

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023  
FIRST UMC RICHARDSON**

**SPECIAL CALLED SESSION  
CONFERENCE WORKBOOK**



**NORTH TEXAS**

**CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*[www.ntcumc.org](http://www.ntcumc.org)*

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## NAME BADGE COLORS

<b>BLUE</b>	<b>Clergy members</b> who are entitled to vote except for the election of lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences.
<b>PEACH</b>	<b>Provisional clergy members, associate clergy members, clergy appointed under ¶346.2, and local pastors under part-time and full-time appointment, retired local pastors under appointment</b> who are entitled to vote unless the subject is constitutional amendments or election of lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences and matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy.
<b>GREEN</b>	<b>Lay members</b> who are entitled to vote unless the matter pertains to the clergy, such as ordination, reception into full membership, or election of clergy delegates.
<b>YELLOW</b>	<b>Diaconal ministers</b> who are entitled to vote unless the matter pertains to the clergy, such as ordination, reception into full membership, or election of clergy delegates.
<b>PINK</b>	<b>Student local pastors, retired local pastors, clergy from other annual conferences (¶346.1), missionaries</b> assigned by the GBGM, <b>and certified lay missionaries</b> from nations other than the United States, both who are serving within the bounds of the Annual Conference, who have voice but are not allowed to vote.
<b>WHITE</b>	<b>Visitors</b> who are not permitted to speak on the floor or allowed to vote.

## Presiding Bishop



**Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.**  
**North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church**

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. is a native of South Texas and a lifelong United Methodist. He was elected bishop at the 2016 South Central Jurisdictional Conference and was assigned to the Great Plains Conference, effective September 1, 2016. While serving as resident bishop of the Great Plains Conference, Bishop Saenz was also assigned to provide episcopal coverage for the Central Texas Conference, beginning January 1, 2022. Effective January 1, 2023, Bishop Saenz was assigned as resident bishop of both the Central Texas Conference and the North Texas Conference.

In his role as an episcopal leader in Kansas and Nebraska, Bishop Saenz led three former conferences through a unification process that began in 2014. Under his leadership, the Great Plains Conference focused on the four pillars of a robust ministry and witness for Jesus Christ in the Wesleyan tradition: Love God; proclaim Christ; serve others, especially the poor; and seek justice.

Bishop Saenz is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, and a former high school teacher, high school football coach, and businessperson. He earned his Master

of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. As a pastor, he focused his ministry on intentional spiritual practice and formation, developing a lay apostolate, and giving people the tools and encouragement to move out of generational poverty. He served congregations in East Dallas, Oak Cliff, El Paso, and Edinburg, Texas. El Buen Pastor—The Good Shepherd—in Edinburg, Texas, was the largest Hispanic-American United Methodist Church in the country during his pastoral tenure.

In 2010, he was appointed to serve as the Southwest Texas Conference director of congregational and new church development, and he helped start 11 new churches before being named director of the conference connectional ministries and executive director of the Rio Texas Conference's Mission Vitality Center in January 2015. In that role, he oversaw the conference's missional strategies and objectives for congregational vitality, starting new churches, clergy and lay leadership vitality, uniting people, and transforming communities.

Bishop Saenz has been married to Mayé since 1981. They have four children and ten grandchildren.



Ruben Saenz Jr.  
Resident Bishop

## The United Methodist Church

North Texas Annual Conference  
P.O. Box 866188  
Plano, Texas 75086-6188  
Telephone: 972-526-5015  
Email: [bishop@ntcumc.org](mailto:bishop@ntcumc.org)

August 31, 2023

Dear Clergy and Laity of the North Texas Annual Conference,

In accordance with our standing rules and ¶603.5 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, I hereby call for a special session of the North Texas Annual Conference to convene on Dec. 2, 2023, beginning at 9 a.m. CST. The special session will be conducted in person at First United Methodist Church of Richardson (503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson 75080) and shall include the following business:

- Consideration of resolutions calling for the disaffiliation of local churches from The United Methodist Church per the provisions of ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline*.
- Consideration of a 2024 budget for the North Texas Annual Conference.

Further information regarding the session and its business will be sent to the members of the North Texas Annual Conference and posted on the conference website in the coming weeks.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ruben Saenz Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

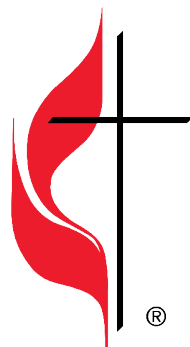


Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.  
North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church

**AGENDA FOR SPECIAL CALLED SESSION  
OF THE NORTH TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
First United Methodist Church, Richardson, Texas**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023**

- 8:00 a.m. Registration in Shawver Welcome Center**
- 9:00 a.m. Gathering in Sanctuary**
- 9:05 a.m. Annual Conference Call to Order** .....Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.  
**Welcome** ..... Rev. Dr. Clayton Oliphint
- 9:10 a.m. Organization of the Conference**..... Rev. Kenny Dickson
- 9:15 a.m. Opening Hymn** .... “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #211 (verses 1, 2, 6 & 7)
- 9:20 a.m. Disaffiliation Resolutions**..... Rev. Chris Yost, Board of Trustees, Chair
- 9:25 a.m. Hymn** ..... “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” #140
- 9:30 a.m. 2024 Budgets**  
*Board of Pension and Health Benefits Budget* .....Christy Drenner,  
Conference Benefits Officer  
*Conference Apportionment Budget* .....Larry Womack,  
Committee on Finance and Administration, Chair
- 10:00 a.m. Hymn** ..... “In Christ Alone” by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend
- 10:05 a.m. Homily** .....Bishop Saenz
- 10:20 a.m. Holy Communion**
- 10:45 a.m. Sending Forth** .....Bishop Saenz



## 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	2/3
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	2/3
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

<b>Ranking Motions</b> 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.		<b>Principal Requirements</b>		
<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
<b>Non-Ranking Motions</b> Whether these non-ranking motions are in order depends upon the business already under consideration and what purpose they may serve when introduced.		<b>Principal Requirements</b>		
<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

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM #1  
APPROVING THE DISAFFILIATION  
OF OAK GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees**

**BACKGROUND:** Oak Grove United Methodist Church located in Decatur, Texas (“Church”) has asked to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and in accordance with the provisions of ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016* (as amended at the special called session of the General Conference in 2019), at least two-thirds of the professing members present and voting at a duly-called church conference of Church voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and

Rev. Todd Harris, District Superintendent of the Northwest District, has certified that Church was in full compliance with the provisions of ¶2553 concerning disaffiliation; and

Church has fully complied with the guidelines and procedures established by the North Texas Annual Conference and its Board of Trustees for disaffiliating churches, and the Conference Board of Trustees has proposed a written Disaffiliation Agreement Pursuant To ¶2553 (“Disaffiliation Agreement”).

**LEGISLATION:**

1. That the proposed Disaffiliation Agreement between the North Texas Annual Conference and Church, regarding Church’s disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church is hereby ratified and approved.
2. That following the full execution of that Disaffiliation Agreement, the corporate officers of the North Texas Annual Conference are hereby authorized to execute a quit-claim deed releasing the trust clause in all property to the Local Church’s new entity effective on the Disaffiliation Date; PROVIDED however that prior to the date of disaffiliation, the Local Church shall fully pay all monies due under the terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement.
3. That from and after the date of disaffiliation, Church, having voluntarily disaffiliated under ¶2553, shall have no connection or affiliation with The United Methodist Church and the North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, or with any predecessor denomination or conference.
4. That, to the fullest extent possible, copies of the official records and papers of the Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the North Texas Conference Archives. See ¶230 and ¶233 for guidance.
5. That we give thanks for this congregation and ask for God’s blessing upon its continued ministry.



**LEGISLATIVE ITEM #2**  
**APPROVING THE DISAFFILIATION**  
**OF BOXELDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees**

**BACKGROUND:** Boxelder United Methodist Church located in Annona, Texas (“Church”) has asked to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and in accordance with the provisions of ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016* (as amended at the special called session of the General Conference in 2019), at least two-thirds of the professing members present and voting at a duly-called church conference of Church voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and

Rev. Cassie Wade, District Superintendent of the East District, has certified that Church was in full compliance with the provisions of ¶2553 concerning disaffiliation; and

Church has fully complied with the guidelines and procedures established by the North Texas Annual Conference and its Board of Trustees for disaffiliating churches, and the Conference Board of Trustees has proposed a written Disaffiliation Agreement Pursuant To ¶2553 (“Disaffiliation Agreement”).

**LEGISLATION:**

1. That the proposed Disaffiliation Agreement between the North Texas Annual Conference and Church, regarding Church’s disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church is hereby ratified and approved.
2. That following the full execution of that Disaffiliation Agreement, the corporate officers of the North Texas Annual Conference are hereby authorized to execute a quit-claim deed releasing the trust clause in all property to the Local Church’s new entity effective on the Disaffiliation Date; PROVIDED however that prior to the date of disaffiliation, the Local Church shall fully pay all monies due under the terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement.
3. That from and after the date of disaffiliation, Church, having voluntarily disaffiliated under ¶2553, shall have no connection or affiliation with The United Methodist Church and the North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, or with any predecessor denomination or conference.
4. That, to the fullest extent possible, copies of the official records and papers of the Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the North Texas Conference Archives. See ¶230 and ¶233 for guidance.
5. That we give thanks for this congregation and ask for God’s blessing upon its continued ministry.

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM #3  
APPROVING THE DISAFFILIATION  
OF COMO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees**

**BACKGROUND:** Como United Methodist Church located in Como, Texas (“Church”) has asked to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and in accordance with the provisions of ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016* (as amended at the special called session of the General Conference in 2019), at least two-thirds of the professing members present and voting at a duly-called church conference of Church voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and

Rev. Cassie Wade, District Superintendent of the East District, has certified that Church was in full compliance with the provisions of ¶2553 concerning disaffiliation; and

Church has fully complied with the guidelines and procedures established by the North Texas Annual Conference and its Board of Trustees for disaffiliating churches, and the Conference Board of Trustees has proposed a written Disaffiliation Agreement Pursuant To ¶2553 (“Disaffiliation Agreement”).

**LEGISLATION:**

1. That the proposed Disaffiliation Agreement between the North Texas Annual Conference and Church, regarding Church’s disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church is hereby ratified and approved.
2. That following the full execution of that Disaffiliation Agreement, the corporate officers of the North Texas Annual Conference are hereby authorized to execute a quit-claim deed releasing the trust clause in all property to the Local Church’s new entity effective on the Disaffiliation Date; PROVIDED however that prior to the date of disaffiliation, the Local Church shall fully pay all monies due under the terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement.
3. That from and after the date of disaffiliation, Church, having voluntarily disaffiliated under ¶2553, shall have no connection or affiliation with The United Methodist Church and the North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, or with any predecessor denomination or conference.
4. That, to the fullest extent possible, copies of the official records and papers of the Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the North Texas Conference Archives. See ¶230 and ¶233 for guidance.
5. That we give thanks for this congregation and ask for God’s blessing upon its continued ministry.

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM #4  
APPROVING THE DISAFFILIATION  
OF FLOYD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees**

**BACKGROUND:** Floyd United Methodist Church located in Greenville, Texas (“Church”) has asked to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and in accordance with the provisions of ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016* (as amended at the special called session of the General Conference in 2019), at least two-thirds of the professing members present and voting at a duly-called church conference of Church voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and

Rev. Cassie Wade, District Superintendent of the East District, has certified that Church was in full compliance with the provisions of ¶2553 concerning disaffiliation; and

Church has fully complied with the guidelines and procedures established by the North Texas Annual Conference and its Board of Trustees for disaffiliating churches, and the Conference Board of Trustees has proposed a written Disaffiliation Agreement Pursuant To ¶2553 (“Disaffiliation Agreement”).

**LEGISLATION:**

1. That the proposed Disaffiliation Agreement between the North Texas Annual Conference and Church, regarding Church’s disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church is hereby ratified and approved.
2. That following the full execution of that Disaffiliation Agreement, the corporate officers of the North Texas Annual Conference are hereby authorized to execute a quit-claim deed releasing the trust clause in all property to the Local Church’s new entity effective on the Disaffiliation Date; PROVIDED however that prior to the date of disaffiliation, the Local Church shall fully pay all monies due under the terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement.
3. That from and after the date of disaffiliation, Church, having voluntarily disaffiliated under ¶2553, shall have no connection or affiliation with The United Methodist Church and the North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, or with any predecessor denomination or conference.
4. That, to the fullest extent possible, copies of the official records and papers of the Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the North Texas Conference Archives. See ¶230 and ¶233 for guidance.
5. That we give thanks for this congregation and ask for God’s blessing upon its continued ministry.

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM #5  
APPROVING THE DISAFFILIATION  
OF KEMP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**FROM: North Texas Conference Board of Trustees**

**BACKGROUND:** Kemp United Methodist Church located in Kemp, Texas (“Church”) has asked to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and in accordance with the provisions of ¶2553 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016* (as amended at the special called session of the General Conference in 2019), at least two-thirds of the professing members present and voting at a duly-called church conference of Church voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church; and

Rev. Cassie Wade, District Superintendent of the East District, has certified that Church was in full compliance with the provisions of ¶2553 concerning disaffiliation; and

Church has fully complied with the guidelines and procedures established by the North Texas Annual Conference and its Board of Trustees for disaffiliating churches, and the Conference Board of Trustees has proposed a written Disaffiliation Agreement Pursuant To ¶2553 (“Disaffiliation Agreement”).

**LEGISLATION:**

1. That the proposed Disaffiliation Agreement between the North Texas Annual Conference and Church, regarding Church’s disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church is hereby ratified and approved.
2. That following the full execution of that Disaffiliation Agreement, the corporate officers of the North Texas Annual Conference are hereby authorized to execute a quit-claim deed releasing the trust clause in all property to the Local Church’s new entity effective on the Disaffiliation Date; PROVIDED however that prior to the date of disaffiliation, the Local Church shall fully pay all monies due under the terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement.
3. That from and after the date of disaffiliation, Church, having voluntarily disaffiliated under ¶2553, shall have no connection or affiliation with The United Methodist Church and the North Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, or with any predecessor denomination or conference.
4. That, to the fullest extent possible, copies of the official records and papers of the Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the North Texas Conference Archives. See ¶230 and ¶233 for guidance.
5. That we give thanks for this congregation and ask for God’s blessing upon its continued ministry.

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM #6**  
**2024 BOPHB APPORTIONMENT BUDGET**

**FROM: Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

**BACKGROUND:** The Board of Pension and Health Benefits (BOPHB) oversees all conference pension and health benefit plans which are administered by Wespath.

Knowing the Annual Conference has lost 12% of its apportioned churches, the Board voted unanimously to use unrestricted pension reserves to fund the BOPHB 2024 Budget.

The proposed BOPHB 2024 Budget is listed on Page 14.

**North Texas Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits  
Proposed Budget for 2024**

	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Employee Expenses					
51100 Salary	\$123,000	\$119,269	\$125,500	\$130,000	
<b>Total Compensation</b>	<b>\$123,000</b>	<b>\$119,269</b>	<b>\$125,500</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>	<b>3.59%</b>
51400 Employer FICA, Medicare	\$9,800	\$8,897	\$10,000	\$10,000	
53300 Lay Pension	\$7,500	\$7,127	\$7,600	\$7,800	
54100 Employer Health Insurance	\$23,000	\$22,200	\$24,648	\$23,688	
54200 Life Insurance	\$1,400	\$1,440	\$1,400	\$1,500	
54300 Workers Compensation	\$600	\$357	\$600	\$600	
<b>Total Benefits</b>	<b>\$42,300</b>	<b>\$40,021</b>	<b>\$44,248</b>	<b>\$43,588</b>	<b>-1.49%</b>
<b>Total Employee Expenses</b>	<b>\$165,300</b>	<b>\$159,290</b>	<b>\$169,748</b>	<b>\$173,588</b>	<b>2.26%</b>
62150 Travel-Staff	\$5,200	\$78	\$5,200	\$500	
62350 Meals-Staff	\$400	\$321	\$400	\$500	
<b>Total Travel and Meetings</b>	<b>\$5,600</b>	<b>\$399</b>	<b>\$5,600</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>-82.14%</b>
76600 Dues and Subscriptions	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$0	
77100 Supplies-Office	\$1,000	\$112	\$1,000	\$500	
77300 Postage	\$1,800	\$1,076	\$1,800	\$500	
77600 Printing	\$800	\$955	\$800	\$500	
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,800</b>	<b>\$2,143</b>	<b>\$3,800</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>-60.53%</b>
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$174,700</b>	<b>\$161,832</b>	<b>\$179,148</b>	<b>\$176,088</b>	<b>-1.71%</b>
58970 BOPHB Disability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
77700 Retiree Expenses	\$10,000	\$5,829	\$10,000	\$8,000	
58950 CRSP Supplement	\$12,000	\$13,051	\$15,000	\$15,000	
58900 CPP	\$705,500	\$644,999	\$705,500	\$650,000	
<b>Total Pension Expenses</b>	<b>\$727,500</b>	<b>\$663,879</b>	<b>\$730,500</b>	<b>\$673,000</b>	<b>-7.87%</b>
55000 Insurance-Medical Leave	\$52,000	\$63,156	\$73,944	\$71,064	
55100 Insurance-Supplement	\$35,342	\$25,206	\$32,000	\$28,000	
<b>Total Health Insurance Expenses</b>	<b>\$87,342</b>	<b>\$88,362</b>	<b>\$105,944</b>	<b>\$99,064</b>	<b>-6.49%</b>
78400 Actuarial Services Retiree Medical	\$16,000	\$11,500	\$16,000	\$16,000	
82405 Insurance-Retiree Current Year	\$340,000	\$303,802	\$340,000	\$320,000	
77450 Pcori Expense	\$700	\$522	\$700	\$600	
99900 Insurance-Retiree Med for New Entr	\$215,000	\$175,000	\$215,000	\$0	
<b>Total Retiree Health</b>	<b>\$571,700</b>	<b>\$490,824</b>	<b>\$571,700</b>	<b>\$336,600</b>	<b>-41.12%</b>
<b>Total Net Program and Events</b>	<b>\$1,561,242</b>	<b>\$1,404,897</b>	<b>\$1,587,292</b>	<b>\$1,284,752</b>	<b>-19.06%</b>

**LEGISLATIVE ITEM #7**  
**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**FROM: Council on Finance and Administration**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Council on Finance and Administration (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. The 2022 year end financial overview can be found in the [\*June 2023 North Texas Conference Journal on Page 378\*](#).

Overall, the conference remains in a very strong financial position despite the loss of 12% of our apportionment revenue through church disaffiliations. The conference carries a relatively low level of debt in relationship to its assets. The conference currently maintains a little over six months of reserves. A best practice for NFP organizations is to carry 3-6 months of operating reserves. The pensions remain fully funded on a funding basis. Our board chairs, conference directors and staff members have worked very hard the past few years to streamline tasks, share personnel and resources.

**2024 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 are set at the District Conferences which were held on November 18 and 19, 2023. 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 2024, several factors facing our local churches were considered including the continued financial impact of the pandemic and the rising cost of operations. The Treasurers of the North, Central, and North-west Texas Conferences have been meeting bi-monthly since April to work on a plan for the coming year. Each conference built a 12-month budget for 2024 knowing that we will be working toward a unified conference in 2025. We knew that in this “liminal” time between 2023 and 2025, it was important to not sacrifice all of the good work of the annual conferences because of the unknown. The effect target date of unification from a finance and benefits standpoint is January 1, 2025.

According to the NTC Standing Rule II.A.10, the District Superintendent base salary was evaluated. For 2021 and 2022 salaries were frozen. There was an increase in 2023. For 2024, the Council recommended, and the Annual Conference approved in June that the salary be frozen again. The base salary will remain \$127,009. Parsonages or a Housing Allowance are provided by the districts. Travel and other business expenses are reimbursed through an Accountable Reimbursement plan.

**North Texas Conference  
2024 Apportionment Budget**

Description	2022 Budget	2022 Actuals	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	% Change
<b>GENERAL CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENTS</b>					
World Service Fund	\$ 1,318,214	\$ 1,075,688	\$ 1,318,214	\$ 1,318,214	
MEF - Global	\$ 334,000	\$ 272,488	\$ 334,000	\$ 334,000	
MEF - North Texas Conference	\$ 111,231	\$ 116,054	\$ 111,231	\$ 111,231	
Black College Fund	\$ 177,599	\$ 144,924	\$ 177,599	\$ 177,599	
Africa University Fund	\$ 39,746	\$ 32,734	\$ 39,746	\$ 39,746	
Interdenominational Coop Fund	\$ 34,820	\$ 28,414	\$ 34,820	\$ 34,820	
General Administration Fund	\$ 156,527	\$ 127,729	\$ 156,527	\$ 156,527	
Episcopal Fund	\$ 582,067	\$ 582,067	\$ 582,067	\$ 582,067	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,754,204</b>	<b>\$ 2,380,098</b>	<b>\$ 2,754,204</b>	<b>\$ 2,754,204</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE</b>					
Lydia Patterson Institute	\$ 72,897	\$ 59,485	\$ 72,897	\$ 72,897	
Jurisdictional Administration	\$ 44,918	\$ 36,654	\$ 44,918	\$ 44,918	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 117,815</b>	<b>\$ 96,139</b>	<b>\$ 117,815</b>	<b>\$ 117,815</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,872,019</b>	<b>\$ 2,476,237</b>	<b>\$ 2,872,019</b>	<b>\$ 2,872,019</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>CENTER FOR CHURCH DEVELOPMENT</b>					
Staff	\$ 313,683	\$ 332,569	\$ 328,000	\$ 400,000	
Travel and Meetings	\$ 23,000	\$ 11,420	\$ 18,000	\$ 20,000	
Administration	\$ 12,050	\$ 6,290	\$ 11,000	\$ 8,550	
NFNS	\$ 141,500	\$ (1,885)	\$ 147,000	\$ 97,500	
Vitalization	\$ 63,800	\$ 22,286	\$ 44,650	\$ 35,000	
New Faith Communities	\$ 53,000	\$ 1,663	\$ 37,000	\$ 46,000	
New Campuses	\$ 488,500	\$ 364,534	\$ 465,500	\$ 409,500	
Planters	\$ 102,000	\$ 33,213	\$ 111,000	\$ 77,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,197,533</b>	<b>\$ 770,090</b>	<b>\$ 1,162,150</b>	<b>\$ 1,093,550</b>	<b>-5.90%</b>
<b>CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT</b>					
Staff	\$ 610,739	\$ 604,599	\$ 618,477	\$ 550,000	
Travel and Meetings	\$ 20,200	\$ 10,310	\$ 13,700	\$ 13,700	
Administration	\$ 11,350	\$ 13,189	\$ 11,850	\$ 11,350	
Board of Ministry (Professional Ministries)	\$ 52,150	\$ 21,113	\$ 50,450	\$ 50,450	
Board of Laity	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,308	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	
Faith & Leadership Formation	\$ 29,250	\$ 46,302	\$ 29,250	\$ 29,250	
Texas Methodist Colleges	\$ 50,000	\$ 40,801	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,000	
Effective & Fruitful Leaders Program	\$ 21,800	\$ (25,179)	\$ 15,000	\$ -	
Conflict Management	\$ 12,600	\$ 1,480	\$ 12,600	\$ 12,600	
Campus Ministries	\$ 537,777	\$ 504,105	\$ 535,777	\$ 535,777	
Equitable Compensation	\$ 50,832	\$ 22,277	\$ 51,594	\$ 51,594	
Intentional Interim Pastors	\$ 15,000	\$ 48,952	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	
Transitional Care for Clergy	\$ 35,000	\$ 17,104	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
Emerging Leadership Programs	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,749	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
Leadership Dev Standing Committee	\$ 1,000	\$ 131	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
Coaching Initiative	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,893	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	
Camping Ministries	\$ 373,050	\$ 298,701	\$ 383,050	\$ 383,050	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,851,748</b>	<b>\$ 1,624,835</b>	<b>\$ 1,833,748</b>	<b>\$ 1,714,771</b>	<b>-6.49%</b>



Description	2022 Budget	2022 Actuals	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	% Change
<b>CENTER FOR MISSIONAL OUTREACH</b>					
Staff	\$ 333,379	\$ 336,721	\$ 340,556	\$ 290,000	
Travel and Meeting	\$ 13,000	\$ 7,912	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,500	
Administration	\$ 114,873	\$ 8,450	\$ 82,696	\$ 5,020	
Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns	\$ 1,000	\$ 196	\$ 1,000	\$ 700	
Church & Society	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,199	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,200	
Ethnic Local Church Concerns	\$ 116,620	\$ 45,239	\$ 116,620	\$ 99,700	
Global Ministries	\$ 18,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 12,700	
Extension Ministries	\$ 47,500	\$ 47,624	\$ 47,500	\$ 42,500	
Ministry With	\$ 77,000	\$ 84,980	\$ 77,000	\$ 156,500	
Journey Towards Racial Justice	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,849	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,700	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 734,872</b>	<b>\$ 560,170</b>	<b>\$ 709,872</b>	<b>\$ 633,520</b>	<b>-10.76%</b>
<b>CENTER FOR CONNECTIONAL RESOURCES</b>					
Staff	\$ 561,900	\$ 584,600	\$ 561,900	\$ 585,000	
Travel and Meeting	\$ 22,500	\$ 16,374	\$ 22,500	\$ 17,500	
Administration	\$ 170,000	\$ 230,166	\$ 170,000	\$ 200,000	
Administrative Agencies	\$ 47,400	\$ 47,762	\$ 47,400	\$ 77,400	
Annual Conference	\$ 90,000	\$ 87,929	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	
Ministry Center Operations	\$ 197,000	\$ 188,781	\$ 197,000	\$ 210,000	
Ministry Center Debt Service	\$ 250,000	\$ 201,780	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	
Board of Pension & Health Benefits	\$ 1,561,242	\$ 1,054,897	\$ 1,587,292	\$ 1,284,752	-19.06%
Moving Fund	\$ 110,000	\$ 59,490	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,010,042</b>	<b>\$ 2,471,779</b>	<b>\$ 2,981,092</b>	<b>\$ 2,769,652</b>	<b>-7.09%</b>
<b>EPISCOPAL OFFICE</b>					
Area Office	\$ 65,000	\$ 43,263	\$ 65,000	\$ 55,000	
Episcopal Residence	\$ 42,000	\$ 44,169	\$ 42,000	\$ 17,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 107,000</b>	<b>\$ 87,432</b>	<b>\$ 107,000</b>	<b>\$ 72,000</b>	<b>-32.71%</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>					
Staff	\$ 296,005	\$ 295,848	\$ 308,662	\$ 311,000	
Administration	\$ 199,150	\$ 152,189	\$ 175,493	\$ 98,893	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 495,155</b>	<b>\$ 448,037</b>	<b>\$ 484,155</b>	<b>\$ 409,893</b>	<b>-15.34%</b>
<b>DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS</b>					
Administration	\$ 74,000	\$ 60,902	\$ 65,000	\$ 70,000	
Staff	\$ 532,480	\$ 533,039	\$ 550,691	\$ 550,691	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 606,480</b>	<b>\$ 593,941</b>	<b>\$ 615,691</b>	<b>\$ 620,691</b>	<b>0.81%</b>
<b>ANNUAL CONFERENCE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,002,830</b>	<b>\$ 6,556,284</b>	<b>\$ 7,893,708</b>	<b>\$ 7,314,077</b>	<b>-7.34%</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED APPORTIONED EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 10,874,849</b>	<b>\$ 9,032,521</b>	<b>\$ 10,765,727</b>	<b>\$ 10,186,096</b>	<b>-5.38%</b>

**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 2024. 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 Annual Conference budget will decrease by 7.4%.
4. The total budget will decrease by 5.4%.

**GUIDELINES FOR APPORTIONMENTS FOR LOCAL CHURCHES**

Knowing that most churches have not fully recovered to their pre-pandemic numbers, the Council voted to reduce apportionments by an additional 5%. This means that for 2024 the total apportioned revenue will be a reduction of 17% from 2023.

Each local church will have a flat 5% decrease in their conference apportionments from their 2023 calculated rate. Example: If your conference apportionment was \$1,000 in 2023, the amount for 2024 will be \$950. Final 2024 apportionment numbers will be distributed to churches by Friday, December 8, 2023.

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