, has already been open more than one year! It has literally transformed our campus and nursing services. Its flexible design has been a blessing in response to COVID-19 and other market demands. If you have not seen this building in person, please plan to visit as soon as you can. The Vista ensures a premier resident and family experience for years to come.
- **Momentum is building for sales in all levels of care!** Our website traffic and leads are increasing and we have just set all-time census records in The Vista’s Skilled Nursing.
- **Perhaps the greatest news of 2021? CC Young held multiple COVID-19 vaccination clinics** in partnership with Walgreens. Almost 100% of our residents were vaccinated with approximately 50% staff participation. CC Young has made application to administer COVID-19 vaccines on our campus. We expect approval early in this fiscal year which starts April 1, 2021.

Through all the challenges of 2020, our team responded rapidly, always with our highest priority to protect our residents and team members. Our residents, families and vendors showed tremendous support and gratitude acknowledging that we are all in this together.

We look forward to our 100th anniversary in 2022! This will be a time to celebrate, to honor our legacy, and to pay homage to our founder. We thank you for your continued support to our mission and ministry to serve.

ABOUT CC YOUNG SENIOR LIVING, A NON-PROFIT FOUNDED IN 1922

CC Young Senior Living is nestled in the heart of East Dallas with our 20-acre campus at White Rock Lake. Our Mission is to foster premier environments where every life at every age is valued and enriched. Our Vision is to enhance the quality of life for all we serve.

We're a forward-thinking, non-profit, faith-based community with a continuum of services and a long history of excellence. We offer Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Support, Adult Day Center, Long-Term Care, Respite Care, and Short-Term Rehabilitation & Aquatics Therapy. The Community Services Program offers Home Healthcare, Hospice, and Home Services wherever seniors call home. With the recent opening of The Vista, we've launched a new era of healthcare for our residents and surrounding community members. Additionally, The Point & Pavilion in the heart of our campus offers creative, educational and fitness opportunities for our residents and the general public. To learn more about offerings, call us at 214-258-4000 or visit ccyoung.org.

DALLAS BETHLEHEM CENTER (DBC)

It is an unprecedented time of need for the neighborhoods surrounding the symbolic intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Malcolm X Blvd. just two miles from Fair Park in Dallas. For many low-income families in the area, their situation has worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hit hard by unemployment, limited childcare options, and healthcare disparities, the services provided by Dallas Bethlehem Center (DBC) in the 75215 and 75210 zip codes are needed now more than ever.

DBC is committed to responding to its neighbors' most important area of need: providing nutritious food resources for families in the community. DBC is a year-round Community Distribution Partner of Crossroads Community Services (a North Texas Food Bank hub). Before the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency in March 2020, DBC's weekly food distribution program distributed a monthly average of 7,500+ lbs. of fruits, vegetables, proteins, dairy products, and grains for over 85+ families to prepare nutritious meals. As the pandemic continued, DBC's weekly food program distributed approximately 10,000 lbs. of food monthly to over 125+ families. Every Friday, in partnership with a caterer who lives in the neighborhood, DBC also provides a pre-cooked family-sized hot meal to over 30 local households. Clearly, the demand for DBC's food services has increased significantly since the beginning of the pandemic.

Before, during, and after the "new normal" of living with the threat of COVID-19, DBC's purpose has never been clearer: promote stronger families, better lives, and thriving communities in South Dallas. DBC, in partnership with members of United Methodist Women (UMW) units throughout the North Texas Conference United Methodist Women (UMW), provided hundreds of pounds of non-perishables for DBC families for their Thanksgiving 2020 holiday meals. On-site COVID-19 vaccine registration was added in early 2020, and DBC families were provided with board games and art supplies for children and youth during the extended stay-at-home period during the pandemic.

The need goes on, and Dallas Bethlehem Center continues to respond to the community in a time of crisis and is committed to being a trusted, positive, reliable presence in the South Dallas community in the months and years of recovery to come.

The mission of Dallas Bethlehem Center is to empower and resource the South Dallas community to improve lives through education and connected solutions. Learn more at www.dallasbethlehemcenter.org or contact Dr. Fred Jones, Interim Managing Director of Dallas Bethlehem Center, fjonesdesoto@gmail.com.

—Julie B. Noel, Vice Chair, Dallas Bethlehem Center Dallas Bethlehem Center Board of Directors

DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

As with most other schools in the northeast of the U.S., Drew University evacuated its campus in early spring 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Drew Theological School faculty and staff adapted to this challenge with resilience, compassion, and creativity. The Theological School faculty put their courses all online, led development workshops for faculty across the university, and, in order to accommodate our many international admits who would not be able to enter the United States for fall 2020, designed an asynchronous Master of Divinity program. As a result of this work, the Theological School welcomed 147 new students, its largest entering class in a decade, with an enrollment of 380 for the current academic year. Our chapel team has also led the way in creating online worship experiences that connect the Drew community now across the globe.

All degree programs at the [Theological School](#) include interdisciplinary courses that demand out-of-the-box thinking, apprenticeship training that addresses real-world issues, and modes of learning that promote adaptability and innovation. Our MDiv and MATM degrees include a required gateway year, vocational pathways, and experiential learning that develops and deepens adaptive leadership skills. The curriculum features a team-designed and taught interdisciplinary sequence of core courses reflecting the integration of the theological disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith. The faculty have also articulated shared values that are infused across the teaching and learning at Drew: a commitment to anti-racism; gender and sexual-identity equality; eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and interfaith understanding and cooperation.

Drew cultivates pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, and thought leaders who go all over the world to take their place as the next generation of faith leaders and change agents.

—Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Interim Dean

LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE

It is my honor to submit a report of the only institution of the South Central Jurisdiction to your conference. It is my wish to thank the Bishop and the members of the conference for the committed support to [Lydia Patterson Institute](#) in the past year.

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

In early March, we closed our doors in order to keep our students and staff safe. By God's grace and not knowing that God had a hand in what was to come, we had computerized our classrooms about 4 years prior. Going from on-site to on-line was done within 24 hours. We encountered some glitches, like students without internet or computers at home. We moved fast to provide them with tablets and "hot spots" so that no student would be left behind. The plan, of course, was to return to the classroom in a few weeks. The few weeks turned into months and months to a year. We did manage to celebrate the Class of 2020 with 69 graduating seniors. Of the 69 seniors, 69 are in college today.

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully, Socorro de Anda, President

METHODIST CHILDREN’S HOME

Greetings from Methodist Children’s Home (MCH) and the children, youth and families we serve. Thank you to all the churches of the North Texas Conference for your ongoing prayers, gifts and actions that empower MCH to find effective and innovative ways to fulfill our mission and exceed best practice standards for childcare established by the states of Texas and New Mexico and the Council on Accreditation (COA).

I invite each member of the annual conference to visit our website at [MCH.org](https://mch.org). There you can explore in more detail the services we offer. You can also 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 join our ministry as a home parent, foster parent or in another capacity.

When MCH launched its new organizational strategic plan, no one could have imagined we would be dealing with a global pandemic threatening every aspect of our society. Thanks to God’s care, the dedication of our staff, the resiliency of those we serve and the resources you have entrusted to us, MCH has done much more than endure the COVID-19 crisis – we have flourished. We have a long history of adapting in crisis and finding ways to continue meeting the needs of those in our care across Texas and New Mexico. During COVID-19, we have been mindful to frame our planning and contingencies in light of the graciousness God has shown throughout our 130 years of ministry.

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

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

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

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

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. The following from the North Texas Annual Conference serve on the MCH Board of Directors:

Mrs. Amy Barley, Celina

Mr. Tommy Dodson, Richardson

Rev. Marie Mitchell, Cedar Hill

Mr. Daniel Moore, Dallas

I am excited for what is next for MCH and trust the future for our ministry is bright. May God continue to bless MCH and the ministries of the North Texas Annual Conference.

—Trey Oakley, President/CEO

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

[Perkins School of Theology](#) celebrates our vital connections with the North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

- **Forty-four (44) students affiliated with the North Texas Annual Conference are enrolled at Perkins**, including: twenty-two (22) Master of Divinity (M.Div.) students, seven (7) Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) students, five (5) Master of Arts in Ministry (M.A.M.) students, seven (7) Master of Theological Studies students (M.T.S.) and three (3) non-degree students.
- **Twelve (12) Perkins students were placed as interns within the North Texas Annual Conference** during the 2020-21 academic year.
- **The hybrid Houston-Galveston Extension Program**, in its third year of providing a combination of online and residential classes leading to the M.Div. and M.A.M. degrees, totaled 103 students during the 2020-21 academic year or slightly more than half of the 200 students enrolled in these degrees.
- **Beginning June 2021, Perkins School of Theology will add a Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) program** in Houston, in addition to the existing D. Min. program in Dallas. The doctoral level program integrates scholarly research with the practice of ministry. Courses will be taught at Houston Methodist Hospital. With two international airports, Houston also offers the advantage of easy access by air from many cities in the U.S. Perkins's three-year D. Min. curriculum includes two years of coursework, with students traveling to Houston for two weeks of courses in person in June and January. The remainder of the program, which includes a directed study and the writing of a dissertation, can be completed remotely.
- **The North Texas Annual Conference received grants** to assist Christ's Foundry United Methodist Mission (\$7,500) and Project Unity (\$7,500). Christ's Foundry serves a predominantly immigrant population in North Dallas and assisted with COVID-19 testing, face mask and hygiene supply distribution, groceries for 150 families, and free Spanish-language counseling and care to families struggling due to COVID-19. Project Unity's Together We Test program provided free COVID-19 testing to persons in underserved communities of color. These were made possible by a \$150,000 grant by the Henry Luce Foundation.

Enrollment Update

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2020-21 academic year totaled 347 students, including 28 enrolled in the Ph.D. program. Our enrollment size puts Perkins among the "largest" schools (52nd out of 277 schools) within the Association of Theological Schools. Fall 2020 statistics reflect the following: 65% of the entire student population are United Methodist (82% of M.Div. students) with another 23 denominations /traditions represented. 27% are ethnic minority students with an additional 6% comprising international students. The hybrid Houston-Galveston Extension Program, in its third year of providing a combination of online and residential classes leading to the M.Div. and M.A.M. degrees, totaled 103 students during the 2020-21 academic year or slightly more than half of the 200 students enrolled in these degrees.

2020-21 Highlights:

- **Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters included both 100% online classes** along with courses offered in a Hyflex modality (in-person and online students together within the same classroom experience). Many of the usual rhythms of life at Perkins also moved into virtual spaces, including most meetings and our regular

chapel services.

- **Perkins School of Theology and Cox School of Business** announced the creation of cooperative, sequenced degree programs between the two Southern Methodist University graduate schools. The programs, designed for students interested in either a career in ministry with a strong business focus, or for students interested in a business career with a strong theological focus, include two sequences: the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) or the Master of Arts in Ministry (M.A.M.) and the M.B.A.
- **Providing spiritual care to those who are sick or hospitalized** demands a variety of specialized skills, especially given today's multicultural environment. To prepare students who feel called in this area, Perkins School of Theology—in partnership with Houston Methodist Hospital—now offers Master of Divinity students (enrolled in both Houston and Dallas) the opportunity to concentrate in Healthcare Chaplaincy.
- **SMU has received a grant of nearly \$1 million** from the Lilly Endowment's nationwide Thriving Congregations Initiative to support Perkins' Testimony as Community Engagement program. The program will work to increase the practice of testimony as community engagement both inside and outside the church. The Rev. Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison and Bart Patton of Perkins will serve as co-principal investigators on the project.
- **A new Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)** with Central Methodist University in Missouri was signed as part of the ongoing initiative to deepen relationships between Perkins and undergraduate colleges, universities and international seminaries.
- **Perkins School of Theology announced the 2021 recipients of the Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award:** Nancy Seay, a philanthropist and elder of Highland Park Presbyterian Church (HPPC); and Lisa Tichenor, an active community leader and lay member of Highland Park United Methodist Church (HPUMC). Along with Mary White, the 2020 Seals Award recipient, the three will be honored during the online worship service for Perkins Summit for Faith and Learning on March 19, 2021.
- **The Rev. Donald W. Underwood and the Rev. Dr. Sidney G. Hall, III** were announced as recipients of the 2020 Perkins Distinguished Alumnus/a Award. The Award recognizes Perkins graduates who have demonstrated effectiveness and integrity in service to the church, continuing support for the goals of Perkins and Southern Methodist University, outstanding service to the community, and exemplary character.
- **Retirements:** Bishop Whitfield (M. Div. '69) officially retired on August 31 as Perkins's Bishop in Residence and Director of the Center for Religious Leadership. Retirements official on May 31, 2021 include Dr. William Abraham (Albert Cook Outler Professor of Wesley Studies), Dr. Isabel Docampo (Co-Director of the Intern Program and Director, Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions), Duane Harbin (Assistant Dean for Technology, Planning & Compliance), and Dr. Evelyn Parker (Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology).

The highlights listed above are reflective of the vibrant engagement of Perkins faculty, staff, and students during the 2020-21 academic year.

Perkins School of Theology is committed to those called to serve so that they might be empowered to lead. We thank our many colleagues, friends and alumni/ae in the North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church for your generous support, including referrals of prospective students, as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

Grace and peace, Craig C. Hill, Dean and Professor of New Testament

PROVIDENCE PLACE

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

Providence Place started in 1895 as a refuge for women and children who were the neediest in our community, and back then the Methodist churches and the Methodist Conference joined with us to provide food, shelter and adoption services to our most vulnerable women. After 125 years, we are still providing adoption services and have placed over 6,000 babies in loving, forever homes. We have expanded our adoption services to include foster care adoption and foster care and in 2020, we opened a residential program for young women who are aging out of foster care. They live with us in an apartment setting and practice independent living and employment skills until they are ready to transition into the community successfully and independently.

Our Parenting with a Purpose outreach program has expanded to serve over 2,000 women and young children each year in the San Antonio and surrounding rural areas. We provide free diapers, formula, counseling, case management and parenting classes to help families during difficult times and to strengthen them to face their many challenges. Our goal is to support women, children and families whether they choose adoption or parenting.

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

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

I encourage you to schedule a tour of our beautiful 25-acre campus, arrange a speaker for your congregation or church group, and request offering materials for an annual church offering. We couldn't continue these ministries without you and we would love to come and share the stories and history of Providence Place with your congregation. If we could be a resource to you, contact our Advancement Team at (210) 696-2410 or at mission.advancement@provplace.org. Also, please visit our website at www.provplace.org to learn more about these special ministries and to hear first-hand stories from those we have served or follow us on Facebook to see what we are doing every day. We would love for you to be a part of our network!

Respectfully, Dr. Judith Bell, President and CEO

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



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

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

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

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

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

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

For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 255 individual students, 40 of which were new students, with a total registration of 520 classes and offering a total of 51 courses. Due to Covid-19, the school quickly pivoted its course offerings and delivered lessons in both asynchronous and synchronous online

formats. In Winter 2019, Saint Paul began a hybrid (online and on-campus) schedule for six courses. Although for 2021, this went fully online, plans to increase the number of hybrid course offerings are in development.

Saint Paul Board of Trustees added three new members to their ranks: Bishop James D. Tindall, Sr., Pastor Emeritus at Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ Kansas City; Ms. Sharon Cleaver, Senior Director of Marketing, Communications, and PR for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City; and Mr. Rogers Strickland, Founder/CEO of Strickland Construction. Through a Board initiative related to diversity and inclusion, Saint Paul created a working group on Native American theology and ministries comprised of Native theologians and church leaders. Their efforts are focused on how the church and academy can work together toward healing generational trauma related to the spread of Christianity and the genocide of Indigenous North Americans. With the Board's assistance, led by Board Chair Rev. Dr. Tex Sample, the seminary focuses on its mission. Our trustees work to continuously enhance and evaluate the strategic plans in place to guide us into the future. Perhaps most importantly, we have learned much and grown closer as a community due to the pandemic.

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

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

*—President Neil Blair; Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni,
and students thank you for your prayers and support.*

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Since its founding in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, [Southern Methodist University](https://www.smu.edu) has served as a nonsectarian institution of higher learning. Our mission is to expand knowledge through research and teaching and serve as a powerful catalyst for the growth and development of Dallas and the broader North Texas region. With continued Methodist representation on its Board of Trustees and welcoming students of all faiths, the University is reaching a higher level of accomplishment and global recognition in our second century of shaping world changers – for today and tomorrow. Consistent with the University's appreciation for its Wesleyan heritage, the University submits voluntarily this report to the North Texas Annual Conference.

SMU Update

COVID-19

SMU arose as a leader among academic institutions in managing the global pandemic by hosting in-person classes and athletic seasons, avoiding significant furloughs and layoffs, and preventing large outbreaks of COVID-19 on campus. We pivoted in the middle of the 2020 spring semester to fully online instruction, and then to two months of essential-only employees working on campus. Over the summer months, we designed and implemented a strategy to provide a successful fall semester with the flexible education experiences and in-classroom options that our students and families requested, while protecting the health of our community members and the financial strength of the University.

Students, Faculty and Staff

Despite the pandemic, our enrollment for fall 2020 was strong. Remarkably, the Class of 2024 comprises 1,531 students—only 13 students fewer than the previous year—from 43 different countries as well as the United States. Additionally, students of color make up 31% of the first-year class, up from 25% last year. This is the most ethnically and racially diverse first-year class in SMU history, with significant increases in Asian American and Hispanic/Latinx students, and an 11% increase in students who identify as Black or African American.

Rankings

SMU continues to receive high rankings and recognitions among prestigious reviewers, including:

- Top 20% best national universities by U.S. News & World Report (2021) and first among Dallas-area universities.
- Top 11% (No. 88 out of 800) of U.S. universities by The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education (2021).
- One of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review's "The Best 386 Colleges" and among its "2021 Best Colleges: Region by Region" Also, SMU's Guildhall ranked among the top five graduate schools to study game design.
- Top 5% best nationwide colleges and top 3% best Texas colleges by College Factual (2021).
- SMU's Perkins Chapel at No. 16 out of 35 of the nation's most beautiful college churches and chapels by College Rank.
- No. 39 in computer and information sciences and No. 48 in engineering among DIVERSE Issues in Higher Education's annual list of Top 100 Producers of Minority Graduate Students in STEM (2020).

Funding

In FY 2020, SMU received nearly \$30 million in external funding for domestic and global research. Current funding agencies include the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Defense and Toyota USA Foundation. SMU's private fundraising finished FY 2020 very strong with more than \$121.5 million in gifts, making it a record year. We raised \$48 million in current-use funds in FY 2020, surpassing the three-year goal of \$150 million.

Research and Graduate Education

SMU continues moving toward its goal of becoming a tier-one research institution, which will elevate our national rankings and reputation. Leading our academic efforts is our new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth Loba, whom we selected after a nationwide search of top candidates. We also launched the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies this fall, increasing our research and Ph.D. offerings.

Perkins School of Theology continues to expand its partnership with Houston Methodist Hospital – site of the Perkins Houston-Galveston Extension Program – in what is thought to be the only seminary located within a U.S. hospital. In spring 2021, a new concentration in health care chaplaincy for students pursuing the M.Div. degree was launched. And beginning June 2021, Perkins will add a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree program in Houston, in addition to the existing D.Min. program in Dallas. Since fall 2018, the Houston-Galveston Extension Program, first established in 1995, has been offered in a hybrid format for M.Div. and M.A.M. students, and the first M.Div. graduates will receive their degrees in May 2021.

SMU is making an impact on the world around us. We are grateful for our ongoing work through the Perkins School of Theology in the education and training of all branches of the Wesleyan tradition. We request your continued prayers and support for our University and its mission.

Warm regards, R. Gerald Turner, President, Southern Methodist University

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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

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

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

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

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

In high-impact learning experiences, for the 20th consecutive year, the King Creativity Fund supported significant, innovative, and visionary student projects across the disciplines. Twenty-five students participated in 11 different Summer Collaborative Opportunities and Experiences (SCOPE) as part of a student-faculty collaborative research program. Although SCOPE 2020 transitioned to a remote format and faculty found new ways to mentor their student researchers, the mission of SCOPE remained the same: to foster a culture of research at Southwestern; to promote student investigative learning, persistence, self-efficacy, and success; and to create an inclusive and diverse research community.

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

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

Ratification of Trustees

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

The following name is submitted to the North Texas Conference for election or re-election: Ms. Laura K. Hinson, nominated by the Board of Trustees for re-election to a three-year term concluding 2024.

Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to visit [Southwestern University](https://www.southwestern.edu) and experience, in person, our vibrant intellectual community.

—Respectfully yours, Laura E. Skandera Trombley, President

TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION (TMF)

The pandemic brought great hardships to United Methodists in Texas and New Mexico in 2020, but it also provided great opportunities to be in mission with the most vulnerable among us. Since relationships have always been at the center of TMF's ministry, we were encouraged by all the ways churches and nonprofits creatively maintained, developed, and strengthened their relationships with their communities in spite of unprecedented and prolonged challenges. To support their work, TMF created a Microloan Program, offered special grants through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, moved Leadership Ministry opportunities online, and made a Loan Assistance Program available to loan clients. We were grateful to extend these resources and walk alongside so many agents of change in an unpredictable year.

Carol Montgomery, TMF Director of Area Staff and Senior Area Representative for the North Texas Conference, is the primary contact and bridge between congregations (clergy and laity) and TMF. As a partner in ministry, she connects members of the North Texas Conference to relevant resources unique to their goals for missional growth within congregations and communities.

[Texas Methodist Foundation](#), headquartered in Austin, serves United Methodist individuals, churches, and agencies within the six annual conferences in Texas and New Mexico. We appreciate the opportunity to report some of the ways we served United Methodists last year.

Within the North Texas Conference:

- Loans to churches in the North Texas Conference totaled \$89.3 million at the end of 2020.
- Four churches in the North Texas Conference participated in the TMF Microloan Program, seeking \$70,000 in microloans.
- Churches and agencies, not including individuals, within the North Texas Conference had \$40.8 million invested in the Methodist Loan Fund.

Throughout Texas and New Mexico:

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

Courageous Congregations Collaborative or C3, we will gather teams to exercise and flex five adaptive muscles needed for this post-pandemic season. Additionally, in July of 2020, TMF welcomed the Rev. Dr. Blair Thompson-White as the Director of Leadership Ministry and the Rev. John Thornburg as the Director of Learning.

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

TMF Board members

TMF has submitted the following candidates for re-election to the TMF Board of Directors from the North Texas Conference:

- **Rev. Katherine Glaze Lyle**, Clergy, 3-year term (Dallas)
- **Dr. Andrew Stoker**, Clergy, 3-year term (Dallas)

TMF Board members previously elected by the North Texas Conference include:

- **Dr. Will Green**, Layperson, currently serving through 2022 (Dallas)
- **Mr. Larry Haynes**, Layperson, currently serving through 2022 (Coppell)
- **Ms. Gail Utter**, Layperson, currently serving through 2022 (Sherman)
- **Rev. Richie Butler**, Clergy, currently serving through 2023 (Dallas)
- **Rev. Jeff Lust**, Clergy, currently serving through 2023 (McKinney)
- **Mr. Kelvin Walker**, Layperson, currently serving through 2023 (Dallas)
- **Ms. Julie Yarbrough**, Layperson, currently serving through 2023 (Dallas)

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

- **Mr. Jim Adams**, Layperson, Advisory member (Dallas)
- **Mrs. Patricia M. Deal**, Layperson, Senior member (Wichita Falls)
- **Robert Dupuy**, Layperson, Senior member (Dallas)
- **Bishop Mike McKee**, Clergy, Senior member (Plano)
- **Dr. Clayton Oliphint**, Clergy, Senior member (Richardson)
- **Mrs. Kay Yeager**, Layperson, Senior member (Wichita Falls)

—Tom Locke, President

TEXAS UNITED METHODIST COLLEGE ASSOCIATION (TUMCA)

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

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

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

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

[Texas United Methodist College Association](#) continues to be an extension of our United Methodist congregations' mission, and we are grateful for their support. We are continually blessed to work with our scholars and the supporting congregations in the transformation of the world.

—Dr. Darrell M. Loyless, President

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY DAYTON, OHIO

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

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

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

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

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

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

God is doing a new thing with the establishment of [The Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center](#). Beginning in 2021, the Innovation Center honors the ministry of Bishop Bruce Ough by providing a hub of learning for church leaders seeking the framework, support, and courage to introduce the Gospel of Jesus Christ in new and creative ways. Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey joins United as the inaugural director of the Innovation Center.

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

—Grace and peace, Dr. Kent Millard, President

2021 NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE JOURNAL PRINTED COPY ORDER FORM



The *2021 North Texas Conference Journal* will be available in September in FULL COLOR and 8 ½ x 11 size on the conference website, www.ntcumc.org.

****If you wish to have a full bound copy of the *2021 North Texas Conference Journal*, it will be available for purchase at \$30 each to those who pre-order and pre-pay for their copies and will only be printed in BLACK AND WHITE, no color, 8 ½ x 11 size.**

If you do not need a printed copy of the entire *Journal* but would like a bound copy of the directory pages, a *2021 Conference Personnel Directory* (consisting of the Clergy Directory, the Lay Member Directory, the Appointments, and the Roster of Conference Agencies) will also be available for purchase at \$5 each **to those who pre-order and pre-pay for their copies.**

Please use the form below to indicate how many books you wish to purchase and calculate the total cost of your order. **Payment must accompany the order.**

_____ Number of printed black and white *2021 North Texas Conference Journal(s)* at \$30 each

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Please make your check payable to “North Texas Conference” and write “2021 Journal” in the memo line. Mail to: North Texas Conference Journal Order, P.O. Box 866128, Plano, TX 75086-6128 **by August 1, 2021.**

****Online ordering will be available at www.ntcumc.org through August 1.**

If you have questions, please contact Shirley Miller at miller@ntcumc.org or 972-526-5008.

North Texas Conference (NTC) United Methodist Women (UMW)

Mission u 2021



There's Far More Here
THAN MEETS THE EYE

So, we're not giving up. How could we? Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without [God's] unfolding grace. [...] There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18
The Message (MSG)

Tuesday • 06.29.21 • 6:00-7:00 p.m. via ZOOM
Preview of Studies, Praise, & Introduction to Study Leaders

Monday • 07.26.21 • 6:00-7:00 p.m. via ZOOM
Closing Night Celebration



Finding Peace in An Anxious World

edited by Erin James-Brown

E-Store: www.umwmissionresources.org/

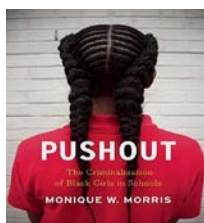
Kindle edition @ www.amazon.com

Using "The Serenity Prayer" as a scaffold, *Finding Peace in An Anxious World* explores ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines.

Tuesday, 07.06.21 (Section 1)
Thursday, 07.08.21 (Section 2)
6:30-8:30 p.m. via ZOOM

Study Leader:

Dr. Mary T. Nickson



Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

by Monique W. Morris

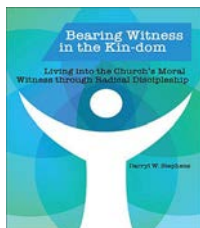
Bookstore, Library, or www.amazon.com

Pushout shows how -- even with obstacles, stigmas, stereotypes, and despair -- Black girls still find ways to breathe remarkable dignity into their classroom lives, juvenile facilities, and beyond.

Monday, 07.12.21 (Section 1)
Thursday, 07.15.21 (Section 2)
6:30-8:30 p.m. via ZOOM

Study Leader:

Dr. Thalia Matherson



Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship

by Darryl W. Stephens

E-Store: www.umwmissionresources.org/

Kindle edition @ www.amazon.com

Living as siblings in the "kin-dom" of God requires bold faith. *Bearing Witness* explores this history, empowering us to imagine God's justice and to lead with compassion.

Tuesday, 07.20.21 (Section 1)
Thursday, 07.22.21 (Section 2)
6:30-8:30 p.m. via ZOOM

Study Leader:

Ms. Anna Bundy

UMW Mission Studies Resources: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-studies>
Register Online by 06.22.21: <https://forms.gle/qXZFfSuTY2NQefWM9>
www.umwnorthtexas.org