

Love boldly.

Preliminary Workbook

Horizon Texas Annual Conference
May 31-June 3, 2026
Wichita Falls, TX



CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

htcumc.org

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Mission, Vision, and Priorities

Our Mission

The mission of the people, churches, and support organizations of the Horizon Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church is to **make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world**. This mission is our grace-filled response to the reign of God in the world, which is fully embodied in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and experienced today in the ongoing creation of a new people by the Holy Spirit.

Our Vision

We are followers of Jesus seeking the loving, just and free world God imagines for all people.

Our Strategic Priorities



Conference Information

AC26 T-SHIRTS

The HTC Annual Conference 2026 T-shirt is here! Featuring our logo on the front and the AC26 theme on the back, this shirt lets you show your HTC pride and “love boldly” everywhere you go. Whether or not you’re attending AC26, this shirt is for you. Wear it as a witness. Wear it as a reminder. Wear it as a declaration of the loving, just and free world God imagines for all people. HTC AC26 T-shirts are available to order now **through May 10** for **\$20** per shirt (plus shipping). All orders will print and ship after the May 10 closing date, with delivery expected in time for AC26.

Order yours today! <http://htcumc.org/ac26shirt>

REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2026 Horizon Texas Annual Conference meeting will be held in an in-person only format, **May 31-June 3, 2026**, at the **Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall at the Wichita Falls Multi-Purpose Event Center (MPEC)** (1000 5th Street, Wichita Falls, TX 76301). All lay and clergy members must register to participate and vote. Guests who will attend in person must also register. **Please register by May 13th** to allow adequate time for us to prepare. As always, everyone will be able to follow the proceedings via a live webcast regardless of registration. More details about the live webcast can be accessed by going to <https://www.htcumc.org/ac26>.

PRELIMINARY WORKBOOK

This preliminary workbook is available online at <https://www.htcumc.org/ac26>. Each member of the annual conference is responsible for downloading and/or printing their report. Many of the items that will be voted on will be lifted up at the district conferences for discussion and information. Please make every effort to participate in your district conference and talk with others from your church or district to better educate yourself to the matters to be discussed during the meeting of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference.

2026 DISTRICT CONFERENCES

District	Date	Location	Time
Mid-North	May 3	Whaley UMC (Gainesville)	3:00 – 5:00 pm
West	May 3	First UMC Mineral Wells	4:00 – 6:00 pm
Metro North	May 3	Aldersgate UMC (Carrollton)	3:00 – 5:00 pm
South	May 3	First UMC Belton	3:00 – 5:00 pm
Mid-South	May 3	First UMC Mexia	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Northwest #1	May 11	St. James (Abilene)	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Northwest #2	May 12	First UMC Lubbock	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Metro East	May 17	Northaven UMC (Dallas)	2:00 – 4:00 pm
East	May 17	First UMC Commerce	3:00 – 5:00 pm
Metro West	May 17	New Riverside UMC (Fort Worth)	3:00 – 5:00 pm
Mid-Central	May 17	First UMC Granbury	4:00 – 6:00 pm

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COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION: JUNE 2, 2026

The 2026 Service of Commissioning and Ordination will take place at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, June 2nd at the Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall at the Wichita Falls Multi-Purpose Event Center (1000 5th Street, Wichita Falls, TX 76301).

The service will be available via a live webcast for all others who wish to participate. Details are available at <https://www.htcumc.org/ac26>

CHILDCARE

Childcare will be available for children ages **six months through completed fifth grade** at **First UMC of Wichita Falls** (909 10th St). For your convenience, [a single registration form](#) may be used to register multiple children from the same family. **Pre-registration is required for all sessions** aside from opening worship and the service of commissioning and ordination.

Cost & Deadlines

Cost: \$25 per child per day during business sessions

Registration deadline: May 13, 2026

NURSING ROOM

There will be a nursing room available at the Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall at the MPEC in Room 6.

ACCESSIBILITY

The MPEC campus includes accessible parking and automatic doors. Handicap accessible parking is available at the Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall in the circle drive in front of the building and on the west side of the building. [Visit this website for more information.](#)

HOTELS

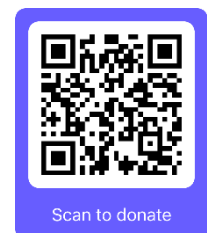
Please note that any hotel reservations needed must be made independently of registration. There are many suitable hotels available in Wichita Falls. As a courtesy, the annual conference has reserved hotel blocks at several different properties. Please make your reservation before May 13, 2026. Details can be found at <https://www.htcumc.org/ac26>. Wherever you stay, provide a signed copy of [this form](#) at check in to receive an exemption from some room taxes.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERINGS

Opening Worship Offering Supporting Camp Scholarships

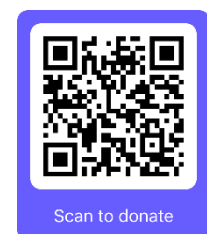
The special offering received during Opening Worship at Annual Conference 2026 will go toward Horizon Texas Conference Camp Scholarships. These scholarships support campers at all conference-sponsored camps — including Summer Camp, Bible Camp, Confirmation Camp, Midwinter and Winter Camp. Our goal is to ensure that cost is never a barrier for any of our campers to connect, collaborate and cultivate their faith in community.

- <https://donate.stripe.com/14AfZgfSG1nU2W39JdejK09>



Ordination Service Offering supporting the Miracle Sunday Initiative

The special offering received during the Service of Ordination and Commissioning will benefit The United Methodist Church's Miracle Sunday Initiative. This connection-wide effort supports a bold goal: endowing five hundred theological scholarships in perpetuity for emerging clergy leaders in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. As we celebrate those being ordained and commissioned in the Horizon Texas Conference, your generosity will help equip



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the next generation of leaders to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously around the world.

- <https://donate.stripe.com/8x2aEW8qec2y9kr3kPejK0a>

GIVING AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Electronic

You can use the links and QR codes above to donate online via Stripe:

1. You will receive a receipt via the email address you enter.
2. If you have any questions, please contact Scot Yarbrough (scotyarbrough@htcumc.org).

Check

Please include “AC26 Offering” in the memo line and drop off during a worship service or mail to:
Horizon Texas Conference
Attn. Sheila Hayes
PO Box 866128
Plano, TX 75086

CONFERENCE JOURNAL

The Horizon Texas Conference Journal will be available for distribution in the fall. The process for distributing the conference journal will be as follows:

- Free digital copies will be available for download at <https://www.htcumc.org/>
- Printed copies will be available for purchase from a third-party provider. Instructions will be provided at the website listed above.
- The 2025 Journal is available here: <https://www.htcumc.org/s/2025-Journal.pdf>

AFFINITY GROUP MEALS

In the annual conference registration, there are opportunities to register for various optional affinity group meals. **Pre-registration is required for each of these meals.** Note that there are no “general lunch” options. Instead, the concession stand will have lunch items available for purchase or members can travel offsite to any number of restaurants in the Wichita Falls community.

Sunday, May 31

Clergy Women’s Dinner

Sunday, May 31, 6:00 p.m.

Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall, Rooms 8-10

Cost: \$18

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Monday, June 1

Texas Wesleyan Univ. Breakfast Monday, June 1, 7:30 a.m. MPEC, Room 8-10 Cost: No Charge Alumni and Friends of Texas Wesleyan University, you are invited to attend a free breakfast to hear updates.	Deacons Lunch Monday, June 1, noon First UMC, Wichita Falls Cost: \$15
Duke Alumni Lunch Monday, June 1, noon First UMC, Wichita Falls Cost: \$15	Perkins Alumni Lunch Monday, June 1, noon First UMC, Wichita Falls Cost: \$15
Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors Monday, June 1, noon First UMC, Wichita Falls Cost: \$15	Retirees Lunch Monday, June 1, noon Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall, Rooms 8-10 Cost: No charge Open to retirees and spouses

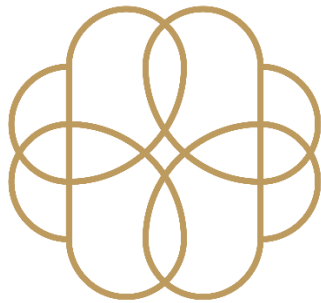
Tuesday, June 2

Town & Country Breakfast Tuesday, June 2, 7:00 a.m. First UMC, Wichita Falls Cost: \$20	Black Methodists for Church Renewal Lunch Tuesday, June 2, noon First UMC, Wichita Falls Cost: \$15
Voices for Justice Lunch Sponsored by Church and Society, United Women in Faith, and Methodist Foundation for Social Action Tuesday, June 2, noon Guest Speaker: Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Senior Pastor of Foundry United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C. MPEC Rooms 8-10 Cost: \$16	Clergy Spouses Tuesday, June 2, noon First UMC, Wichita Falls Cost: \$15
Evangelical Fellowship Lunch Tuesday, June 2, noon First UMC, Wichita Falls Cost: \$15	

Event Sponsors

Thank you to these organizations for donating funds to offset costs related to our meeting.

Thomas Coke & Francis Asbury Sponsorship (\$5,000)



**TEXAS
METHODIST
FOUNDATION**
STEWARDED POTENTIAL

Susanna Wesley Sponsorship (\$2,500)

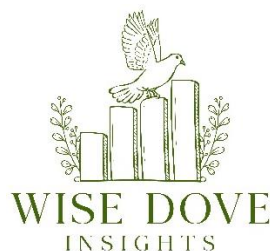


Methodist Children's Home
Offering Hope Since 1890

Charles Wesley Sponsorships (\$1,500)



Sponsorship (\$750)



Maps

Wichita Falls Multi-Purpose Event Center (MPEC)



Accessible Parking at the MPEC



Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall at the Wichita Falls Multi-Purpose Event Center (MPEC)



Delta Hotel Meeting Spaces



First Floor Plan

Transportation

Parking at the MPEC

The MPEC provides plenty of free parking, mostly to the west and south of the Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall.

Public Transportation

There are several ways to access Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall and the MPEC using public transportation. The main city bus station is located adjacent to the MPEC campus on the east side. This station is served by several bus routes. For more information, [please visit this website](#).

Disabled Placard Parking

Handicap accessible parking is available at the Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall in the circle drive in front of the building and on the west side of the building. [Visit this website for more information](#).

Biking

The MPEC is adjacent to an extensive system of bike trails in Wichita Falls. Just north of the MPEC a trail runs for several miles along the Wichita River. For more information, [visit this website](#).

Guest Preacher

BISHOP CONNIE SHELTON

RALEIGH EPISCOPAL AREA



Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton is the resident bishop of the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church where she encourages the 421 congregations to stay on mission. Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world is the mission that tethers us to the way of Jesus. Discipleship begins and ends in relationship with the Triune God and one another. Claiming Wesleyan theology and practice, Bishop Shelton envisions disciples joining God's transformational work of peace-building in every community as we love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

Bishop Shelton has served in a multiplicity of ministry contexts since her graduation from Duke University Divinity School in 1997. Her experience includes pastoral appointments in rural, urban, small, medium, and large membership churches in Mississippi. With a bachelor's degree in Radio, Television and Film, as well as a Masters Degree in Public Relations from The University of Southern MS, Shelton's appointment as executive director of The United Methodist Hour radio and television ministry of the Mississippi Conference equipped her for ongoing post-COVID video ministry. Her love for all dimensions of the church is expressed in her service as director of Field Education at Duke Divinity School, director of Connectional Ministries of the Mississippi Conference, and a District Superintendent. Shelton's Doctor of Ministry Degree from Columbia Theological Seminary sharpened her focus on generative ministry. Connecting, inspiring, collaborating, and discerning are values Bishop Shelton centers for the people called United Methodists.

Bishop Shelton is married to Rev. Dr. Joey Shelton, and they delight in their two young-adult daughters, Bailey (and husband Caleb) and Jessica.

Keynote Speaker

REV. DR. KENDA CREASY DEAN
PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Kenda Creasy Dean is an ordained United Methodist pastor and the Mary D. Synnott Professor of Youth, Church, and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary, where she works closely with the Institute for Youth Ministry and the Farminary. She currently serves as the senior strategist and principal investigator for three major PTS initiatives: the Polaris Young Adult Leadership Network (to support and connect young Christian leaders), the Ministry Collaboratory (to support congregations working with young adults), and the Teaching Spiritual Entrepreneurship Initiative (a 9-seminary initiative to create more entrepreneurial/creative faith leaders).

Kenda is the author of numerous books, including *Innovating for Love: Joining God's Expedition through Christian Social Innovation*, *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church*, and *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul-Tending in Youth Ministry* with Ron Foster and Megan DeWald (the 25th anniversary edition was updated and released in 2023). See full list below. A Buckeye by birth, Kenda hails from a long line of Ohio farmers and Kentucky coal miners, although she herself is a P.K.—a politician's kid. At 15 she attended a church missions camp on Lake Erie that pretty much changed everything.

Recently named the 2024 Distinguished Leader in Innovation by Wesleyan Impact Partners, Kenda co-founded Ministry Incubators in 2014 with fellow PTS alumnus Mark DeVries to support theologically-responsible innovation and sustainability in ministry. A graduate of Miami University (Ohio), Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington, DC), and Princeton Theological Seminary (New Jersey), Kenda has pastored churches in Arlington, VA, College Park, MD, and Kingston, NJ. She and her husband Kevin love hanging out with their hilarious grown kids and digging their toes in the sand on the Jersey shore.

Presiding Bishop

BISHOP RUBEN SAENZ JR.



Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. serves as the bishop of the Horizon Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church. Before this assignment, Saenz served as bishop of the Central and North Texas Conferences (2023), interim bishop of the Central Texas Conference (2022) and resident bishop of the Great Plains Conference (2016-2022).

As the episcopal leader in Kansas and Nebraska, Bishop Saenz notably led three former annual conferences to complete a unification process that began in 2014. Under his leadership, the Great Plains Conference embraced a unified vision grounded in four pillars: Love God. Proclaim Christ. Serve Others. Do Justice.

In 2023, he began similar unification work for the Central, North and Northwest Texas Annual Conferences, casting a vision and laying the groundwork for the Horizon Texas Conference, meant to harness and direct resources and efforts to reach a rapidly growing and diversifying mission field.

Before his election to the episcopacy, Saenz served as director of conference connectional ministries and executive director of the Rio Texas Conference's Mission Vitality Center, overseeing the conference's missional strategies and objectives for congregational vitality, new church starts, clergy and lay leadership vitality and community transformation. He also served as the Southwest Texas director of congregational and new church development, helping to start eleven new churches.

As a pastor, Saenz focused on intentional spiritual practice and formation, developing a lay apostolate and giving people the tools and encouragement to move out of generational poverty. He has served congregations in East Dallas, Dallas' Oak Cliff neighborhood, El Paso, and at Edinburg's El Buen Pastor, the largest Hispanic American United Methodist Church in the country during his tenure.

Saenz is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University and a South Texas native. Before his call to ministry, he worked as a high school teacher and football coach, as well as in the business world. He earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. He now serves on the boards of Perkins School of Theology, the Texas Methodist Foundation, and the Methodist Health System. Effective this April, Saenz will also serve as president of The United Methodist Council of Bishops.

Bishop Saenz and Mayé have been married since 1981. They have four children and eleven grandchildren.

Agenda

2026 HORIZON TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2026

RAY CLYMER EXHIBIT HALL
MULTI-PURPOSE EVENT CENTER
1000 5TH STREET, WICHITA FALLS, TX 76301

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr, Presiding
Bishop Connie Shelton, Guest Preacher
Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, Keynote Speaker
Dr. Kevin Walters, Conference Secretary

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

6:00 pm Check-In Tables Open (Ray Clymer Exhibit Hall (RCEH) Room 1)
Clergy Women's Dinner (RCEH Rooms 8-10)
7:00 pm Opening Worship (RCEH Exhibit Halls A&B)

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

8:00 am Check-In Tables Open (RCEH Room 1)
Childcare (First UMC, Wichita Falls)
Vendor Tables Open (RCEH Passageways)
8:30 am Laity Session (RCEH Exhibit Halls A&B)
8:45 am Clergy Session (Delta Hotel Outrider Ballroom)
10:30 am Transition/Break
11:00 am Memorial Service (RCEH Exhibit Halls A&B)
12:00 pm Lunch Break

BUSINESS SESSION 1

1:30 pm	Welcome and Prayer (RCEH Exhibit Halls A&B)	Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr
	Organization of the Conference	Marsha Middleton

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	Introduction of Consent Calendar	Andy Lewis
2:00 pm	Youth Address	Maddie Armes
	Young Adult Address	Laureen Kuizon
	Laity Address	Mike Jones
2:40 pm	Break	
3:00 pm	Honduras Report	Daniel Contreras
	Episcopal Address	Bishop Saenz
	Episcopacy Committee Report	Kim Simpson
3:40 pm	Announcements and Prayer	
3:50 pm	Recess to Toolbox Sessions & Petition Working Groups	
4:00 pm	Toolbox Sessions (RCEH and Delta Hotel)	
	Petition Working Groups (By Invitation; Delta Hotel)	
5:30 pm	Ordination Rehearsal (RCEH Exhibit Halls A&B)	
7:00 pm	Dessert Bar Social (RCEH Exhibit Halls A&B)	

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

BUSINESS SESSION 2

8:00 am	Check-In Tables Open (RCEH Room 1)	
	Childcare (First UMC, Wichita Falls)	
	Vendor Tables Open (RCEH Passageways)	
8:30 am	Welcome (RCEH Exhibit Halls A&B)	Bishop Saenz
	Prayer	
8:45 am	Keynote 1	Kenda Creasy Dean
10:00 am	Retiree Videos	
	Board of Ordained Ministry Report	Beth Evers
	Retiree Videos	
10:40 am	Break	
11:00 am	Combined HTC Directors Report	
	Retiree Videos	
11:45 am	Announcements	Kevin Walters
	Prayer	
12:00 pm	Lunch Break	

BUSINESS SESSION 3

1:30 pm	Welcome	
	Prayer	Carla Cardoza, LPI
1:45 pm	Deaconess Commissioning - Barbara Hills and Katie Pryor	
	Keynote 2	Kenda Creasy Dean
2:45 pm	Break	
3:05 pm	Awards	
	Leadership Gathering Report	Rachel Shipley Blackwell, Melissa Clay, & Chad Johnson
3:30 pm	Reports	
	Board of Trustees	Kelly Wade
	Board of Pensions & Health Benefits	Phil Bush
	Council on Finance & Administration	Gary Sult
	• Preliminary Budget Presentation	Jeffrey Pehl
4:10 pm	Legislation	
	Consent Calendar	Andy Lewis
	Nominations	Andy Lewis
	Petitions	
4:30 pm	Announcements	Kevin Walters
	Prayer	
	Recess	
7:00 pm	Ordination and Commissioning Service (RCEH Exhibit Halls A&B)	
8:30 pm	Reception honoring Ordinands and Commissionees (RCEH Exhibit Halls A&B)	

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

BUSINESS SESSION 4

8:00 am	Check-In Tables Open (RCEH Room 1)	
	Childcare (First UMC, Wichita Falls)	
	Vendor Tables Open (RCEH Passageways)	
8:30 am	Welcome and Prayer (RCEH Exhibit Halls A&B)	Bishop Saenz
8:45 am	Ordinand Videos	

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	General Board of Global Ministries Report	Dee Stickley-Miner
	Legislation & Petitions	
	• 2027 Budget	
10:30 am	Break	
10:50 am	Ordinand Videos	
	Legislation & Petitions	
11:30 am	Announcements	Kevin Walters
11:40 am	Closing Worship	Bishop Saenz
12:00 pm	Adjournment & Dismissal	

Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar will be presented as a whole so that 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.

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 remove one specific item from the consent calendar, the request must meet the following criteria:

1. A completed [request form](#) affirmed by five (5) voting members of the annual conference proposing the specific item be removed, and;
2. The request must be submitted to the conference secretary by noon on **Monday, June 1, 2026**.

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Voting and Parliamentary Information

VOTING ELIGIBILITY

Lay Members of the annual conference shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of ordained clergy, except those who are lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry. ¶602.6

Alternate Lay Members have all the privileges of the lay member only when the lay member is absent, and s/he is officially seated in the conference in his/her place. ¶602.7

Diaconal Ministers (DM; DR) are lay members of the annual conference (¶602.2, 6) and shall participate in all deliberations and vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of clergy.

Deaconesses and home missionaries (DC; RDS) are lay members who are entitled to vote unless the matter pertains to the clergy, such as ordination, reception into full membership or election of clergy delegates. ¶36, ¶602.4, ¶1913.5

Elders and Deacons in Full Connection (FE; FD; RD; RE) shall have the right to vote on all matters in the annual conference except in the election of lay delegates to the general and jurisdictional conferences and shall have sole responsibility for all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶602.1 (a)

Provisional Clergy Members (PE; PD) shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the general and jurisdictional Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Provisional clergy members who have completed all their educational requirements may vote to elect clergy delegates to general and jurisdictional conferences. ¶602.1 (b)

Associate Members (AM; RA) shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments and all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When associate members are members of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶602.1 (c)

Affiliate Members (AF) shall have the right to voice but not vote in the annual conference. ¶602.1 (c)

Full-time and Part-Time Local Pastors Under Appointment (FL; PL) shall have the right to vote in the annual conference on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of delegates to general and jurisdictional conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Local pastors who have completed course of study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election may vote to elect clergy delegates to general and jurisdictional conferences. Student Local Pastors (SL) *under appointment* have voice without vote. ¶602.1 (d)

Clergy Appointed Under ¶346.1 (Ordained Ministers from Other Annual Conferences and Other Methodist Denominations) (OA; OD; PDO; OE; PEO; OM; OP; OR) may be granted voice but not vote in the annual conference to which they are appointed.

Clergy Appointed Under ¶346.2 (Ministers from Other Denominations) (OF) are seated in the annual conference without vote, unless they have been "accorded all the rights and privileges of associate membership in the annual conference."

LANYARD COLORS

As They Relate to Voting

BLUE LANYARDS: *Designations: FD; FE; RD; RE*

Clergy members in full connection who are entitled to vote on all matters except for the election of lay delegates to the General and jurisdictional conferences. ¶35, ¶602.1 (a)

YELLOW LANYARDS: *Designations: AM; FL; PD; PE; PL; RA*

Provisional clergy members shall have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General and jurisdictional conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. Provisional clergy members who have completed all their educational requirements may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional conferences. ¶35, ¶327.2, ¶602.1 (b)

Associate clergy members shall have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When associate members are members of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶35, ¶602.1 (c), ¶635.1

Full-time and part-time local pastors shall have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. When local pastors are members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy (¶635.1). Local pastors who have completed course of study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional conferences ¶35, ¶602.1 (d), ¶635.1.

GREEN LANYARDS: *Designations: DC; DR; DM; HM*

Lay members shall vote upon all measures except on the granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of ordained ministers, except those who are lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry or the committee on investigation. ¶36, ¶602.6

Deaconesses, home missionaries, and diaconal ministers shall be seated at the sessions of the annual conference with voice and vote **as lay members** of the annual conference. ¶1913.5, ¶602.2

RED LANYARDS: *Designations: AF; OA; OD; OE; OF; OFD; OFE; OP; OR; OM; RL; SL; SY*

Student local pastors, retired local pastors (unappointed), affiliate clergy members, assigned lay supply, clergy from other annual conferences (¶346.1), **missionaries** assigned by the GBGM, and **certified lay missionaries** 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.

Clergy from other denominations appointed under ¶346.2 may have the right to vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General, jurisdictional conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy. ¶346.2

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DESIGNATIONS

As They Relate to Lanyard Colors & Voting

AF	Affiliate Clergy Member (§344.4)
AL	Administrative Location (§359)
AM	Associate Member (§§322, 369.1, 635.2h)
DC	Deaconess (§1913.5)
DM	Diaconal Minister (2004 <i>Discipline</i> ; §369.1)
DR	Retired Diaconal Minister (consecrated under 1992 or earlier <i>Discipline</i>) (§357)
FD	Deacon in Full Connection (§330)
FE	Elder in Full Connection (§335)
FL	Full Time Local Pastor (§318.1)
HL	Honorable Location (§359.1)
HM	Home Missioner (§1913.5)
HR	Honorable Location Retired (§359.3)
LM	Certified Lay Minister (§268)
OA	Associate Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)
OD	Deacon member of other Annual Conference (§§331, 346.1)
OE	Elder Member of other Annual Conference or other Methodist Denomination (§346.1)
OF	Full Member of Other Denomination (§346.2)
OFD	Full Connection Deacon of other Annual Conference
OFE	Full Connection Elder of other Annual Conference
OL	Local Pastors on Loan (§318.4)
OM	Other Methodist Denominations (§346.1)
OP	Provisional Member of other Annual Conference (§346.1)
OPD	Provisional Deacon of other Annual Conference
OPE	Provisional Elder of other Annual Conference
OR	Retired Member of other Annual Conference
ORD	Retired Deacon of other Annual Conference
ORE	Retired Elder of other Annual Conference
ORL	Retired Local Pastor of other Annual Conference
PD	Provisional Deacon (§§324, 325)
PE	Provisional Elder (§§324, 325)
PL	Part Time Local Pastor (§318.2)
RA	Retired Associate Member (§357)
RD	Retired Deacon in Full Connection (§357)
RE	Retired Full Elder (§357)
RL	Retired Local Pastor (§320.5, 327.7)
RP	Retired Provisional Member (§357) (prior to January 1, 2013)
SL	Student Local Pastor (§634)
SY	Assigned Lay Supply (not a <i>Disciplinary</i> code, used by GCFA for assigned people.)

PETITION WORKING GROUPS

Why do we need Petition Working Groups?

Petition working groups meet two difficult-to-balance needs: the need for focused conversation around and refinement of the resolutions presented to the annual conference, and the need for efficiency in our work as a gathered body. These working groups allow petition authors to meet with representative groups of annual conference members for deep discussion, perspective-sharing, and revision suggestions before the resolution is presented to the plenary session for voting. This process showed promising results in the North Texas legacy conference, leading to increased collegiality, understanding, and efficiency with regard to resolution work. We pray it will continue to do so for the unified Horizon Texas Conference.

What will be the makeup of the Petition Working Groups?

Each group will include two discussion leaders (convener and co-convener), the authors of the resolution(s) the working group is reviewing, and a mix of clergy and laity who represent a diversity of thought and voice. Together, they will discuss the resolution, suggesting amendments and refinements as needed.

Do Petition Working Groups replace discussion on the floor?

No. Authors will still bring their petitions to the floor. After they introduce their resolution, the convener of the petition working group that worked with that item will have time to present a brief report. The convener's report will summarize the general tenor of the working group's conversation; share comments for and against the petition, important questions raised, and how those questions were addressed; and share the working group's recommendation to the body on whether to accept or reject the petition.

When will the Petition Working Groups meet?

Petition working groups will meet on Monday, June 1 at 4-5 pm.

How can I join a Petition Working Group?

Any voting member of the annual conference can volunteer to participate in a Petition working group. If you'd like to participate, you'll be able to indicate your interest when you register for annual conference.

How will Petition Working Group members be selected?

The petition working groups advisory team will review the pool of interested attendees and build out petition working groups that represent a diversity of thought and experience.

I'm passionate about a particular petition. Can I request to work on that one?

Unfortunately, no. Our goal is for each of the petition working groups to look as much like our conference as possible. This means intentionally putting together a group of people representing our broad demographic, geographic, and cultural diversity, and doing so within a very short span of time. Taking petition preferences into account along with these other factors would make the process too complex to be completed before the start of annual conference. Technology may make this more feasible in coming years.

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PARLIAMENTARY MOTIONS GUIDE

Ranked Motions

Motion	Example Verbiage	Interrupt	Second	Debate	Amend	Vote	Reconsider
Privileged Motions							
Adjourn	"I move to adjourn."		S			M	
Recess	"I move that we recess for ten minutes."		S		A	M	
Raise a Question of Privilege	"I rise to a question of privilege. I don't think we are going to be able to hear unless some of the windows are closed."	I				*	
Call for the Orders of the Day	"I call for the orders of the day."	I				*	
Subsidiary Motions							
Lay on the Table	"I move to lay the question on the table."		S			M	R*
Previous Question	"I move the previous question."		S			2/3	R*
Limit or Extend Limits of Debate	"I move that debate be limited to one speech of five minutes for each member."		S		A	2/3	R*
Postpone to a Certain Time	"I move to postpone the motion until eleven o'clock tomorrow morning."		S	D	A	M	R*
Commit or Refer	"I move that the motion be referred to a committee to be appointed by the chair."		S	D	A	M	R
Amend	"I move to amend by striking out "Centennial" and inserting "First Year"		S	D	A	M	R
Postpone Indefinitely	"I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely."		S	D		M	R*
Main Motion	"I move that the Conference contribute \$100 to the Centennial Celebration."		S	D	A	M	R

Notes:

1. **Main Motion** is the lowest ranked motion.
2. The **Previous Question** motion ends debate.
3. The motion to **Call for the Orders of the Day** is moved when a member wants the assembly to follow the agenda. A two-thirds vote in the negative is required to not follow the agenda.

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Motion	Example Verbiage	Interrupt	Second	Debate	Amend	Vote	Reconsider
Incidental Motions (not ranked)							
Point of Order	"Point of Order."	I		*		*	
Appeal	"I appeal the decision of the chair."	I		D		M	R
Suspend the Rules	"I move to suspend the rules."		S			2/3	
Division of a question	"I move that we consider the recommendations in the committee's report separately."		*				
Parliamentary Inquiry	"I rise to a parliamentary inquiry."	I				N	
Request for Information	"I have a request for information."	I				N	
Division of the Assembly	"Division!" or "I doubt the result of the vote."	I				N	

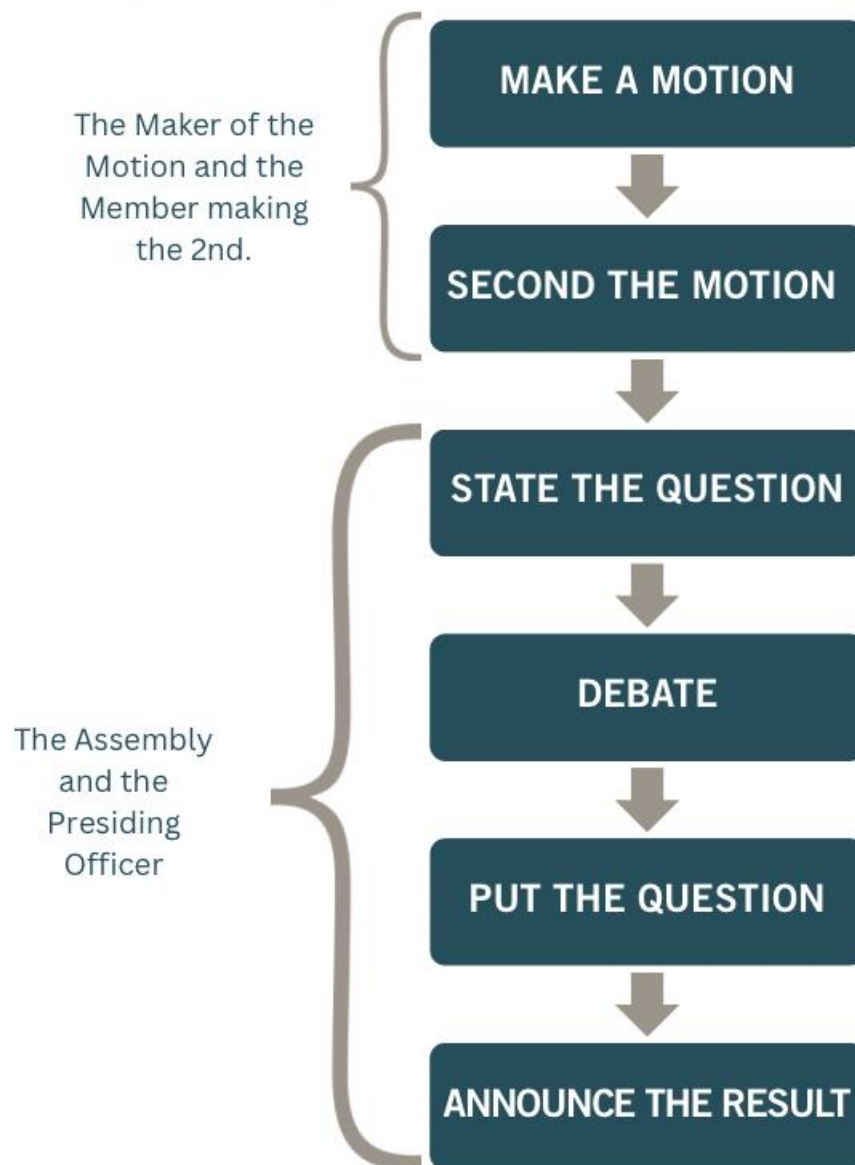
Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly							
Reconsider	"I move to reconsider the vote on the resolution to..."		S	D		M	
Rescind	"I move to rescind the motion relating to..."		S	D	A	2/3*	R
Take from the Table	"I move to take from the table the motion to..."		S			M	

Notes:

1. **Division of a question** can be processed on the demand of a single member if each recommendation can stand alone as a separate main motion. RONR (12th ed)
2. A **point of order** is not debatable but with the chair's consent, a member may be permitted to explain their point. A vote is not taken unless the chair is in doubt, or the chair's ruling is appealed. RONR (12th ed) 23:2 (5 & 7)
3. A vote on the motion to rescind is generally adopted by two-thirds vote but can be adopted by majority vote with certain requirements including but not limited to providing advanced notice. RONR (12th ed) 35:2 (6).

SIX STEPS OF HANDLING A MOTION

PARTICIPANTS



Notes:

1. Members shall use a microphone to seek recognition.
2. Committee reports do not require a second for consideration.
3. Once the motion has been stated by the chair it is in the hands of the assembly.
4. The motion to amend in its most basic form can be done by:
 - a. Inserting or adding a word or series of words
 - b. Striking out a word or series of words
 - c. Striking out and inserting a word or series of words
5. "Put the Question" means to put the question to a vote.

Legislative Items

General Items

ITEM 2026-01: LOCATION OF 2027 MEETING OF THE HTC

From: Lead Team

Action: Ratify Lead Team preliminary decision to hold the 2027 meeting of the HTC in Denton at the Denton Convention Center on Thursday, June 10 – Sunday, June 13, 2027.

ITEM 2026-02: OFFICE LOCATION AND PROPERTY

From: Board of Trustees

Action: Approve resolution

RESOLUTION REGARDING OFFICE LOCATION AND PROPERTY

Affirmed by vote of the Horizon Texas Conference Board of Trustees on February 19, 2026

Whereas, the Horizon Texas Annual Conference has previously authorized the sale of legacy Northwest Texas Annual Conference and North Texas Annual Conference office spaces; and

Whereas, the Property Location Committee of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference Board of Trustees studied the needs of current staff of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference and reviewed the availability of commercial office space; and

Whereas, based on its work, the Property Location Committee has made recommendations for the acquisition of new office space for the Horizon Texas Annual Conference; and

Whereas, the Horizon Texas Annual Conference Board of Trustees, the Bishop, and the Cabinet of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference have reviewed and approved the recommendations proposed by the Property Location Committee; it is therefore,

Resolved That the Horizon Texas Annual Conference directs and authorizes the Board of Trustees to act as follows:

1. The Horizon Texas Annual Conference Board of Trustees and the corporate officers of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference are hereby authorized under Book of Discipline ¶ 2515 to act in all manner as may be reasonably necessary to lease office space meeting the criteria described herein. This authority shall include, but not be limited to, engaging a broker to assist in the location of a suitable office space, execution of a property lease, and execution of any other documentation to support the execution of the property lease.
2. The leased space shall meet the following criteria pursuant to the recommendations of the Property Location Committee:
 - a. The space shall be within a range of 5,000 to 15,000 square feet in size.
 - b. The base rental cost shall not exceed \$40 per square foot per year (excluding electricity and other utilities).

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- c. The preferred lease term will be from 5 to 7 years, and in no event shall the lease term exceed 7 years.
- d. The recommended location of the space is within a 30-minute drive of the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport.

ITEM 2026-03: 2027 HTC PROPOSED BUDGET

From: Council on Finance and Administration

Action: Approve the 2027 budget for the Horizon Texas Annual Conference of the UMC:

The Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) recommends that the Annual Conference approve the following 2027 budget. Comparisons to the 2026 budget are included. Since HTC officially began operations on January 1, 2025, actual amounts are not yet available. Supplemental information is included to communicate how funds will be spent in 2027.

Budget Highlights

A key to the successful launch of the Horizon Texas Conference is a bold plan to be Christ in the world and focus on local church growth. After the initial HTC budget was passed at the Unifying Conference, the Conference staff committed to presenting a balanced budget for the 2027 year. Significant progress toward this goal was made in 2026, and we bring forth a balanced budget for 2027. Our budget assumes a 100% payout from the local churches to achieve this goal.

Apportionments and Connectional Giving. We also acknowledge the significant financial pressures in our local churches from higher property insurance rates and churches departing the legacy conferences. The 2026 budget eliminated capped reductions, and the 2027 budget continues to follow this approach. Approximately 48% of our churches will see a reduction in apportionments for 2027, compared with 70% in 2026. Any increases to a local church's apportionments from 2026 to 2027 are limited to 25%. Approximately 11.3% of our churches experienced an increase in apportionment of greater than 25%.

The apportionment formula multiplies the reported local church giving through ACStats (Lines 52a, 52b, 52c, and 52h) by the apportionment factor, which remains unchanged at 7.5% from 2025.

Non-apportioned Revenue. The Conference staff identified three outside sources of income: grant funding, fundraising, and earnings on funds. HTC began applying for grants to help accomplish the mission while using some of these grant funds to offset costs, such as salaries. Our camps and campus ministries continue to pursue fundraising activities to increase revenue. As presented in the 2026 Budget, the Conference identified earnings from restricted funds as available for the general (unrestricted) use of the Conference.

Expenses. The proposed budget's expenses increased by \$189K (thousand), or 1.28%, from the 2026 budget, driven by three primary factors. First, the Conference is introducing the Family Health Subsidy, which adds \$250K to the budget. Second, Conference staff salaries and benefits added \$483K, primarily due to a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment and 12% increase in healthcare premiums. Third, the General Church apportionments set by the General Council on Finance and Administration increased by \$364K. While this seems like a large increase, GCFA lowered the 2026 target amount. These increases were largely offset by 1) "surgical" reductions in planned expenses for the Strategic Priority Centers, and 2) continued use of restricted and designated funds. Also note that the General Church and Jurisdictional targets are paid at the same percentage rate as the local churches remit to the Conference.

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Proposed Budget

The simplified budget is presented below. While payout rates of 100%, 95%, and 90% are shown, the vote is for the budget amounts at the 100% payout rate. The other rates are shown for illustrative purposes only, to indicate potential outcomes. Also note an adjustment to the General Church and Jurisdictional payouts to reflect potential lower apportionment payments received from the local churches.

Income (in 000s)			
Source	100%	95%	90%
Connectional Giving/Apportionments	\$ 12,482	\$ 11,858	\$ 11,234
Restricted/Designated Funds	1,472	1,472	1,472
Grants/Fundraising	-	-	-
Earnings from Assets	2,552	2,552	2,552
Total Income	\$ 16,506	\$ 15,882	\$ 15,258

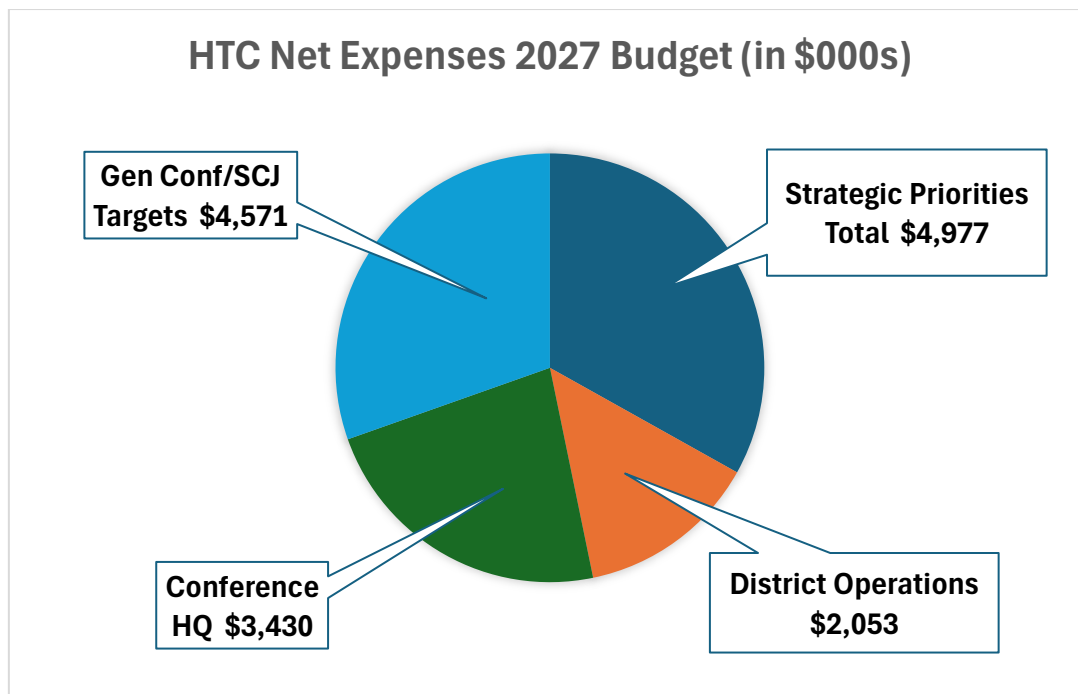
Expenses (in 000s)				
	Full 2027	Net 2027	2026	Change
Strategic Priorities Total	\$ 6,057	\$ 4,977	\$ 5,221	\$ (244)
District Operations	2,113	2,053	2,129	(76)
Conference HQ	3,762	3,430	3,283	147
Gen Conf/SCJ Targets	4,571	4,571	4,208	363
Total Expenses	\$ 16,503	\$ 15,031	\$ 14,841	\$ 190

Note: the "Full 2027" expenses are the entire projected expenses for the year. The "Net 2027" amount shows the total expenses after accounting for the use of restricted and designated funds. Hence, the use of restricted and designated funds for 2027 is \$1,472K.

Projected Gain or (Deficit) (in 000s)			
	100%	95%	90%
Total Income	\$ 16,506	\$ 15,882	\$ 15,258
Total Expenses	(16,503)	(16,503)	(16,503)
General Church Adjustment	-	229	457
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 3	\$ (392)	\$ (788)

Supplementary Information

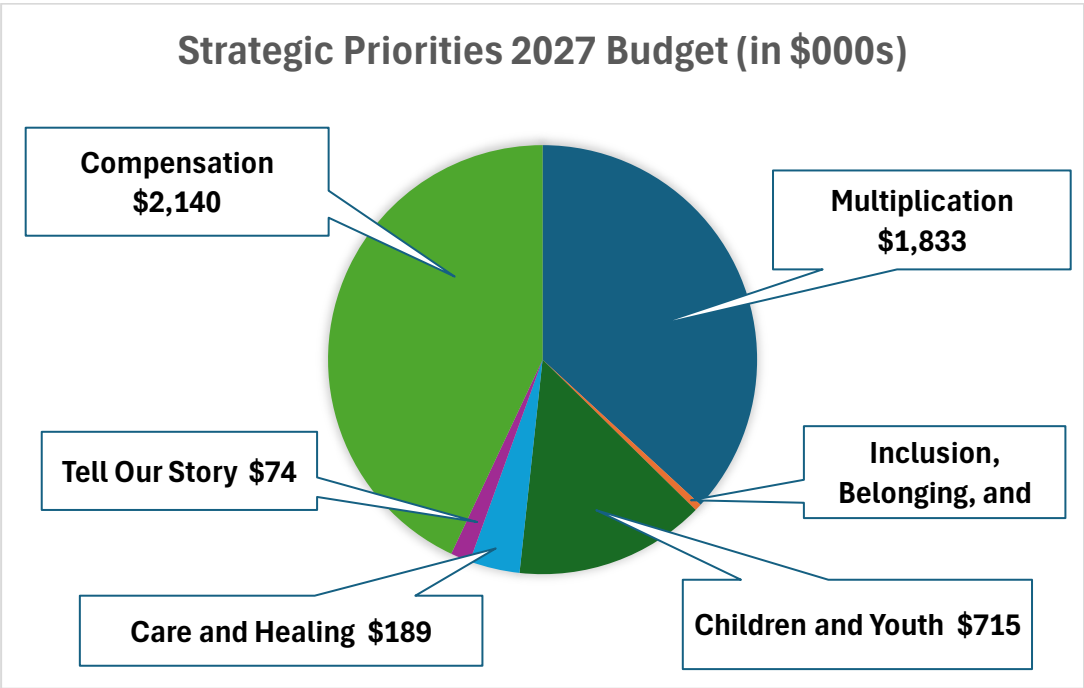
Unrestricted Cash Available for Operations (in \$000s)			
Source	2025	2026	2027
Begin Balance Unrestricted Cash	\$ 7,474	\$ 5,641	\$ 16,715
Annual Operational Gain/(Deficit)	(1,833)	(849)	(788)
CRSP DB Recharacterized	-	7,423	-
Conference Office Sales	-	4,500	-
Ending Balance Unrestricted Cash	\$ 5,641	\$ 16,715	\$ 15,927
<i>Unrestricted cash is used to cover the Conference's operational expenses. Without adequate cash, the Conference would be unable to pay its bills. Even with operational deficits forecasted at the 90% payout level, the Conference will have adequate unrestricted cash available for several years.</i>			



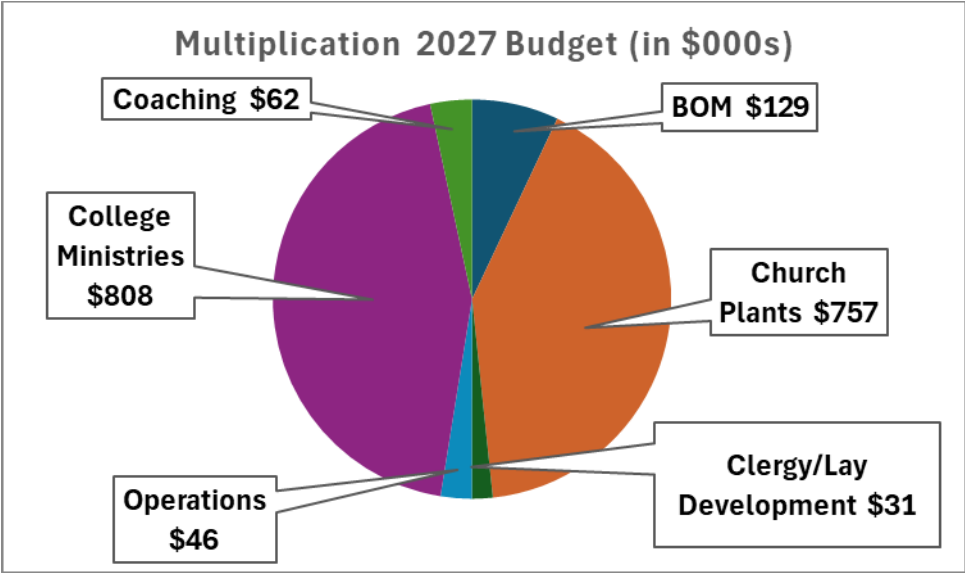
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Strategic Priorities Budget Summary			
Center	2025 Actual	2027	2026
Multiplication	\$ 2,076	\$ 1,833	\$ 2,134
Diversity, Cultural Engagement	19	26	122
Children and Youth	637	715	890
Care and Healing	150	189	210
Tell Our Story	53	74	78
Total Strategic Priorities Expenses	\$ 2,935	\$ 2,837	\$ 3,434
Note: the expenses shown are after using restricted and designated funds.			

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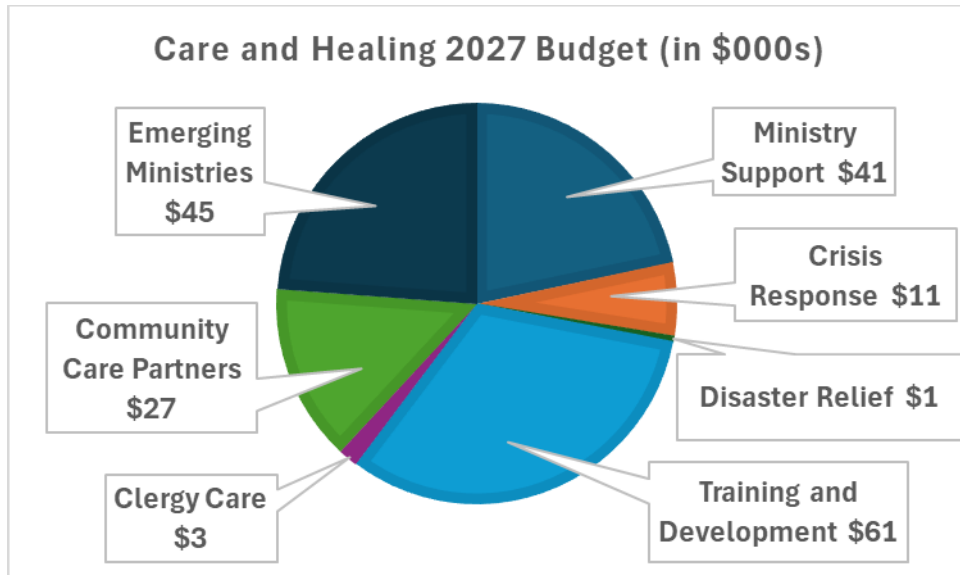


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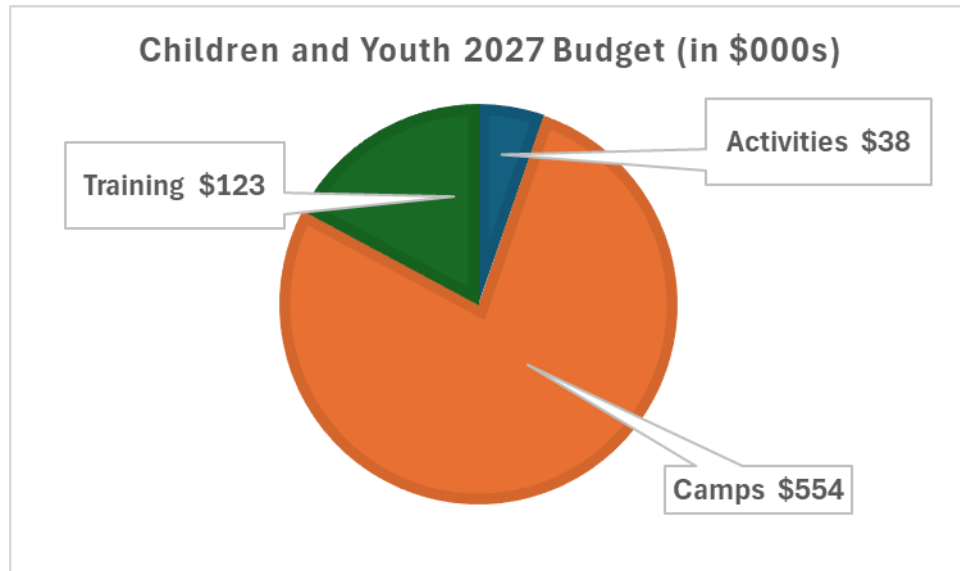


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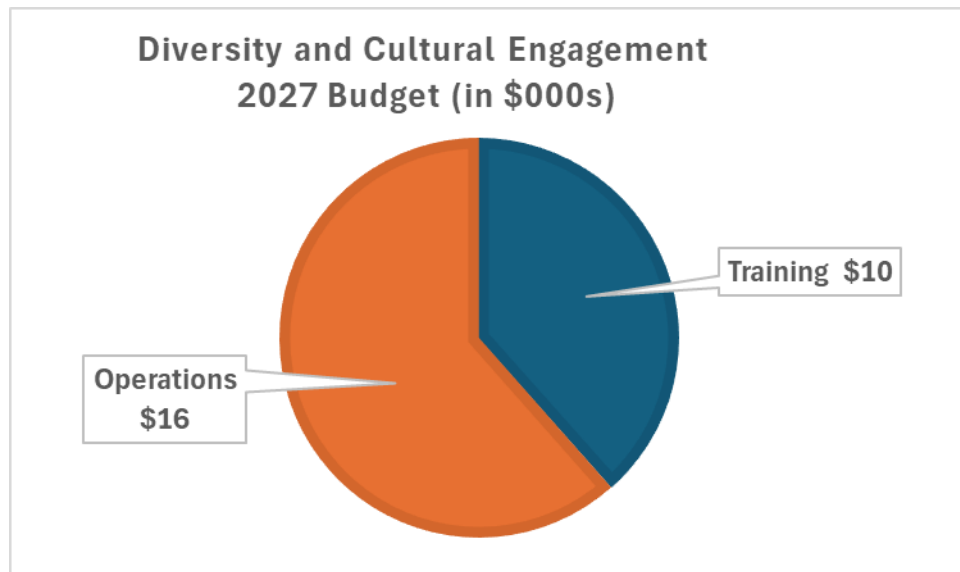
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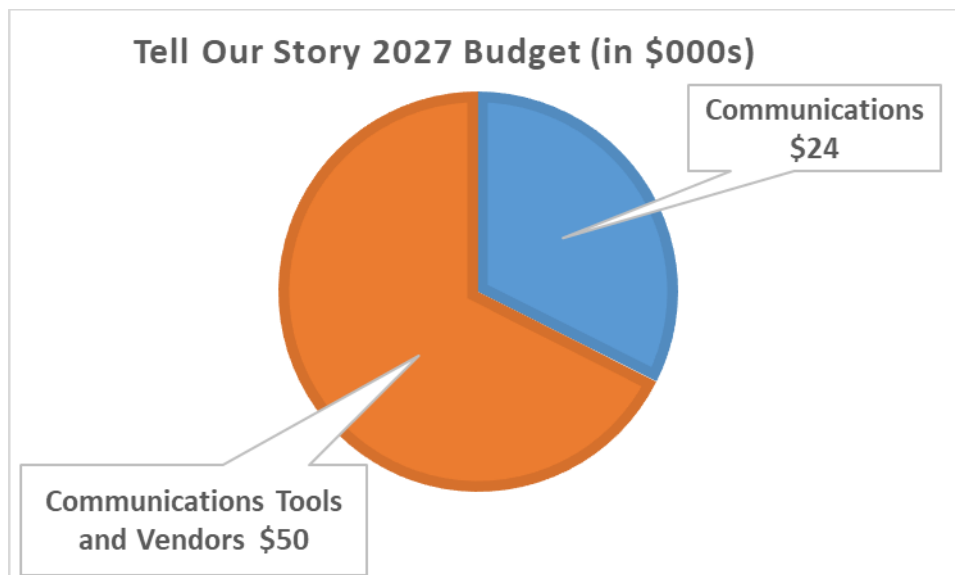


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ITEM 2026-04: HTC FINANCIAL POLICIES

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From: Council on Finance and Administration

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Action: Approve the HTC Financial Policies, which replace previously approved Legislative Item 2025-09: Business Practices and Expense Reimbursement Policies of The Horizon Texas Conference as recorded in the 2025 Journal.

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A. FINANCIAL PRACTICES

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1. **Conference Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the annual conference begins January 1 and runs through December 31.
2. **Apportionments made based on the Conference Fiscal Year.** The apportionments to the local churches shall be made based on the information provided during the conference's previous fiscal year.
3. **Conference Books.** The conference treasurer's accounting records ("books") for receiving and crediting apportionments for the previous conference fiscal year shall be closed annually at noon on the second Monday after January 1. Any apportionment payments received by the conference treasurer after this time will be applied toward the conference apportionments for the new year that has just started.
4. **Disposition of Interest Income and Earnings.** Interest and earnings on any funds, except as noted, managed by the conference treasurer shall be declared general funds of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference and administered by the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. Interest income and earnings will be directed to the areas specified by designated trusts, outside grants, and other similar documents.
5. **Contractual Obligations and Spending.** No center or group shall obligate the Horizon Texas Conference financially. The board of trustees granted the chief financial officer authority to obligate the Conference financially.

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All centers and groups receive a budget approved by the prior annual conference. The approved budget may not be exceeded in total. In some cases, centers and groups may have

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access to account balances that rolled over from the previous year(s). If a significant new project or program is needed that was not approved within the budget from the previous annual conference, it must be presented to the Lead Team and the Council on Finance and Administration for approval. New items must first be submitted to the Lead Team and, if approved, submitted to the Council on Finance and Administration for appraisal and consideration for the current year. No center or group shall include requests for funds other than those required for its operation or programs. Requests for funds for the same cause or concern shall be granted to only one center or group.

6. **Annual Conference Appeals.** When an application is submitted to the annual conference for the privilege of a conference-wide financial appeal, whether through special collections, campaigns, or other means, the application shall be referred to the Council on Finance and Administration before final action is taken. The Council on Finance and Administration shall investigate the application and its potential impact on the conference's other obligations and, based on the facts, make recommendations to the annual conference.

The bishop and the extended cabinet will recommend to the Council on Finance and Administration where offerings from the annual conference gathering will be directed. The Council on Finance and Administration will ratify or reject the suggestions prior to the annual conference's gathering.

7. **Auditing.** Every year, the Council on Finance and Administration shall nominate an auditing firm to audit the conference's financial statements. All institutions receiving financial support from the annual conference, either through direct apportionment or special offerings, shall, if requested, submit audited financial statements to the Council on Finance and Administration. The audited financial statements must reflect the receipt and disbursement of the financial support received from the annual conference. Such financial statements shall be provided to the Council on Finance and Administration by October 1 of each year for the previous fiscal year.

8. **Apportionments.** The conference treasurer, with the assistance of the district superintendents, shall annually compute the apportionment amount for each church. By September 1, the conference treasurer shall provide each church with its apportionment amount for the upcoming year.

9. **Ethical Fiscal Principles.** The following ethical principles apply to the appropriation and disbursement of funds by the annual conference:

a. **Restricted Funds.** Funds received for a specific purpose by the donor, grantor, or other entity must be used strictly for the purpose(s) as stated in the accompanying documents. Such funds are restricted and must be maintained and accounted for in a separate financial institution account(s). These restricted funds will be administered efficiently, without waste or duplication, to achieve maximum effectiveness from the use of available funds. Any interest or returns earned on restricted funds will be directed to the areas specified by designated trusts, outside grants, and other similar documents. If no direction of interest and returns are specified, the earned funds will be moved to the unrestricted funds available for approved budget items.

b. **Designated Funds.** The annual conference meeting may designate funds for a specific purpose through legislative action. Such funds may be kept with other unrestricted funds in the same financial institution account(s). When the specific purpose has been achieved, it will be reported to the annual conference. Any remaining funds may be undesignated through legislative action. Between annual conference meetings, the Lead Team may, as appropriate, designate funds for a specific purpose. Such funds may only be undesignated through legislative action of the annual

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conference. Designated funds remain available for the specified use at the beginning of a new fiscal year, unless otherwise stated in the legislative action.

- c. **Unrestricted Funds.** All other funds, those without a restricted or designated purpose, are unrestricted and available for use to pay the expenses and outlays of the Conference as approved in the annual budget passed by the annual conference.
- d. Net proceeds from the sale of annual conference property are considered capital funds and should be applied to the intended use for the original property. If this is not feasible or practical, priority should be given to the most similar purpose for which the funds can be used effectively or to capital improvements within a reasonable geographical proximity. District boundary lines should not be the primary consideration, and the entire community or metropolitan area should be considered. Likewise, funds received as indemnity for the loss or destruction of any capital assets of the annual conference should be treated as capital assets. They should be used for similar purposes if restoration of the property is feasible.

10. **District Superintendent's Salary.** The salary of a district superintendent shall be adjusted annually, informed by the average percentage change in the base compensation of full-time pastors appointed to serve local churches or in appointments for which the conference is responsible. The district superintendents' salary will be recommended by the personnel committee to the CF&A. Additionally, the compensation level is to be evaluated by the Council on Finance and Administration every five years in relation to the pastoral salaries of the Horizon Texas Conference and other annual conferences.

11. **Clergy Move and Retirement Dates.** The effective date for annual conference moves and clergy retirements is July 1. Thus, when a pastoral change is formally announced, the salary for the previous appointment shall be paid through June 30, and the salary for the new appointment shall begin on July 1. The official moving day for the annual conference's new appointments is the Thursday after the last Sunday in June. The first Sunday of the new appointment for affected clergy who are moving is the first Sunday in July.

ITEM 2026-05: MINIMUM NUMBER OF CHARTER MEMBERS

From: Cabinet

Action: Approve resolution

Resolved, That the Horizon Texas Conference, in accordance with *Discipline* ¶ 259.4, sets seventy-five as the minimum number of professing members required before a new church may be chartered, in addition to other parameters as set by the bishop and appointive cabinet to ensure vitality and sustainability.

ITEM 2026-06: AUDITOR FOR THE CONFERENCE ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

From: Council on Finance and Administration

Action: The Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolution:

Whereas, the Book of Discipline requires annual conferences to audit their financial statements annually;

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Whereas, the 2026 audit will be the first audited statements with year-to-year comparisons of the Horizon Texas Conference; and

Whereas, the proposed independent auditor for 2026 has audited the financial statements for two legacy conferences for several years, and is the auditor for the 2025 financial statements; it is therefore

Resolved, That Ratliff and Associates, P.C. is selected to audit the conference accounts and financial statements for 2026.

ITEM 2026-07: MOVING EXPENSES POLICY

From: Council on Finance and Administration

Action: The Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following policy:

Purpose: This document is intended to develop a comprehensive moving expenses policy for The Horizon Texas Conference. It lists guiding principles to remind us of our focus and priorities in making decisions. It also contains questions and issues to be resolved through discussion among the various stakeholders.

Guiding Principles:

1. The policy must balance cost effectiveness to the Conference (good stewardship) while minimizing the financial impact to the clergyperson and their families (caring for clergy). Under current IRS rules, moving expenses are taxable to the clergyperson, regardless of whether paid to the clergyperson or a third party (e.g., mover).
2. The policy should be streamlined by minimizing Conference decision-making and allowing those being moved to make time-sensitive decisions.
3. Exceptions outside of the baseline policy should be flexible and quickly addressed.
4. This policy remains in harmony with the Book of Discipline and other Horizon Texas Conference policies.

Moving expenses for eligible clergy and their families will be administered as follows:

1. Roles and Responsibilities:

- a. Treasurer:

- i. Establish and administer the Moving Fund with the approval of the Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A), LEAD Team, and Annual Conference.
- ii. Recommend the amount to be funded annually based on historical information and reasonable projections to the CF&A, as part of the budgeting process.
- iii. If available, ensure restricted funds are utilized before apportioned funds.
- iv. Update this policy regularly, including drafting legislation for review and recommendation by CF&A to the Annual Conference.
- v. Develop and implement the moving packet, procedures, and workflows through collaboration and coordination of affected groups.
- vi. Periodically review the IRS regulations related to moving expenses and make amendments to this policy and procedures, as necessary.

- b. Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A):

- i. Review, discuss, and amend changes to this policy, including proposed legislation, if necessary, to the Annual Conference.
- ii. Approve the maximum amounts for each category annually.
- iii. Review, approve, deny, or modify supplemental requests that exceed the limits stated in this policy.

- c. District Administrators (DAs)/Move Coordinator(s):

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- i. Forward the moving packet to the affected clergy as soon as practical, keeping in mind the sensitive nature of pastoral transitions.
 - ii. Answer questions from clergypersons related to moving expenses.
 - iii. Identify and forward to the Treasurer questions that cannot be answered, policy recommendations, and recommended changes to procedures.
 - iv. Process payment and reimbursement requests.
 - d. Clergypersons being moved:
 - i. Recall the vows of itineracy and have faith and hope in God's movement to utilize your gifts and graces in a new mission location.
 - ii. Familiarize yourself with the moving expense policy and procedures.
 - iii. Adhere to all instructions and due dates. Failure to comply with instructions or submit on time may result in unpaid expenses.
 - iv. Practice good stewardship by striving to keep costs within the set limits.
 - v. Understand that moving costs covered by the Conference, regardless of how they are paid, are taxable as income, and take any necessary steps to address the additional taxes owed.
 - vi. If departing a church-provided parsonage, ensure communication with the local church about the pending move, including dates, inspections, repairs, and cleaning.
 - vii. If seeking to delay the physical move, communicate with the DS and the receiving church so that all understand the circumstances and support the decision, before informing the Treasurer and DA/Move Coordinator.
 - e. District Superintendents/Appointive Cabinet:
 - i. When a pastoral transition is confirmed, inform the DAs/Moving Coordinator of the names of affected clergypersons to initiate the moving process.
 - ii. When a clergyperson is appointed and currently lives outside of The Horizon Texas Conference boundaries, notify the receiving church that they will be responsible for any costs exceeding the amounts defined in this policy.
 - f. Personnel Committee:
 - i. In hiring non-clergypersons for conference positions, determine if moving expenses will be reimbursed and to what amount, using this policy as a guide.
 - ii. Inform the Treasurer of the decision made regarding reimbursement for moving expenses.
2. General:
 - a. The Moving Fund shall assist in paying the moving expenses for household goods, office furniture, and equipment of itinerant clergy appointed to a pastoral charge, a conference staff position, or as district superintendent.
 - b. Under the Moving Expenses policy, three types of costs will be covered or reimbursed:
 - i. A Moving Stipend to cover the transportation of household goods and other moving-related costs (see below for specific details).
 - ii. Mileage reimbursement and per diem for visiting the new mission field and movement of vehicles to the new domicile (see below).
 - iii. A supplemental moving grant may be requested to cover additional moving costs (see below).
 - c. The Treasurer and Stewardship Team shall follow the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) regulations in issuing the proper tax forms to those who move.
 - i. The moving funds either issued to a clergyperson or paid directly to a third party are taxable income and will be reported as such to the IRS.
 - ii. The clergyperson is responsible for reporting the moving costs as taxable income and paying any related Federal or State income taxes. Funds paid directly to a clergyperson or a third party related to a move will be reported on Form 1099.

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- d. The Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) shall establish the moving stipend and supplemental grant maximums by January 31 for the upcoming appointment cycle. If CF&A does issue new maximum amounts by this date, the previous amounts will remain in effect until the rates are updated.
 - e. Under special circumstances, an eligible clergyperson receiving a new appointment may delay their move for up to one year. If the District Superintendent agrees with the delay, the Conference Treasurer has the authority to approve covering the costs of a delayed move. If approved by the Treasurer, the funding limits of the current move cycle will apply. Reasons for a delayed move include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Housing availability, such as significant repairs or remodeling needed for the parsonage of the receiving church, finding suitable housing, and difficulty in selling their current primary residence.
 - ii. Family-related issues, such as children completing high school, employment-related issues for a family member, or caring for a family member.
 - f. Eligible clergypersons may submit requests for a supplemental moving grant to cover additional expenses. The Treasurer can approve such requests up to the limit specified in this policy. A request for reimbursement for a higher amount must be approved by the Treasurer, the DS, and the chair of the CF&A.
 - g. If the Conference holds restricted funds related to clergy relocations, those should be utilized before using apportioned funds.
3. Eligibility:
- a. Clergypersons receiving a new appointment included in this provision shall include full members, provisional members, associate members, local pastors, seminary students appointed to a local charge, one move of a retiring clergy person to his/her retirement residence, and those under disability leave.
 - b. Clergy couples under Horizon Texas Conference appointments are eligible for higher moving amounts:
 - i. Those living in the same residence will be allowed an increase of 25% for the moving stipend.
 - ii. Those living in two parsonages will be allowed an increase of 100% for the moving stipend.
 - iii. All other moving costs or reimbursements remain at the same level.
 - iv. The approval thresholds for clergy couple moves are the same as an individual clergyperson move.
 - c. Clergypersons with a disability are eligible for the benefits of this moving policy and potentially receive a supplemental grant.
 - i. Disabled clergypersons receiving a new appointment may request a supplemental grant.
 - ii. Clergypersons serving under an appointment while becoming disabled and still being able to serve in their appointment may request a supplemental grant.
 - iii. Clergypersons serving under an appointment who become disabled and can no longer serve, but are not eligible for retirement, may request a supplemental grant.
 - d. Retiring clergypersons are eligible to receive the following benefits:
 - i. A retiring clergyperson may receive up to \$5,000 in reimbursement for their moving stipend.
 - ii. Retiring clergypersons are not eligible to receive the mileage reimbursement and per diem amounts for visiting their retirement location. They remain eligible for mileage reimbursement for relocating vehicles to their retirement location, provided the total moving costs do not exceed the \$5,000 limit.
 - iii. Clergy couples are eligible for one retirement move. If, at the retirement of the first clergyperson, they reside in a church parsonage and relocate to the spouse's

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- 1 residence, the move will be reimbursed and not considered a retirement move. If
2 the retiring clergyperson moves to a retirement location, the relocation costs will
3 be covered as described in this policy. The spouse will not be eligible for a future
4 retirement move.
- 5 iv. Retiring clergypersons must complete their retirement move within 60 days of
6 their effective retirement date in order to receive reimbursement or have their
7 expenses covered.
- 8 e. If a clergyperson in retired status is required to move their primary residence to accept
9 an appointment within The Horizon Texas Annual Conference, they are entitled to the
10 same moving benefits defined in this policy as active clergy.
- 11 i. If a clergyperson takes retirement and accepts an appointment immediately
12 following their retirement date, the retirement move is considered delayed.
- 13 ii. In this situation, the clergyperson may claim their retirement move after their final
14 appointment. They must follow the rules and limits of the retirement move that
15 will be in effect at that time.
- 16 f. Clergypersons under suspension or clergy leaving an appointment in The Horizon Texas
17 Annual Conference for leave of absence, honorable location, a non-Conference
18 responsible extension ministry, and transfer to another conference or denomination will
19 not be eligible for any moving benefits defined in this policy.
- 20 g. Clergypersons moving into the Horizon Texas Annual Conference, and under an
21 appointment as described above, are eligible to receive all the benefits of this moving
22 policy. However, if the total moving costs exceed the benefits allowed in this policy, the
23 District Superintendent will work with the receiving church to cover any additional costs.
- 24 h. Some Districts in The Horizon Texas Annual Conference maintain a district parsonage,
25 and some do not. District Superintendents appointed where a parsonage is provided are
26 entitled to the moving benefits defined in this policy.
- 27 i. If a District Superintendent is appointed to a district without a parsonage, they
28 will receive a housing allowance as determined by the Personnel Committee and
29 stated in their hiring letter and compensation form.
- 30 ii. If a District Superintendent is appointed to a district with a parsonage, and they
31 decline to occupy the parsonage as their primary residence, they will not be
32 entitled to receive the housing allowance established for District
33 Superintendents.
- 34 i. Clergypersons receiving an appointment which includes an extension ministry (non-
35 Conference sponsored) must be appointed at least 50% to a local church(es) to be eligible
36 for the moving benefits described in this policy.
- 37 j. Clergypersons appointed to a Conference staff position will be eligible for all the moving
38 benefits described in this policy.
- 39 k. For clergypersons not living in a parsonage and receiving a new appointment that does
40 not offer a parsonage, a distance or travel time test must be met to be eligible for the
41 benefits of the moving policy.
- 42 i. If the new appointment is twenty-five miles or greater from the clergyperson's
43 residence, they would be eligible for all the benefits of this policy. The distance
44 must be documented from a source such as MapQuest, the Maps app, or Google
45 Maps. The distance must be the shortest and most efficient route.
- 46 ii. If the new appointment is less than 25 miles from the clergyperson's residence,
47 and their commuting time is regularly more than 60 minutes one-way, then they
48 would be eligible for all the benefits of this policy. The commuting time must be
49 documented using a source such as the Maps app, Google Maps, or a similar tool
50 that shows the projected or actual time taken to drive the most direct and efficient
51 route. The new residence must significantly reduce the commuting time as
52 documented by a source described above.

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- 1 l. When a clergyperson dies while under appointment to a local charge, conference staff
2 position, or as a district superintendent, the surviving spouse and/or dependents may
3 have their moving costs paid by the Conference within the provisions of this policy. If no
4 spouse or dependents are living with the clergy person at the time of their death, a move
5 may be provided in accordance with this policy within 90 days after the clergyperson's
6 death. A Form-1099 will be issued in the name of the surviving spouse for that tax year.
7 m. Non-clergy hired to work in the Conference office are not eligible for moving expense
8 reimbursement unless approved by the Personnel Committee as part of their
9 compensation and offer letter.
10 n. If a clergyperson receives a new appointment and owns their primary residence, and
11 sustains significant financial hardship, they may request a supplemental grant to cover
12 some costs. See below for details.
- 13 4. Moving Stipend:
- 14 a. The maximum allowable expense for the moving stipend for the 2026 move cycle is
15 \$8,000. The moving stipend includes the costs of the physical relocation and ancillary
16 costs, such as packing and cleaning supplies. Estimates for the moving company to be
17 used must be submitted and approved prior to the move. When submitting a request for
18 reimbursement or payment, receipts must be provided. There are four levels of approval
19 amounts:
- 20 i. If the move bid is \$3,500 or less, only one bid is required. The clergy person may
21 seek more than one bid. The DA/Move Coordinator will determine the approval.
22 ii. If the bid is greater than \$3,500, at least two bids must be submitted. The lower
23 bid will be the approved amount for the moving stipend. The DA/Move Coordinator
24 will determine the approval up to \$6,000.
25 iii. Moving bids between \$6,000 and \$8,000 will be reviewed and determined by the
26 Treasurer.
27 iv. All moving bids greater than \$8,000 shall be reviewed by the Treasurer and the
28 receiving District Superintendent and forwarded to CF&A for a determination.
- 29 b. The types of expenses permitted under this section include packing materials, packing
30 services, cleaning products, cleaning services, and other items necessary to prepare for
31 a relocation and leave the departing residence in an acceptable condition. Individuals
32 departing a parsonage should ensure that it is in an acceptable condition for the incoming
33 clergyperson. It is highly recommended that the departing clergyperson communicate
34 with the appropriate group or subgroup of the local church to ensure the parsonage is left
35 in an acceptable condition. Also included are the costs for packing, loading, short-term
36 storage, relocation (physical driving), and unloading of the household goods, office
37 equipment, and other items within the domicile and the pastor's office.
- 38 c. The total amount for these expenses should be relatively minor compared to the cost of
39 the mover. There is no specific limit on these expenses; however, they are included as
40 part of the moving stipend when determining the maximum moving cost limit stated
41 above, or \$8,000.
- 42 d. Items not covered under this section include tips and gratuities, and separate, specialized
43 moving services for musical instruments, boats, and other items. Refer to the
44 Supplemental Grant section for information about potential reimbursement for some
45 specialized items.
- 46 e. Receipts must be submitted, or if direct payment is made to the vendor(s), arrangements
47 must be made with the DA/Move Coordinator.
- 48 5. Mileage and Per Diem Reimbursement:
- 49 a. Those clergypersons eligible for moving expenses are also eligible for mileage and per
50 diem reimbursement. Expenses covered include the introductory visit to the receiving
51 church, a house-hunting trip, and the relocation of a personally owned vehicle(s) to the
52 new appointment.

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- i. Round-trip mileage for the introductory meeting for a new appointment may be reimbursed. If overnight accommodations are necessary, they shall be reimbursed for a single night. To minimize costs to the Conference, the clergyperson is encouraged to combine the introductory meeting with the house-hunting trip (discussed below).
 - ii. If a new appointment requires physical relocation and there is no church-provided parsonage, the clergyperson may claim expenses for a house-hunting trip. Allowable expenses include: 1) mileage reimbursement to the area and driving around looking at potential residences; 2) lodging expenses for two nights; and 3) meals for up to three days.
 - iii. Clergypersons may request mileage from their current residence to their new residence as part of the move. Mileage requested may be for up to two vehicles.
 - b. Retired clergy and seminary students returning to take an appointment are eligible for mileage reimbursement, and the lodging and meal per diem.
 - c. The mileage reimbursement rate follows the rates set by the Internal Revenue Service. The lodging and meal per diem rates allowed are set by the General Services Administration. Note that the meal per diem rate for the first and last days of travel is 75% of the regular daily rate.
6. Supplemental Grant:
 - a. The purpose of a supplemental grant is to provide financial relief related to an appointment relocation to minimize the out-of-pocket costs to clergypersons. Note: supplemental grants are subject to review and approval and may be denied. The Treasurer has the authority to approve grants up to \$3,000. Requests for higher amounts shall be referred to the CF&A for review and consideration.
 - b. Breaking leases. When a clergyperson rents or leases their home, they may need to pay fees if departing before the end of the contractual term. Clergypersons should seek to minimize costs:
 - i. Communicate with the lessor to see if the fees can be reduced or waived.
 - ii. Consider commuting to the new location if feasible for a period of time.
 - iii. Determine if the property can be subleased or a new renter substituted.
 - iv. Unused amounts for the Transportation of Household Goods and the Moving Stipend cannot be applied toward this purpose.
 - v. A narrative explaining the situation with cost estimates must be included.
 - c. Moving unique items. Individuals may have unique items that cannot be easily relocated and require the use of specialty movers. Examples include musical instruments such as pianos, or trailers for automobiles and boats.
 - i. To be eligible to receive a supplemental grant, the items being moved must be directly and significantly related to their ministry. For example, suppose a clergyperson is a music minister who uses a piano at home to rehearse for worship services. The piano is directly and significantly related to their ministry and would be eligible to receive the supplemental grant to use a specialized mover. Similarly, suppose a clergyperson owned a piano and wanted to use a specialized mover, but they play for the congregation a few times a year. In this situation, the piano's use is not directly and significantly related to their ministry, and they would not be eligible for the supplemental grant.
 - ii. Unused amounts for the Transportation of Household Goods can be applied toward this purpose, even if not directly and significantly related to the clergyperson's ministry.
 - iii. A narrative explaining the situation with cost estimates must be included.
 - d. Difficulty in Selling a Residence. In rare instances, a clergyperson receiving a new appointment may need to sell their residence, which could result in a significant financial hardship. Any such transaction must be a sale to an unrelated third party.

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- i. A financial hardship in selling a personal residence occurs when the seller incurs additional costs or losses that exceed the amount owed on the primary mortgage. For example, selling a residence at fair market value and still owing money on the primary mortgage.
 - ii. Purchasing a new residence and maintaining two mortgages is not considered a financial hardship. Nor is selling the current residence for an amount less than paid, but higher than the amount owed on the primary mortgage.
 - iii. Unused amounts for the Transportation of Household Goods cannot be applied toward this purpose.
 - iv. A narrative explaining the situation with cost estimates must be included.
 - v. All requests for this type of assistance, regardless of the amount, shall be referred to the CF&A for review and consideration.
 - e. Disabled Clergy. Pastors with a disability status moving to a new appointment are eligible to receive a supplemental grant, in addition to other moving costs and reimbursements, at the time of relocation of their primary residence, including church-owned parsonages. The supplemental grant is intended to assist the clergyperson in covering some of the costs associated with modifying their new residence, such as installing entrance ramps, wide-swinging doors, bathing facilities, specialized lights, and motion detectors. This grant is also available to disabled clergy persons relocating out of The Horizon Texas Conference. The maximum amount of this supplemental grant is \$3,000. The individual may submit a request for a higher amount, which will be submitted to the Treasurer and forwarded to the CF&A for consideration.
7. Procedures/High-Level Workflow:
- a. DS informs the clergyperson of the new appointment, then notifies the DA/Move Coordinator.
 - b. The DA/Move Coordinator contacts the newly appointed clergyperson, providing them with the link to the online Clergy Move Intake Form. Once eligibility is determined, clergy will receive an email with the moving policy and further instructions.
 - c. The clergyperson will submit the required information using the appropriate online forms to submit receipts and reimbursement requests. The clergyperson will also provide the DA/Move Coordinator with any vendor's contact information if the Conference is paying the vendor directly.
 - d. The DA/Move Coordinator processes payment requests and reimbursements following the current standard process. Reimbursements over the limits stated in the policy must be forwarded to the Treasurer for approval or additional action.
 - e. The Treasurer will bill the clergyperson for costs paid by the Conference exceeding the limits approved. If an arrangement is made where the local church agrees to cover the additional costs, the church will be billed.

Summary of Maximum Eligible Moving Amounts¹

<u>Eligibility</u>	<u>Moving Stipend</u>	<u>Miles and Per Diem</u>	<u>Supplemental</u>
Clergyperson	Up to \$3,500, one bid, plus receipts; Up to \$6,000, two bids, plus receipts; >\$6,000 and <\$8,000, two bids, plus receipts, approved by the Treasurer Over \$8,000, two bids, CF&A decision	Mileage: YES Per Diem: Yes, if needing to purchase a residence	\$3,000 limit for the Treasurer Higher amounts referred to CF&A
Clergy Couple	125% if the same residence 200% if different residences	Mileage: YES Per Diem: Yes, if needing to purchase a residence	\$3,000 limit for the Treasurer Higher amounts referred to CF&A
Clergypersons with a disability	Same as a clergyperson	Same as a clergyperson	\$3,000 limit for the Treasurer Higher amounts referred to CF&A
Retiring clergy vacating a parsonage	Same as a clergyperson	Same as a clergyperson	\$3,000 limit for the Treasurer Higher amounts referred to CF&A
Retiring clergy who own a residence	Same as a clergyperson, but the move must be completed within 60 days of the retirement date.	Same as a clergyperson; miles limited to XX	Not Applicable
Retired clergy accepting an appointment	Same as a clergyperson	Same as a clergyperson	
Taxable?	Yes. Reported by 1099.	Yes. Reported by 1099.	Yes. Reported by 1099.

ITEM 2026-08: DE-DESIGNATING THE EARNINGS FROM THE OVERFUNDED PORTION OF THE RETIREE MEDICAL ACCOUNT FOR UNRESTRICTED USE BY THE CONFERENCE AND TO FUND FAMILY HEALTH SUBSIDY

From: Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, with concurrence from Council on Finance and Administration

Action: The Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolution:

Whereas, the Horizon Texas Conference seeks to utilize funding sources besides apportionments and connectional giving to minimize and eliminate deficits; and

¹ If the information in this table does not agree with the text of the document, the text of the document takes precedence.

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Whereas, the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits has reviewed the actuarial report stating the Expected Postretirement Benefit Obligation for retiree medical expenses as of December 31, 2025, is \$14,946,695, and the amount of assets in the HTC Retiree Medical Reserve based on the most recently issued valuation Report, totaled \$54,913,667; it is therefore

Resolved, That the portion of the earnings (and only the earnings) in calendar years 2027, 2028, and 2029 that are attributable to amount held in the Retiree Medical Reserve Account as of December 31 in each of the respective preceding years that exceeds 140% of the Expected Postretirement Benefit Obligation, as reported in the Retiree Medical Annual Valuation Report shall be designated (the “Threshold Earnings Amount”) as unrestricted funds of the Conference for use by the HTC Council on Finance and Administration, Cabinet, Board of Trustees, and officers according to The Book of Discipline, and as approved by the 2026 Horizon Texas Annual Conference; and be it further,

Resolved, That the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits shall have the authority to adjust the Threshold Earnings Amount each year, based on factors such as significant changes in the Expected Postretirement Benefit Obligation, the market value of the portfolio, projected economic factors, and other relevant considerations; and be it further,

Resolved, That the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits directs that a portion of the unrestricted earnings generated by this legislation be applied to the Family Health Subsidy each year, as determined by the Board. For 2027, the maximum amount to be directed to the Family Health Subsidy is \$250,000. The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits may adjust the amount of the Family Health Subsidy for calendar years 2028 and 2029 in a prudent and sustainable manner.

ITEM 2026-09: CLERGY FAMILY ASSISTANCE FOR HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

From: Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

Action: The Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the “Conference”) hereby adopts the following resolutions:

Whereas, the Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the “Conference”) tasked the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits (the “BOPHB”) to address the affordability of healthcare coverage for clergy families; and

Whereas, the BOPHB formed a subcommittee of representative members of the Conference to address this issue; and

Whereas, the BOPHB’s subcommittee recommended that financial assistance to clergy families be based on a clergy compensation falling below a threshold percentage of minimum base salary; and

Whereas, the BOPHB has determined that a portion of the earnings (and only the earnings) in each of the three-year period commencing in 2027 from the BOPHB Retiree Medical Account can be used to fund financial assistance to pay approximately \$300 per month for clergy-participant plus one coverage and approximately \$600 per month for clergy-participant plus family of the cost of insured healthcare through the Conference-sponsored health insurance program without impairing the ability to provide retiree medical benefits to eligible retired clergy; it is therefore

Resolved, That for calendar years 2027 through 2029, a portion of the earnings from the BOPHB Retiree Medical Account, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 per year, shall be applied towards subsidizing

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the cost of family coverage under the Conference's group health insurance for clergy whose base salary falls below 125% of minimum base salary, as set each year by the Conference's Commission on Equitable Compensation, for the initial year (the "Family Health Subsidy"); and

Resolved, That the BOPHB is authorized to establish procedures for the administration of the Family Health Subsidy, including but not limited to determination of the amount of the subsidy in each year, eligibility criteria for the Family Subsidy and such other matters as are reasonably necessary for the administration of the Family Subsidy.

ITEM 2026-10: LOCAL CHURCH APPORTIONMENT POLICY

From: Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A)

Background:

The apportionment formula for calendar year (CY) 2025 was presented at the Unifying Conference of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the "Conference") by CF&A and approved as part of the budget. The apportionment formula remained constant for CY 2026 and was approved as part of the budget submitted by CF&A at the 2025 Annual Conference.

Action: Approve the Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the "Conference") chartered local church apportionment policy:

The apportionment formula is defined as the total local church offerings received multiplied by an apportionment factor. The local church offerings received are reported annually by the local church through end-of-year statistical reports (ACStats) and consist of the following:

<u>Line #</u>	<u>Description</u>
52a	Amount received through pledges
52b	Amount received from non-pledging but identified givers
52c	Amount received from unidentified givers
52h	Amount received from trusts, endowments, etc., for church budgets

The apportionment factor is set at 7.5%. CF&A may set a maximum annual increase and a limit on annual decreases for a local church apportionment, as part of its annual budgeting process. Unless otherwise stated in future budget legislation, the maximum increase in a local church's apportionment is 25% from the prior year's apportioned amount. There is no limit on the annual decrease in apportionments a local church can experience.

Unchartered churches, such as new church starts, satellite churches, and mission churches, have not reached a point where they can meet the financial obligations to pay apportionments using the formula described above. In these cases, a "step-up" or other reasonable approach using the apportionment formula will be agreed upon by the presiding District Superintendent and the Director of the Center for Multiplication.

**ITEM 2026-11: RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE RENTAL HOUSING
ALLOWANCES FOR RETIRED OR DISABLED CLERGY**

From: Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

Action: The Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolution:

Whereas, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which the Horizon 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-see IRS publication 517) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

Whereas, the practice of the church and this conference was and is to provide active clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

Whereas, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, 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;

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 2027 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

Resolved, 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 (and, in most cases, state) 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 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. Each clergyperson, or former clergyperson, is urged to consult with their tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be claimed as a housing allowance exclusion.

ITEM 2026-12: SCHEDULE OF EQUITABLE COMPENSATION OF CLERGY MEMBERS

From: Commission on Equitable Compensation

Action: Approve the Schedule of Equitable Compensation for Clergy Members

The current Schedule of Equitable Compensation for Clergy Members, presently in effect, shall be extended through December 31, 2027, without modification to the established compensation schedule.

All local churches are expected to move toward full compliance with the approved equitable compensation schedule. Equitable compensation reflects the Church's shared, connectional commitment to provide fair and just support for clergy and is therefore not optional.

At the same time, this expectation should be implemented with sensitivity and grace, recognizing that congregations are navigating diverse financial realities. Churches that are not yet fully aligned are expected to demonstrate intentional and measurable progress toward compliance. Extending the current schedule through 2027 provides additional time for churches to continue this progress in a faithful, responsible, and sustainable way, while maintaining consistency across the Conference.

Congregations are encouraged to meet or exceed the minimum compensation levels whenever feasible, as an expression of their commitment to clergy well-being and the mission of the Church.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation, in collaboration with District Superintendents, will continue to provide guidance, accountability, and support to help churches achieve full compliance.

The schedule of equitable compensation base salary amounts for HTC clergy serving full-time in 2027 is as follows:

Members in Full Connection	\$53,357
Provisional Members	\$49,089
Associate Members	\$49,089
Full-Time Local Pastors	\$47,116

Tenure Payments: Members in Full Connection, Associate Members, and Full-time Local Pastors shall be eligible to receive \$300 annually for each year of service after five years, up to a maximum of ten years. This provision includes service time from their previous legacy conference.

Multi-Charge Stipend: Pastors who serve in multi-point charges will receive an annual stipend of \$200 for the second church and \$100 each for the third to fifth additional churches.

Section 1: Definition of Equitable Compensation Base

The Equitable Compensation Base shall include:

- Base Salary
- Other forms of cash compensation, including but not limited to bonuses, payments to private investment programs, and similar direct compensation
- Additional health insurance premium costs paid above the standard premium contribution amount required of the local church and/or annual conference
- Subsidies received by the local church from the annual conference, excluding any reimbursements for Annual Conference-related expenses

Section 2: Exclusions from Equitable Compensation Base

The following items shall not be included in the calculation of Equitable Compensation Base:

- Housing-related expenses, including housing allowance, parsonage value, and utilities
- Accountable reimbursement plans, including reimbursements for ministry-related expenses such as travel, continuing education, and professional expenses
- Health insurance premiums (base plan contributions)
- Church contributions to clergy retirement plans or Comprehensive Protection Plan.
- Continuing education funds or allowances

ITEM 2026-13: 2027 EQUITABLE COMPENSATION BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

From: Commission on Equitable Compensation

Action: Approve the Equitable Compensation Budget Recommendation

The Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends a \$110,000 budget to fund equitable compensation subsidies for clergy appointments in the Horizon Texas Conference.

Following careful and prayerful assessment, and in collaboration with District Superintendents, the Commission has evaluated the present needs of clergy and congregations across the conference.

Several key factors have informed this recommendation:

- **Progress Toward Equitable Compensation Standards:** Churches across the conference are actively working toward alignment with the approved equitable compensation schedule. This budget supports those efforts while encouraging continued progress toward full compliance.
- **Responsible Stewardship of Conference Resources:** This recommendation reflects a balance between meeting immediate needs and exercising faithful stewardship of the resources entrusted to the conference.
- **Targeted Support for Areas of Greatest Need:** The proposed funding prioritizes support for clergy serving in appointments where local church resources are limited, ensuring that equitable compensation remains a lived reality across diverse ministry contexts.

It is important to emphasize that equitable compensation subsidies are intended to be temporary and transitional. Each congregation receiving support is expected to demonstrate intentional and measurable progress toward fully funding their clergy compensation.

The Commission will continue to work alongside District Superintendents to provide guidance, accountability, and support, helping churches move toward sustainability while maintaining equitable standards.

This proposed budget of \$110,000 reflects our shared commitment to equity in clergy compensation, grace in implementation, and stewardship of conference resources.

We offer this recommendation with confidence and ask for your prayerful consideration and support.

ITEM 2026-14: STANDING RULES

From: Standing Rules Committee

Background: Following the first year operating as the HTC, the Standing Rules Committee identified a few areas that required further clarity and refinement. Key updates include:

- Adding a default definition of quorum for conference agencies (1.a.v)
- Revising number of Lead Team at large members from three to ten (1.b.i)
- Revising equalization and automatic lay membership
 - Adding phrasing to encourage district leadership to consult with respective conference agencies when electing additional youth and young adult lay members (2.a.i.5.d & g)
 - Adding a lay member from Wesley Foundations where a lay person also serves as director to parallel the policy of Wesley Foundations with clergy leadership (2.a.i.5.i)
 - Adding certified lay ministers under DS assignment as lay members (2.a.i.5.k)
- Adding a section defining types of legislative items and related processes (2.a.iii, 2.a.iv)
 - Consequently, references to “resolution” have been replaced with “petition.”
- Adding a time limit for consideration of any single legislative item or petition (2.a.vi.3)

Action: Approve the Standing Rules, which will replace previously approved Item 2025-32: Standing Rules as recorded in the 2025 Journal.

1) Structure of the Annual Conference

a) General Provisions

- i) *Primacy of The Book of Discipline and Standing Rules.* These General Provisions apply to all Agencies except where the current version of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* (“*The Book of Discipline*”) or specific Standing Rules otherwise provide.
- ii) “*Agency.*” In these Standing Rules, the word “Agency” means a conference-level group that performs the work of the Horizon Texas Conference, whether that group is called a Council, Board, Division, Commission, Committee, Team, Group or Task Force. It does not include boards of trustees or boards of directors of annual conference related institutions.
- iii) *General Agencies.* Members of the general agencies of The United Methodist Church from the Horizon Texas Conference will be ex officio members of the corresponding Agency.
- iv) “*Conference Year; Conference Fiscal Year.*” “Conference year” means the period from the close of one regularly scheduled session of the annual conference through the close of the following year’s regularly scheduled session of the annual conference. “Conference Fiscal Year” means January 1 through December 31.
- v) *Quorum.* Unless otherwise specified by the *Discipline*, the HTC Bylaws, or Standing Rules, the members present and voting at any duly announced Agency meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- vi) *Appeals.* Any Agency has the right to appeal to the annual conference regarding a decision affecting its work made by any other Agency, except where otherwise provided in The Book of Discipline.
- vii) *Local church committee members’ terms.* The term of office of local church committee members elected by the Fall Charge Conference shall begin on January 1 and run for the length of their term.
- viii) “*Clergy.*” In these Standing Rules, the word “clergy” refers to the following members of the Horizon Texas Conference, unless some specific Standing Rule otherwise provides: (1) elders in full connection; (2) deacons in full connection; (3) provisional members; (4) associate members; and (5) local pastors under full-time and part-time appointment to a pastoral charge.

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b) Conference Agencies

i) **Lead Team.** The Lead Team will oversee the implementation of the decisions of the Horizon Texas Conference working through the following teams: the Multiply Jesus Followers Team, the Champion Children and Youth Team, the Maximize Care and Healing Team, the Pursue and Embrace Diversity Team, the Tell Our Story Team and the Connectional Resources Teams. The priorities of the Core Leadership Team will be accountability, advocacy, goal setting, planning, coordination, communications, and decision-making between annual conference sessions, as permitted by *The Book of Discipline*. The Lead Team shall be made up of:

- Resident Bishop (no vote)
- Assistant to the Bishop (Lead Team Chairperson)
- Cabinet Representative (who may be the Dean of the Cabinet)
- Director of Multiplication
- Director of Diversity and Cultural Engagement
- Director of Care and Healing
- Director of Children and Youth Empowerment
- Director of Communications
- Director of Operations
- Chief Financial Officer
- Conference Lay Leader(s)
- Chair of Multiply Jesus Followers Team
- Chair of Champion Children and Youth Team
- Chair of Maximize Care and Healing Team
- Chair of Pursue and Embrace Diversity Team
- Chair of Tell our Story Team
- Up to ten At-Large Members nominated and elected by the annual conference

ii) **Multiply Jesus Followers Team.** The goal of this team is to equip Christ-followers to multiply themselves through the Gospel proclamation in word and deed, thus fulfilling the mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The focus of this team is congregational and leadership development. Congregational development includes the revitalization of existing churches and the creation of new churches, campus ministries, and other faith communities. Leadership development includes strengthening ministries of laity and recruiting, equipping, and supporting clergy.

The Multiply Jesus Followers team shall be made up of nine persons that reflect the diversity of the Horizon Texas Conference. The chairperson of this team shall be nominated and elected by the annual conference.

This team will fulfill the following functions and relationships required by *the Book of Discipline*: Board of Discipleship (except those functions fulfilled by the Championing Children and Youth and Maximizing Care and Healing Teams, as noted in iii and iv below) (§629); Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns (§631); Higher Education and Campus Ministry (§633).

Additional task forces, sub-teams, or other bodies may be established by this team for long- or short-term goals of the Horizon Texas Conference, the Lead Team, or the Multiply Jesus Followers Team.

The following separately constituted bodies shall be under the organizational umbrella of the Multiply Jesus Followers Team as they carry out their work: Board of Laity (§630); Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries (§630.6); Board of Ordained Ministry (§634); United

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Methodist Women (United Women in Faith) (§537); United Methodist Men (§538); Council on Young Adult Ministry (§650); Council on Older Adult Ministries (§651).

(1) **Board of Laity** (§630)

The Board of Laity shall be constituted and function in accordance with *The Book of Discipline* and will initially consist of a total of eighteen members.

During the first quadrennium, beginning January 1, 2025, there will be three Co-Lay Leaders, with one person representing each of the three legacy conferences (CTC, NTC and NWTC). These Co-Lay Leaders will collaboratively lead the Board of Laity. Those currently serving as Lay Leaders of the existing legacy conferences shall continue until their term expires or until the Board of Laity may elect to reorganize itself.

Duties: In addition to the duties and responsibilities as determined by *The Book of Discipline* and other sections of the Horizon Texas Conference Standing Rules, the Conference Lay Leader(s) shall be part of the appointive cabinet and represent the laity during the Ordination Service of the annual conference.

Additional members of the Board of Laity are: the District Lay Leaders; the Conference Associate Lay Leader (who is the same as the Lay Leader Elect); the President of United Methodist Women (United Women in Faith); the President of United Methodist Men; the President of the Conference Student Leadership Team, or equivalent leadership representative; and the conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries.

Selection of Annual Conference Lay Leader – The Board of Laity shall nominate a Lay Leader Elect who will serve as the Associate Lay Leader for a four-year term. The Associate Lay Leader will help with the duties of the Lay Leader(s) as set forth in the guidelines established by the Board of Laity. On the expiration of the term of the incumbent Lay Leaders, the Lay Leader Elect will become Lay Leader and will serve a four-year term.

(2) **Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries** (§630.6)

The Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries Committee will develop and administer the Lay Servant Ministries Program, including recruiting, training, certifying, and re-certifying lay servants and lay speakers. The Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries Committee will also work to promote the use of lay speakers to fulfill the purposes and functions described in *The Book of Discipline*.

The committee shall consist of a chairperson, who serves as the Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, plus the following members: the Director of Lay Servant Ministries from each district and three clergy (initially one each representing the three legacy conferences comprising the Horizon Texas Conference). The Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries and the District Directors of Lay Servant Ministries must be currently Certified Lay Servants. The committee may create ad hoc teams or groups as necessary to carry out the tasks of the committee.

The Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries shall recommend a qualified and willing candidate for the Conference Director Lay Servant Ministries to the Conference Nominating Committee for election at the following annual conference.

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(3) **Board of Ordained Ministry** (§634)

The Board of Ordained Ministry shall fulfill the functions described in *The Book of Discipline*. It shall study and interpret the ministerial resources and needs of the annual conference in consultation with the bishop and the cabinet. Duties shall be those assigned to it in *The Book of Discipline*. The Board of Ordained Ministry will discuss and act as it deems appropriate regarding proposals from its divisions and committees.

The Board of Ordained Ministry shall consist of fifty-one members, divided into three classes by quadrennium with seventeen in each class. “Members shall be nominated by the presiding bishop after consultation with the chairperson of the board, the executive committee, or a committee elected by the board of the previous quadrennium, and with the cabinet. To ensure adequate board membership, consultation shall include an evaluation of the workload of the board in meeting disciplinary and annual conference responsibilities. Vacancies shall be filled by the bishop after consultation with the chairperson of the board. An elected board member may serve a maximum of three consecutive four-year terms. The chair of the Order of Deacons, the chair of the Order of Elders, and the chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate members shall be members of the Board of Ordained Ministry and its executive committee.” (§634.1(a))

The Board of Ordained Ministry shall organize itself into divisions and committees so as to carry out its responsibilities effectively and to fulfill the requirements of the Book of Discipline. The Board of Ordained Ministry may assign additional duties to each division. Persons shall not be added to the Board of Ordained Ministry or its divisions during the quadrennium except to fill vacancies or new divisions.

“The Board of Ordained Ministry shall select from among its own membership an official representative to serve as a member of each district committee on ordained ministry, which shall function as subcommittees of the board.” (§ 635.1(g))

(4) **United Women in Faith** (§ 647)

The Horizon Texas Conference United Methodist Women (United Women in Faith) shall be constituted and function according to *The Book of Discipline*. Representatives from United Methodist Women shall also be designated to other agencies of the annual conference as recommended by *The Book of Discipline* or as provided by the standing rules of the Horizon Texas Conference.

(5) **United Methodist Men** (§ 648)

The Horizon Texas Conference United Methodist Men shall be constituted and function according to *The Book of Discipline*. Representatives from United Methodist Men shall also be designated to other agencies of the annual conference or as provided by the standing rules of the Horizon Texas Conference.

iii) **Champion Children and Youth Team**

The goal of this team is to prioritize the spiritual, mental, physical, social, economic, and relational welfare of children and youth in our churches, communities, nation, and world. The focus of this team is to grow children and youth into disciples of Jesus Christ and to advocate for vulnerable children and youth in our communities. This team will provide opportunities for children and youth to grow through faith formation training and camping and retreat ministries. Outwardly, the conference will look for opportunities to advocate and serve the most vulnerable of children and youth in our conference and beyond.

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The Champion Children and Youth Team shall be made up of nine persons who reflect the diversity of the Horizon Texas Conference. The chairperson of this team shall be nominated and elected by the annual conference.

This team will fulfill the functions and relationships of the Conference Board of Discipleship as to the responsibilities identified in paragraphs 630.2(c), (g), (h); 630.6(c), (e) of *The Book of Discipline*.

The team will be responsible for the MinistrySafe or equivalent program for the Horizon Texas Conference. Project Transformation will relate to the annual conference through this team and will develop a plan following unification. Additional task forces, sub-teams, or other bodies may be established by this team for long- or short-term goals of the Horizon Texas Conference, the Lead Team or the Champion Children and Youth Team.

The following separately constituted body shall be under the organizational umbrella of the Champion Children and Youth Team:

(1) Conference Student Leadership Team (§649)

The Conference Youth Leadership Council or equivalent body shall be constituted and function according to The Book of Discipline. Representatives from the Conference Student Leadership Team shall also be designated to other agencies of the annual conference when the standing rules of the annual conference so provide.

iv) Maximize Care and Healing Team

The goal of this team is to prioritize care and healing within congregations and hurting communities. Sometimes, healing and care come through God's means of grace and acts of compassion, mercy, and justice. At other times, they come through collaboration with ecumenical, interfaith and community partners that maximize care and healing.

Inwardly, this team will focus on training and equipping laity to partner with clergy to provide systems of care, support groups, and mental health resources. Additionally, this team will support clergy with crisis support and health and wellness initiatives. Outwardly, this team will focus on justice, compassion, and disaster response.

The Maximize Care and Healing team shall be made up of nine persons who reflect the diversity of the Horizon Texas Conference. The chairperson of this team shall be nominated and elected by the annual conference.

This team will fulfill the following functions and relationships required by *The Book of Discipline*: Board of Church and Society (§ 629); Conference Board of Discipleship as to the responsibilities identified in paragraphs 630.1(d), 630.5 (h), 630.6(f); Board of Global Ministries (§ 633) (except those functions fulfilled by the Pursue and Embrace Diversity Team, as noted in v. below); Committee on Parish and Community Development (§633.5).

Additional task forces, sub-teams, or other bodies may be established by this team for long- or short-term goals of the Horizon Texas Conference, the Lead Team of the Maximize Care and Healing Team.

v) Pursue and Embrace Diversity Team

The goal of this team is to help the annual conference and its churches intentionally become more diverse, equitable and inclusive, so that everyone feels interconnected, valued, respected, and included, regardless of ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or

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abilities. Pursuing and embracing diversity promotes a sense of belonging and safety (spiritual and psychological) for all individuals. This team's purpose is to establish and maintain diversity, equity, and inclusion policies of the Horizon Texas Conference in regard to human resources practices, the work of the Conference Nominating Committee and the work of the Board of Ordained Ministry. They will also resource clergy, laity and congregations on implicit bias, cultural competence and create environments of belonging.

The Pursue and Embrace Diversity team shall be made up of nine persons that reflect the diversity of the Horizon Texas Conference.

This team will fulfill the following functions and relationships required by *The Book of Discipline*: Board of Global Ministries as to the responsibilities identified in paragraphs ¶633.4(b.36); Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (¶642); Committee on Religion and Race (¶643); Commission on Status and Role of Women (¶644); Committee on Disability Concerns (¶653); Native American Ministry (¶654); Latino/Hispanic Ministries (¶655).

Additional task forces or sub-teams may be set up by this team for long- or short-term goals of the Horizon Texas Conference, the Lead Team or the Pursue and Embrace Diversity Team.

vi) Tell Our Story Team

The goal of this team is to effectively communicate, both internally and externally, the Horizon Texas Conference's vision, mission, values, priorities, and commitments, by delivering on promises and by taking responsibility for mistakes and shortcomings that may have harmed others and our reputation.

The Tell Our Story team shall be made up of nine persons who reflect the diversity of the Horizon Texas Conference. The chairperson of this team shall be nominated and elected by the annual conference.

This team will fulfill the functions and relationships required by *The Book of Discipline* of the Commission on Communication (¶646)

The following separately constituted body shall be under the organizational umbrella of the Tell Our Story Team: Commission on Archives and History (¶641).

Additional task forces or sub-teams may be set up by this team for long- or short-term goals of the Horizon Texas Conference, the Lead Team, or the Tell our Story Team.

vii) Connectional Resources Teams (Stewardship and Operations)

The Connectional Resources Teams will sustain the United Methodist connection within the Horizon Texas Conference by providing ongoing administrative support as provided for in *The Book of Discipline*. These teams will fulfill the following functions and relationships required by *The Book of Discipline*: Conference Council on Finance and Administration (¶611); Administrative Review (¶636); Episcopacy Committee (¶637); Pensions and Health Benefits (¶639); Board of Trustees (¶640); Equitable Compensation (¶625).

The following bodies make up the Connectional Resources Teams:

(1) Conference Council on Finance and Administration (¶611)

The Council on Finance and Administration shall be constituted and shall function in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*. The Council on Finance and Administration will consist of twelve members. The Chief Financial Officer shall be an ex-officio member of the council without vote. The Chief Financial Officer shall have responsibilities and rights

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afforded by *The Book of Discipline* to the conference treasurer and shall be accountable to the annual conference through the council. No member of the Council on Finance and Administration shall be a member of any other agency, or a trustee or member of the board of directors of a conference institution that derives support, either partially or totally, from the Council on Finance and Administration.

(2) Investment Management Committee

The Investment Team will manage the invested funds of the Horizon Texas Conference. The committee shall be composed of two representatives each from the Horizon Texas Conference Council on Finance and Administration, Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits and the Board of Trustees, the conference treasurer, a cabinet representative, and two members representing each of the legacy conferences.

(3) Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee shall be responsible for hiring (non-appointed staff), setting salaries (in collaboration with the Council on Finance and Administration), setting policy and providing support for all Horizon Texas Conference and district staff members. This will be a team of ten people that will include an equal number of clergy and laity, representative of the diversity within the annual conference. The Assistant to the Bishop will be an ex-officio member with voice and vote.

(4) Committee on Administrative Review (§636)

The Committee on Administrative Review shall be comprised of three clergy in full connection and three alternates (who are not members of the cabinet, the Board of Ordained Ministry or immediate family members of the above) and nominated by the bishop. It shall be constituted and function in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*.

(5) Committee on Investigation (Clergy and Diaconal) (§2703.2(a) and (§2703.2(b))

The Committee on Investigation (Clergy and Diaconal Ministers) shall be constituted and function in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*. The team shall consist of four clergy members in full connection, three professing lay members, three alternate clergy members in full connection, and six alternate professing lay members.

(6) Committee on Episcopacy (§636)

The Committee on Episcopacy will function as provided in *The Book of Discipline*. It shall meet at least annually. The resident bishop shall convene the Committee on Episcopacy at the beginning of the new quadrennium and the Committee shall elect a chair, a vice-chair, and a secretary. The bishop and the chair are authorized to call additional meetings when desired.

The Committee on Episcopacy shall be nominated and elected at the annual conference session following the regularly scheduled session of the General Conference. The Committee on Episcopacy shall consist of twelve members. "One-fifth of the committee's membership shall be appointed by the bishop. In addition to the lay and clergy members of the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy, who shall be ex officio members with vote, it is recommended that the committee consist of the following: one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy persons, provided that one layperson shall be the conference lay leader. All lay members shall be professing members of local churches. Special attention shall be given to the inclusion of racial and ethnic persons, youth (§256.3), young adults, older adults, and people with disabilities. No member of the staff of the annual conference or any of its agencies, nor an immediate family member of such staff, shall serve as a member of the committee, except that a member of the

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jurisdictional committee on episcopacy or the conference lay leader shall not be disqualified from membership as a result of this provision.” (§636.1)

(7) Episcopal Residence Committee (§637)

The Episcopal Residence Committee will function as provided in *The Book of Discipline*. It will consist of the chair of the Committee on Episcopacy, the chair of the Board of Trustees, and the chair of the Council on Finance and Administration.

(8) Board of Pension and Health Benefits (§638)

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall be constituted and function in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*. It will provide for and contribute to the support, relief, assistance and pensioning of clergy and their families, other church workers, and lay employees, except as otherwise provided by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. It will also provide to all clergy who qualify, and other persons who qualify, access to the best life, hospital, accident, and disability insurance coverage possible with the funds available. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall discuss and act as it deems appropriate regarding proposals under its jurisdiction.

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits should consist of sixteen members: one-third laywomen, one-third laymen and one-third clergy. They will be elected for terms of eight years and arranged in two classes. With the inauguration of the new Horizon Texas Conference, the Transitional Committee on Nominations will nominate one class for four years and one class for eight years. The Board may fill a vacancy in the membership for the remainder of the conference year in which the vacancy occurs. At its next session, the annual conference shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.

The Director of Stewardship/Treasurer/Benefits Officer, a representative of the cabinet, and a representative of the Council on Finance and Administration also serve as ex-officio members.

(9) Board of Trustees (§640 and §2512.1-.8)

The Board of Trustees shall function and be constituted in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*. The Board of Trustees shall organize itself according to §2512.1-.8.

“The board shall consist of 12 persons, and it is recommended that one-third be clergy, one third laywomen, and one-third laymen, in accordance with the provisions of §610.5. Said persons must be of legal age as determined by law, and lay members shall be members in good standing of local churches within the bounds of the annual conference. Such persons shall be the directors of the corporation. They shall be elected by the conference staggered terms of four years, except for the first board, one-fourth for a term of one year, one fourth for a term of two years, one-fourth for a term on three years, and one-fourth for a term of four years, and shall serve until their successors have been elected; provided, however, that existing incorporated trustees of any annual conference may continue unaffected while the charter or articles of incorporation are amended to bring them into conformity with (§2512.1).” (§2512.1)

Conference Office Location – The Office Location Team will serve under the direction of the newly formed conference’s Board of Trustees. The conference Board of Trustees may either (1) choose to make final decisions about office location on their own, or (2) designate the existing transitional Office Location Team to complete the work of determining the location of the conference offices.

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(10) Commission on Equitable Compensation (§624)

The Commission on Equitable Compensation shall function as prescribed by The Book of Discipline and shall be composed of eight members equally distributed between clergy and laity. At least one layperson and one clergyperson shall be from churches of less than two hundred members.

(11) Conference Nominating Committee

The Conference Nominating Committee shall nominate members and Chairs of Agencies for election by the annual conference, except where otherwise provided in *The Book of Discipline* or these Standing Rules. As part of this responsibility the Conference Nominating Committee will maintain a list of persons willing to serve on Agencies.

The Conference Nominating Committee shall consist of:

- The bishop, who shall be the chair;
- The assistant to the bishop as vice chair and secretary, without vote
- The district superintendents;
- The Conference lay leader(s);
- Presidents of UMW, UMM, and Conference Student Leadership Team;
- One additional youth representative chosen by the Conference Student Leadership Team;
- Two representatives chosen by the Council on Young Adult Ministry;
- District lay leaders or their representatives from each district;
- One clergy representative from each district

Each individual or Agency responsible for selecting members of the Conference Nominating Committee shall be informed of the need to ensure inclusiveness in the election of the members of the Committee. At-large lay members of the Conference Nominating Committee will be elected for a four-year term. A person so elected may serve only one four-year term and will be eligible to be elected again only after being off the Conference Nominating Committee for at least two years.

Provisions Related to Agency Membership:

- (a) *Election of Members.* Except as otherwise directed in *The Book of Discipline* or these Standing Rules, Members and Chairs of the Agencies shall be nominated by the Conference Nominating Committee and elected by the annual conference. There shall be an opportunity for additional nominations from the floor. When persons are nominated from the floor of the annual conference, the nominator will indicate which person from the Conference Nominating Committee's report is to be replaced by the nominee. To the extent feasible, substitute nominations should be in the same category of inclusivity as the person in the Conference Nominating Committee's report. Votes on substitute nominees will be made individually prior to the vote on the full report.
- (b) *Election of Board members for Conference-related institutions.* Board Members of institutions related to the Horizon Texas Conference shall be nominated by the applicable institution, reported to the conference secretary by April 1, and elected by the annual conference. Each such institution shall elect its own officers.
- (c) *Membership Diversity.* Except where *The Book of Discipline* or these Standing Rules otherwise provide, membership on all Agencies shall include one third clergy, one third laywomen, and one third laymen insofar as practicable. In addition, special attention shall be given to the inclusion of clergywomen, youth, young adults, older adults, persons from churches with small memberships, people with disabilities, and racial and ethnic persons.

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- (d) *Terms*. Except as otherwise provided in *The Book of Discipline* or these Standing Rules, persons shall be nominated to serve a four-year term on an Agency. No person shall be nominated for a position without previously agreeing to serve if elected. Persons elected shall begin their terms of office at the close of the annual conference session at which they are elected. In the event of new agencies being formed, the Conference Nominating Committee shall be permitted to create and allocate shorter terms to allow for rotation of members to maintain agency continuity.
- (e) *Failure to Attend Meetings*. Persons who are absent without cause for half or more of an Agency's meetings during the Conference Year will thereby automatically remove themselves from the membership of the Agency and shall be replaced by the Conference Nominating Committee
- (f) *Vacancies*. The Conference Nominating Committee is authorized to fill any Agency vacancies between sessions of the annual conference, unless *The Book of Discipline* otherwise provides. Persons appointed to fill vacancies shall serve only the remainder of the Conference year in which they are appointed. They may be elected to the same position at the first regularly scheduled annual conference session following their appointment, in which case they will serve the remainder of the term of the person they replace. If the term of the person they replace would normally expire at the annual conference session, then they may be elected to a full term either as member or chair without the partial year they served filling the vacancy counting toward the term limits specified in Provisions g. and h. below.
- (g) *Term Limits for Members*. Except as otherwise provided in *The Book of Discipline* or these Standing Rules, no elected person may serve more than eight successive years on any one Agency. A person may, however, be re-elected to an Agency on which that person has previously served his or her term limit after non-membership for four years.
- (h) *Term Limits for Agency Chairs and Team Representatives*. Except in extenuating circumstances, as determined by the bishop, no person may serve as Chair or Team Representative of any Agency for more than four consecutive years, nor may any person chair or be a team representative on any combination of Agencies for a total of more than six years in any eight-year period.
- (i) *Limits on Multiple Agency Membership*. It is generally recommended that no person should serve on more than one Agency at a time. In computing these limits, membership which occurs by virtue of holding some other Agency position and ex officio memberships shall not be counted. In applying these limits, the Conference Nominating Committee shall be guided by the policies of diffusing power throughout the annual conference and limiting the agency workload required of any individual. Therefore, both the responsibilities and the workload of the various Agencies shall be taken into consideration in making nominations.
- (j) *Coordination of Nominations*. The Conference Nominating Committee shall report all nominations to the Assistant to the Bishop and the Conference Secretary to promote compliance with these Standing Rules.
- (k) *Record Keeping*. In order to assist the annual conference in enforcing the Standing Rules regarding Agency membership, each annual conference Preliminary Workbook shall include a report from the Conference Nominating Committee, which includes a table, listing for each Agency all members, the year in which each member's current term expires, and whether each member is serving in their first or second consecutive term with the agency.

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(12) Standing Rules Committee

The Standing Rules Committee oversees and recommends structural changes in the standing rules of the annual conference. The Standing Rules Committee consists of a chair and seven members. The committee shall be divided evenly between clergy and laity.

2) Procedures for Meetings of the Annual Conference

a) Pre-Conference procedures

i) Lay/clergy equalization

- (1) There shall be an equal number of lay and clergy members of the annual conference.
- (2) Clergy members of the annual conference shall be as specified in the most recent edition of *The Book of Discipline* para. 602.1.
- (3) It shall be the responsibility of the conference secretary annually to revise the number of additional lay members required to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.
- (4) Lay members shall be selected as specified in the most recent edition of *The Book of Discipline* ¶133, ¶602.1(e) and ¶602.2-4. Specifically, they shall consist of:
 - (a) A professing member elected by each charge. Each charge served by more than one clergy member under appointment (including deacons in full connection for whom this is their primary appointment) shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members under appointment;
 - (b) Consecrated diaconal ministers serve as lay members of the annual conference as long as they maintain this status in The United Methodist Church;
 - (c) Active deaconesses and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference;
 - (d) The conference president of United Methodist Women;
 - (e) The conference president of United Methodist Men;
 - (f) The conference lay leader;
 - (g) District lay leaders;
 - (h) The president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization;
 - (i) The president of the Conference Student Leadership Team;
 - (j) One youth between the ages of twelve and eighteen from each district, chosen by the district conference;
 - (k) One young adult between the ages of eighteen and thirty from each district, chosen by the district conference;
 - (l) The chair of the annual conference college student organization;
 - (m) Laypersons serving as campus ministers or directors of Wesley Foundations shall be added as district at-large lay members to annual conference;
 - (n) For each Wesley Foundation where clergy serve as chaplain, campus minister, or director, one lay member shall be elected. This lay member shall be either a member of the Foundation's board of directors or a student from that Foundation. In making sure that such inclusion is adhered to, special consideration shall be given to the inclusion of United Methodist young adults who are active participants in campus ministry.
- (5) In addition, the following will be members of the conference:
 - (a) Each district United Women of Faith president;
 - (b) Each district United Methodist Men president;
 - (c) Each district student leadership president;
 - (d) Two youth in addition to the one required by *The Book of Discipline*, chosen by the district conference in consultation with the Conference Youth Leadership Team;
 - (e) Lay chairs of conference agencies;

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- (f) Lay members of any general and/or jurisdictional agencies who reside in the Horizon Texas Conference and are not otherwise members of the annual conference.
- (g) Two young adults, in addition to the one required by *The Book of Discipline*, chosen by the district conference in consultation with the Conference Young Adult Committee;
- (h) One lay member for each additional church in a multi-point pastoral charge;
- (i) For each Wesley Foundation where a layperson serves as chaplain, campus minister, or director, one lay member shall be elected. This lay member shall be either a member of the Foundation's board of directors or a student from that Foundation. In making sure that such inclusion is adhered to, special consideration shall be given to the inclusion of United Methodist young adults who are active participants in campus ministry.
- (j) All lay officers of the conference;
- (k) Certified lay ministers under assignment by a district superintendent.
- (6) To the extent necessary to further equalize the number of clergy and lay members, the conference secretary shall add one additional lay member per charge, beginning with the largest-membership charge and continuing to progressively smaller-membership charges, until lay and clergy membership is equalized.
- (7) Based upon data available as of the last annual conference, the conference secretary shall, no later than September 1st, notify each district superintendent regarding the number of lay members to be elected by each charge for the next annual conference.
- (8) The procedure for the equalization of lay and clergy members for the upcoming annual conference will be presented as part of the report of the conference secretary in the Preliminary Workbook for that conference.
- ii) *Publication of Preliminary Workbook*. Conference staff shall create a Preliminary Workbook which includes all matters to be addressed at the annual conference, and the Conference Secretary shall provide a copy to every member of the annual conference via email and through publication on the Conference website no later than 30 days prior to the annual conference.
- iii) *Types of legislation*
 - (1) Reports
 - (a) Anything from a conference agency or designated leader in the annual conference (see ¶605.4)
 - (b) The annual conference shall receive and act upon such reports and thus give them priority in the agenda (¶605.4)
 - (c) May include action items in the form of resolutions, such as a resolution to close a church.
 - (d) Chair or representative moves the adoption of the report
 - (2) Legislative Items
 - (a) May be submitted by a conference agency or designated leader in the annual conference (¶605.4)
 - (b) May be extracted from a conference agency report (budget, etc.)
 - (c) May be in the form of a resolution.
 - (d) The annual conference shall take up legislative items and thus give them priority in the agenda (¶605.4)
 - (e) Usually involve actions required for the ongoing functioning of the annual conference
 - (f) May impact the budget or require additional conference resources
 - (g) Typically are not referred to petition working groups
 - (3) Petitions
 - (a) May be submitted by a member or members of the annual conference

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- (b) Asks (petitions) the annual conference to take a position or action and are often aspirational.
 - (c) Petitions cannot ask the annual conference to violate the *Discipline* nor bind future annual conferences.
 - (d) The annual conference will take up petitions in the order received but only as the agenda allows
 - (e) Petitions—particularly the resolved clauses—should employ non-binding action verbs such as “affirm,” “advocate,” “encourage,” “motivate,” “recommend,” or “urge,” rather than mandatory language such as “shall,” which would imply a binding obligation.
 - (f) Typically are referred to petition working groups
- iv) *Procedure for submitting reports and items to be voted on to be included in the Preliminary Workbook.* To facilitate adequate notice and inclusion of reports and proposed legislation in the Preliminary Workbook, all agency reports and matters to be voted on at the annual conference must be submitted to the Conference Secretary no later than 60 days prior to the annual conference in order to be considered at the annual conference, subject to v. below. Any petitions that will require expenditure of conference resources must be submitted no later than 90 days prior to annual conference to allow additional time for Agency review.
 - v) *Matters Not Included in the Preliminary Workbook that May be Voted on at annual conference.* Proposed matters to be voted on that are submitted less than 60 days before the annual conference shall only be considered at the annual conference only if: (1) they are related to an event that has occurred less than 75 days before the annual conference, and (2) the proposal is duplicated and distributed to annual conference members no later than 24 hours prior to its consideration. This rule shall not be construed to preclude proper subsidiary motions or privileged motions.
 - vi) *Petition Working Groups.* At the discretion of the bishop, any proposed legislation or petition may be submitted to an ad-hoc Petition Working Group for review. The Bishop, Assistant to the Bishop, and the Conference Secretary shall develop policies regarding the composition of and procedures to be employed by Petition Working Groups.
 - vii) *Proposed Amendments to Standing Rules.* In order to permit the Standing Rules Committee adequate time to consider proposals and forward them to the conference office in time for inclusion in the Preliminary Workbook, proposed new standing rules and proposed changes to existing standing rules shall be submitted to the Standing Rules Committee no later than 90 days before annual conference.
- b) Conduct of the Annual Conference
- iii) *Electronic Meetings*
 - (1) Under extraordinary circumstances, the bishop and cabinet in consultation with the Lead Team may call for the annual conference to meet electronically. Electronic meetings shall be in harmony with all rules adopted by the body to govern in-person meetings and ensure that all members retain voice and vote.
 - (2) Subsidiary bodies/agencies may meet electronically as called by the president/chair in consultation with committee officers or the executive committee so long as such meetings allow for voice and vote of all eligible members.
 - iv) *Submission of Proposals for Amendment.* Resolutions to amend proposed matters to be voted on should be submitted to the Conference Secretary at the earliest possible time, preferably no later than the opening of the annual conference.
 - v) *Agency Review.* The Conference Secretary shall forward all proposed legislation and resolutions not generated by a Conference agency to the affected agency or agencies, as determined by the Conference Secretary. The affected agency or agencies’ decision to abstain, or recommendation to approve or not approve, shall be presented to the annual conference before a vote on the matter.

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- vi) *Debate on Motions*. Debate on motions at the annual conference will be limited as follows:
- (1) No more than three statements in favor and three statements against.
 - (2) No more than three minutes per statement.
 - (3) No more than twenty minutes total for consideration of any legislative item or petition (which shall include the consideration of any secondary motion), unless otherwise ordered by the assembly by a two-thirds vote without debate.
- vii) *Consent Calendar*. The annual conference shall include a consent calendar. A minimum of five (5) voting members of the annual conference may request removal of an item on the calendar by submitting the attached form to the Conference Secretary no later than 12:00 pm on the first day of the conference.
- viii) *Vote Requirements*
- (1) Unless otherwise specified in *The Book of Discipline* or these Standing Rules, adoption of matters being voted on requires approval of more than 50% of the votes cast.
 - (2) Requests to suspend or amend the Standing Rules require approval of more than two-thirds of the votes cast.
- ix) *Rules of Order*. To the extent not inconsistent with these Standing Rules, the business of the annual conference shall be conducted according to the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

ITEM 2026-15: PROCESS FOR DELEGATE ELECTIONS

From: Standing Rules Committee

Action: The Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following process:

The election of delegates to general and jurisdictional conferences is governed by ¶ 35, Articles III-V of the *2024 Book of Discipline*. In addition, ¶ 14.2 states, “Delegates shall be elected in a fair and open process by the annual conferences.” To this end, the Horizon Texas Conference will use this process to elect delegates.

Before the Annual Conference Session:

- 1) At least sixty days before the session, a delegate interest form shall be publicly posted on the conference website, which is consistent with the following example.
- 2) Persons, both eligible lay and eligible clergy, have the option of completing and submitting this form. Form responses will be forwarded to the Annual Conference Secretary and Assistant to the Bishop. Submissions received at least 30 days before the session will be compiled and published as an addendum to the preconference workbook, available online with all other annual conference materials at least 14 days before the session.
- 3) Only those persons, both eligible lay and eligible clergy, who submitted the form at least 30 days before the session will be assigned a number prior to the beginning of the session for use with whichever balloting system has been chosen for use during the elections.

During the Annual Conference Session:

- 1) The published information will be a helpful tool for identifying eligible lay and eligible clergy who wish to make known their interest, availability, and commitment to serve as a delegate.
- 2) Eligible lay will elect eligible lay delegates, and eligible clergy will elect eligible clergy delegates utilizing the chosen balloting system with only the numbers for those persons who have submitted a delegate interest form.
- 3) At any point during the election process, eligible lay or eligible clergy may be nominated from the floor and assigned a number for use throughout the balloting process.

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After the Annual Conference Session:

- 1) Anyone elected as a delegate who did not fill out delegate interest form may do so and submit it to the head of delegation.
- 2) The delegation may use the form data as a way of getting to know and keep covenant with one another.

Delegate Interest Form

Personal Information:

- Name
- Address
- Email
- Phone
- Appointed/Affiliated Charge (Clergy) or Church (Lay)
- Photo

Eligibility:

☐ According to current *Book of Discipline*, I am an eligible clergy person for election as a delegate to General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference, or as a reserve delegate.

☐ Elder in Full Connection

☐ Deacon in Full Connection

Or

☐ According to current *Book of Discipline*, I am an eligible lay person for election as a delegate to General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference, or as a reserve delegate.

- Must be a professing member of The United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding election
- Must be an active participant of The United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding election
- Must hold membership within the bounds of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference

Interest

In no more than one hundred words each, please answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the best thing about The United Methodist Church today?
- 2) Why are you choosing to make known your interest, availability, and commitment to serving as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences?
- 3) How are you currently using your time to support the United Methodist connection?

Availability

☐ If elected as a delegate, I will be able to attend and serve at the 2028 General Conference, May 8-16, 2028, in Minneapolis, MN.

☐ If elected as a delegate, I will be able to attend and serve at the 2028 South Central Jurisdictional Conference, [Date TBD] in [Location TBD].

Commitment

☐ If elected as a delegate, I will commit to attending all meetings of the delegation, except for personal or pastoral emergencies, or other unavoidable conflicts.

☐ If elected as a delegate, I will commit to reading and studying all pertinent materials related to any meetings of the delegation, and especially for the sessions of General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

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ITEM 2026-16: DISCONTINUANCE OF ALEY UMC

From: Rev. Cassie Wade, East District Superintendent

Action: The Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolution:

Whereas, Aley United Methodist Church is located in Henderson County, Texas, in the East District of the Horizon Texas Conference;

Whereas, District Superintendent Rev. Cassie Wade guided the congregation in an assessment of its potential as outlined in ¶213 (¶2549.2(1)) of the 2020-24 *Discipline*;

Whereas, the district superintendent and the congregation have concluded that the congregation can no longer serve the purpose for which it was organized or incorporated;

Whereas, on December 18, 2025, a charge conference was convened and voted to discontinue the local church; and

Whereas, all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

Resolved, That Aley United Methodist Church be discontinued effective December 30, 2025, and all its property transferred to the Horizon Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, or its successors, for disposition as the Conference Board of Trustees may deem in the best interest of the conference;

Resolved, That the Horizon Texas Conference Board of Trustees, or its successors, be authorized, in its discretion, to distribute the items of the property which may be best used by other churches to such churches, and to sell all other property with the net proceeds distributed in accordance with HTC policy; and

Resolved, That the membership of the remaining congregation of Aley UMC at the time of this action be transferred to East District of HTC and that all official records of the discontinued church be forwarded to the Horizon Texas Conference archives, or its successors.

ITEM 2026-17: PROPERTY ACQUISITION POLICY

From: Multiply Jesus Followers Team. Approved by HTC Trustees on April 16, 2026.

Background: The Multiply Jesus Followers Team is conducting a geographic opportunity scan of our conference to highlight areas with a high rate of demographic growth. The goal of this initiative is to highlight locations where there is limited to no United Methodist presence and to inform a long-term strategy for church development in emerging communities. Historically, our conferences have been late in purchasing and developing property, resulting in higher costs for smaller parcels of land. BOD ¶2515 states that acquisition of annual conference property is to be approved by the annual conference and allows for ad interim conditions that are reflected below.

The Multiply Jesus Followers Team proposes a property acquisition policy that enables timely engagement in the real estate market while preserving the Board of Trustee’s fiduciary responsibility and approval authority (BOD¶2512).

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1 *Action:* Approve the Property Acquisition Policy

2
3 **Property Acquisition Policy:**

- 4 1. Site Identification: The Multiply Jesus Followers Team engages a commercial real estate broker to
5 conduct a property search in a targeted growth area where the UMC is underrepresented or not
6 present. Properties identified should demonstrate strong potential for appreciation and missional
7 value.
- 8 2. District Superintendent Strategy: The district superintendent will participate in the evaluation of
9 potential properties. At their discretion, the district board of church building & locations may also be
10 consulted as part of the discernment process.
- 11 3. Trustees Review: A property subgroup from trustees reviews, offers feedback, sets parameters, and
12 refers to the bishop and cabinet for review.
- 13 4. Initial Contract Framework: Upon identifying a suitable property, the Multiply Jesus Followers Team
14 may request approval from the bishop and cabinet to enter an initial contract (BOD ¶2515). Such
15 contracts should include:
16 a. A defined due diligence or option period with a maximum number of days
17 b. A minimal and, when possible, refundable option period money deposit
18 c. All negotiations shall include the clause, "subject to approval by Horizon Texas
19 Conference Board of Trustees."
- 20 5. Contract Negotiation and Oversight: A conference finance officer, or designee, upon receipt of the
21 cabinet's approval, will proceed with contract negotiations and execution, subject to parameters
22 established by the Board of Trustees.
- 23 6. Trustees Review and Authorization: The Multiply Jesus Followers Team will present a detailed
24 ministry action plan that includes:
25 a. Site identification summary
26 b. Financial plan (cash, loan, or blended funding strategy)
27 c. Missional Strategy for planting, including projected timeline
28 Trustees may request additional information or due diligence, set specific conditions for the
29 purchase, approve or decline the transaction.
30
31
32

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ITEM 2026-18: NOMINATIONS REPORT

1
2
3 *From:* Committee on Nominations
4
5 *Action:* Approve Nominations
6

	NAME	CLASS	ETHNICITY	AGE	CLERGY LAY	DISTRICT
LEAD TEAM						
Convener	Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.		H/L	OA	E	
Assistant to the Bishop	Andy Lewis		C/A	A	E	ME-N
Cabinet Representative	Tom Long		C/A	A	E	NW
Director of Multiplication	Stacey Piyakhun		C/A	A	E	ME-N
Director of Diversity	HiRho Park		A/P	A	E	
Director of Care and Healing	Joy Dister-Dominguez		C/A	A	E	ME-West
Director of Child & Youth Empowerment	Christine Peirce		C/A	YA	Laity	Mid-C
Director of Communications	Pam Hughes		C/A	A	Laity	ME-East
Director of Operations	Kevin Walters		C/A	A	Laity	ME-West
CFO	Jeff Pehl		C/A	OA	E	ME-East
Lay Leader (CTC)	Kylie Campbell	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	ME-West
Lay Leader (NTC)	Mary Nickson	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	ME-East
Lay Leader (NWTC)	Mike Jones	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	NW
Chair, Multiply Jesus Followers	Kenneth Wolverton	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-N
Chair, Champion Children	Emma Williams	2028A	C/A	A	D	ME-East
Chair, Pursue Diversity	Maria Dixon-Hall	2028A	B/A	A	D	ME-East
Chair, Maximize Care	Shera Atkinson	2028A	C/A	OA	E	NW
Chair, Tell Our Story	Beth Stuyck	2028A	C/A	A	D	ME-West
At-large Representative	David Kim	2028A	A/P	YA	Laity	ME-East
At-large Representative	Isabella Pluas	2028A	H/L	Y	Laity	ME-West
At-large Representative	Sarah Schneider	2028A	C/A	A	A	ME-N
At-large Representative	Madie Ray	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	NW
At-large Representative	Pam Zwickey	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	NW
At-large Representative	Tim Hopson	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-N
At-large Representative	Madison Bazaldua	2028A	H/L	YA	Laity	Me-N
At-large Representative	Sharon Spratt	2028A	B/A	OA	Laity	ME-E
At-large Representative	Heather Hammer	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-N
At-large Representative	Julia Puac-Romero	2028A	H/L	YA	LP	Mid-N
CCYAM Chair	Marianne Brown-Trigg		C/A	A	E	ME-West
CUYC Representative	Karen Kamanda		C/A	Y	Laity	ME-East
CONFERENCE NOMINATING COMMITTEE						
Assistant to the Bishop	Andy Lewis		C/A	A	E	ME-N
	Philip Rhodes	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-West
	Edlen Cowley	2028A	B/A	A	E	ME-East
	Tom Long	2028A	C/A	A	E	NW
	John McLarty	2028A	C/A	A	E	Mid-N/E
	Brenden Voss	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	ME-West
	Ann Cruz	2028A	H/L	A	Laity	ME-West

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	NAME	CLASS	ETHNICITY	AGE	CLERGY LAY	DISTRICT
	Kay Lancaster	2028A	C/A	OA	D	ME-West
	Kantrice Robinson	2028A	B/A	A	E	ME-East
	Ted Haynes	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	East
	Anne Aaron	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	MID-N
	Danielle Kim	2028A	A/P	YA	E	ME-N
	Margie McNeir	2028A	C/A	OA	E	NW
	Gerald Gilkey	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	NW
	Karan Carlton	2028A	C/A	OA	E	NW
	Susie Breitling	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	NW

MULTIPLY JESUS FOLLOWERS

Chair	Kenneth Wolverton	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-N
	Sarah Garza	2028A	C/A	A	D	ME-West
	Hyung Seop Kim	2028A	A/P	A	E	NW
	Jenn Pick	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-West
	Billy Echols-Richter	2028A	C/A	OA	E	ME-N
	Stella Cho	2028A	A/P	YA	E	ME-N
	Mathew Aquino	2028A	A/P	YA	LP	NW
	Vondel Stevens	2028A	C/A	OA	LP	NW
	Kim Simpson	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-West
	Quana Shead	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	ME-East
Lay Leader, ex-officio	Mary Nickson	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	ME-East
Lay Leader, ex-officio	Mike Jones	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	NW
Lay Leader, ex-officio	Kylie Campbell	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	ME-West
Cabinet Representative	Stacey Piyakhun		C/A	A	E	ME-N
GBOD member	Michael Bowie		B/A	OA	E	ME-East
GBHEM member	Darlene Alfred		B/A	A	Laity	South
GBHEM member	David Martinez		H/L	A	E	ME-West

BOARD OF LAITY

Legacy CTC Co-Lay Leader	Kylie Campbell (co-chair)	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	ME-West
Legacy NTC Co-Lay Leader	Mary Nickson (co-chair)	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	ME-East
Legacy NWTC Co-Lay Leader	Mike Jones (co-chair)	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	NW
Associate Lay Leader	TBD	2028A				
East District Lay Leader	Ted Haynes	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	East
East District Assoc. Lay Leader	Lori Massey	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	East
Metro East District Lay Leader	Jennifer Wang	2028A	A/P	A	Laity	ME-East
Metro North District Lay Leader	Tim Hopson	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-N
Mid-North District Lay Leader	Anne Aaron	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	MID-N
Mid-South District Lay Leader	Larry Ketcham	2028A	CA	OA	Laity	Mid-S
Metro West District Lay Leader	Jackie Carter	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	ME-West
Mid-Central/West District Lay Leader	To Be Named by District	2028A				
South District Lay Leader	Carolyn Dugger	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	South
NW District Lay Leader	Gayland Daugherty	2028A	CA	OA	Laity	NW
President UWF	to be selected by UWF					
President UMM	to be selected by UMM					

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	NAME	CLASS	ETHNICITY	AGE	CLERGY LAY	DISTRICT
President Young Adult Ministry Council	TBS by YAM Council	2028A				NW
Unifying Youth Council Leader	Leo Barrios	2028A	H/L	YA	Laity	ME-N
Director of Lay Servant Ministries	Chris Buse	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	Mid-S
LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES						
Chair/Director of Lay Servant Ministries	Chris Buse	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	Mid-S
East District Director	Lori Massey	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	East
Metro East District Director						
Metro North District Director	Anniel Winston-Hall	2028A	B/A	OA	Laity	MID-N
Mid-North District Director	Ray Morgan	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	MID-N
Mid-South District Director	David Cameron	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	Mid-S
Metro West District Director	Karen Goodwin	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-West
Mid-Central District Director	Rita Bonin	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	Mid-C
South District Director	Pat Broadstreet	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	South
West District Director	Rita Bonin	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	West
NW District Director	Jocelyn Furr	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	NW
Clergy	Terre McGill	2028A	C/A	A	LP	Mid-C
Clergy	Derek Jacobs	2028A	B/A	A	E	NTC
Clergy	Betsey Heavner	2028A	C/A	OA	D	NW
BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY						
	Cathy Olson	2028	C/A	A	Laity	ME-West
	Brad Brittain	2028	C/A	A	E	South
	Philip Rhodes	2028	C/A	A	E	ME-West
	Kay Eck	2028	C/A	A	D	ME-East
	Matt Gaston	2028	C/A	OA	E	ME-N
	Ron Henderson	2028	B/A	OA	E	ME-East
	Chansoon Lim	2028	A/P	A	E	ME-West
	Paul Maletic	2028	C/A	A	D	ME-N
	Melissa McDuffee	2028	C/A	A	E	Mid-C
	Peter McNabb	2028	C/A	OA	E	ME-N
	Bryan Patrick	2028	C/A	A	E	West
	Felicia Hopkins	2028	B/A	A	E	NW
	Kim Simpson	2028	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-West
	Wendell Smith	2028	B/A	A	LP	NW
	Matt Ybanez	2028	H/L	A	D	ME-West
	Linda Parks	2028	C/A	OA	Laity	MID-N
	Dave Brower	2028	C/A	A	E	Mid-S
	Ann Aiken	2032	C/A	OA	LP	NW
	Faiana Funaki-Prescott	2032	A/P	A	E	ME-West
	Mitchell Boone	2032	C/A	YA	E	ME-East
	April Bristow	2032	B/A	A	E	ME-East
	Brenda Brooks-Alexander	2032	B/A	A	AM	ME-West
	Kyland Dobbins	2032	B/A	A	E	ME-West
	Frank Drenner	2032	C/A	A	E	ME-East
	Beth Evers	2032	C/A	YA	E	ME-West

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	NAME	CLASS	ETHNICITY	AGE	CLERGY LAY	DISTRICT
	Owen Ross	2032	C/A	A	E	ME-N
	Andy Nelms	2032	C/A	YA	E	ME-N
	Lance Marshall	2032	B/A	A	E	ME-West
	John Miller	2032	C/A	A	E	NW
	Katie Newkirk	2032	C/A	A	E	ME-West
	Mary Nickson	2032	B/A	A	Laity	ME-East
	Amy Spaur	2032	C/A	YA	E	ME-East
	Alan McGrath	2032	C/A	A	E	South
	Scott Luginbill	2032	C/A	A	AM	ME-East
	Martha Valencia	2036	H/L	A	E	ME-East
	Armando Alvarado	2036	H/L	OA	E	ME-West
	Holly Brower	2036	C/A	A	Laity	ME-West
	Jackie Carter	2036	B/A	A	Laity	ME-West
	Robert Garza	2036	H/L	A	Laity	ME-West
	Katrina Smith	2036	C/A	A	D	East
	John Han	2036	A/P	A	E	ME-East
	Ricky Harrison	2036	C/A	YA	E	NW
	Ramsey Jay	2036	C/A	YA	E	ME-N
	Allison Jean	2036	C/A	YA	E	ME-East
	Randall Lucas	2036	C/A	A	E	ME-East
	Yolanda Rivera	2036			Laity	NW
	Maggie Proshek	2036	A/P	YA	D	ME-East
	Tomeca Richardson	2036	B/A	A	E	ME-West
	Josh Stueve	2036	C/A	YA	E	NW
	Alex Williams	2036	C/A	YA	E	ME-N
	Kim Long	2036	C/A	A	RE	Mid-C
Multiplication Team Representative	Derek Jacobs		B/A	A	E	ME-East
Cabinet Representative	Philip Rhodes		C/A	A	E	ME-West
Multiplication Team Assistant	Camale Allen		B/A	A	Laity	
COUNCIL ON YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY						
	Uwezo Manjala	2028A	B/A	YA	Laity	MEW
	Taylor Smith	2028A	C/A	YA	E	ME-N
	Rachel Risko	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	East
	Landon Cain	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	NTC/West
	Mathew Aquino	2028A	A/P	YA	LP	West
	Kagan Parker	2028A	B/A	YA	Laity	ME-West
	Morgan Garrett	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	South
	Ellie Ford	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	ME-East
	Marianne Brown-Trigg	2028A	B/A	YA	E	ME-N
	Rachel Blackwell	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	NW
	Laureen Kuizon	2028A	A/P	YA	Laity	ME-West

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

UNITED METHODIST MEN

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	NAME	CLASS	ETHNICITY	AGE	CLERGY LAY	DISTRICT
Ft. Worth Regional Representative	Ken Costlow	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-West
Lubbock Regional Representative	Chris Ferguson	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	NW
Waco Regional Representative	Carl Swanson III	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	Mid-C
Dallas Regional Representative	Dwight Harry	2028A	B/A	OA	LP	ME-East

CHAMPIONING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Chair	Emma Williams	2028A	C/A	A	D	ME-East
	Marilyn Jones	2028A	C/A	A	E	West
	Tanner Smith	2028A	C/A	YA	E	Mid-S
	Betsy Spencer	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-West
	Boston White	2028A	C/A	A	LP	ME-N
	Sharon Schultze	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-W
	Wendell Smith	2028A	B/A	A	LP	NW
	Tessa Armes	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	NW
	Traci Greene	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	NW
Conference Youth Leadership Rep	Beau Wallace	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	Mid-C

CONFERENCE YOUTH LEADERSHIP

	Isabella Pluas	2028A	H/L	Y	Laity	ME-West
	Genevieve Thomason	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	ME-West
	Olivia Maeyaert	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	Mid-S
	Aaron McLennan	2028A	BA	Y	Laity	Mid-S
	Brody Schabow	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	Mid-C
	Addison Weber	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	Mid-C
	Jack Chaffin	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	South
	Ana Douglas	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	South
	Cadence Moses	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	West
	Owen Wood	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	West
	Clara Gibbs	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	East
	Emmy McCamant	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	East
	Leo Barrios	2028A	H/L	Y	Laity	ME-East
	Karen Kamanda	2028A	B/A	Y	Laity	ME-East
	Ciara Hoevers	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	ME-N
	Keaton Melvin	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	ME-N
	Weston Cain	2028A	CA	Y	Laity	MID-N
	Heidi Hoffman	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	MID-N
	Madison Armes	2028A	C/A	Y	Laity	NW
	Jack Fisher	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	NW
	Kayla Uti	2028A	A/P	Y	Laity	ME-West
	Jacqueline Myers	2028A	B/A	Y	Laity	ME-East
	Emma Speight	2028A	B/A	Y	Laity	ME-N
	Moses Burdett	2028A	B/A	Y	Laity	ME-N
Adult	Tessa Armes	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	NW
Adult	Dakota Bybee	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	NW
Adult	Joseph Cisneroz	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	West

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		NAME	CLASS	ETHNICITY	AGE	CLERGY LAY	DISTRICT
	Adult	Rossie Jones	2028A	B/A	YA	Laity	ME-West
	Adult	D'Andre Smith	2028A	B/A	YA	Laity	ME-N
	Adult	Sarah Schneider	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	ME-N
MAXIMIZE CARE AND HEALING							
	Chair	Shera Atkinson	2028A	C/A	OA	E	NW
		Doug Nichols	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-N
		Kristin Glover	2028A	A/P	YA	PE	West
		Phil Dieke	2028A	C/A	A	D	ME-East
		Monica Frazier	2028A	C/A	A	PE	ME-East
		Keri Keck	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-N
		Jason Valendy	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-West
		Royce Daugherty	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	NW
		Ruby Moultrie	2028A	B/A	OA	RP	NW
	Caretaker of God's Creation	Mel Caraway		C/A	OA	E	ME-N
	UW Faith, Social Action	Deb Hughey					
	UW Faith, Education	Becca Bilz Davis					
	Peace with Justice Coordinator	Phil Dieke	2028A	C/A	A	D	ME-East
	Conference Secretary of GM	Molly Simpson Hayes	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-West
	GBGM member	TBD		B/A	A	Laity	South
	Director, Parish Development	Joy Dister-Dominguez	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-West
	Chair, Parish Development and At-large						
	Community Rep	Rachel Griffin-Allison	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-East
	At-large Community Representative	Sarah Boyette	2028A	C/A	A	D	ME-West
PURSUE AND EMBRACE DIVERSITY							
	Chair	Maria Dixon-Hall	2028A	B/A	A	D	ME-East
		Heather Gottas	2028A	C/A	A	D	ME-East
		Yolanda Rivera	2028A	H/L	A	Laity	NW
		Chad Johnson	2028A	N/A	A	E	NW
		Ginger Watson	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-West
		Dee Dee Spivey	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	ME-East
		Dee Weaver	2028A	H/L	OA	Laity	ME-East
		Felicia Hopkins	2028A	B/A	OA	E	NW
		Nancy Vidad	2028A	A/P	A	Laity	ME-West
		Matthew Aquino	2028A	H/L	YA	Laity	West
	Conference Youth Leadership Rep	Aaron McLennan	2028A	B/A	YA	Laity	Mid-S
	Conference Ecumenical Officer	Ginger Watson	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-West
	WMC member	April Bristow	2028A	B/A	A	E	ME-East
	WCC delegate	Ginger Watson	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-West
	WCC delegate	Marcus Jones	2028A	B/A	A	LP	ME-West
	GCORR member	Clifton Howard	2028A	B/A	OA	E	ME-West
	UWF named (644.2)	TBD					

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	NAME	CLASS	ETHNICITY	AGE	CLERGY LAY	DISTRICT
TELL OUR STORY						
Chair	Beth Stuyck	2028A	C/A	A	D	ME-West
	Leanne Johnston	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-N
	Noah Bunn	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-E
	Wendy Owens	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-W
	Kristen Warthen	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-W
	Caitlin Seeligson	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-N
	Anna Hagler	2028A	C/A	YA	D	ME-E
	Anna Shipley	2028A	C/A	YA	PD	S
STEWARDSHIP						
COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION						
Laywoman	Dani Ramsey	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-East
Laywoman	Juliet Patterson	2028A	B/A	OA	Laity	ME-East
Laywoman	Janet Peterson	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-East
Laywoman	Debbie Armstrong	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-West
Layman	Mike Jones	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	NW
Layman	Tim Griffy	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-East
Layman	Gary Sult	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	West
Layman	David Kim	2028A	A/P	YA	Laity	ME-East
Clergy	Todd Salzwedel	2028A	C/A	A	E	NW
Clergy	Chris Dowd	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-N
Clergy	Kyland Dobbins	2028A	B/A	A	E	ME-West
Clergy	Jacob Fields	2028A	C/A	A	LP	Mid-N
CFO (ex-officio)	Jeff Pehl		C/A	A	E	ME-East
GCFA member (ex-officio)	Lisa Gafford		C/A	A	Laity	ME-West
Presiding Bishop (ex-officio)	Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.		H/L	OA	E	
Cabinet Representative (ex-officio)	Andy Lewis		C/A	A	E	ME-N.
DCM or equivalent (ex-officio)	Andy Lewis		C/A	A	E	ME-N
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE						
Conference CFA	to be selected by CFA					
Conference CFA	to be selected by CFA					
Conference BOPHB	to be selected by board					
Conference BOPHB	to be selected by board					
Conference Board of Trustees	to be selected by board					
Conference Board of Trustees	to be selected by board					
	Alan Martin	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-West
	Kim Bird	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-East
	Kurt Maerschel	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-East
	John Allen	2028A	C/A	OA	E	ME-N

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	NAME	CLASS	ETHNICITY	AGE	CLERGY LAY	DISTRICT
	Dave Andersen	2028A	C/A	OA	E	NW
	Gary Pitner	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	NW
CFO/Treasurer (ex-officio)	Jeffrey Pehl		C/A	OA	E	ME-East
Cabinet Representative (ex-officio)	Tom Long		C/A	A	E	NW
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE						
Chair, Assistant to the Bishop	Andy Lewis		C/A	A	E	ME-N
	Dave Farish	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-N
	Deborah Vela	2028A	H/L	A	Laity	ME-East
	Maria Reed	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-West
	Betty Alexander	2028A	B/A	OA	Laity	ME-West
	Sheila Warren	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	NW
	Sandy Heard	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-N
	Eddie Allsup	2028A	C/A	OA	E	NW
	Carly Payne	2028A	C/A	YA	E	ME-West
	Jeff Smith	2028A	C/A	OA	E	South
	Pavielle Jenkins	2028A	B/A	YA	D	ME-East
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW						
Member	Lane Boyd	2028A	C/A	OA	E	NW
Chair	Bryant Phelps	2028A	B/A	YA	E	ME-East
Member	Phyllis Barren	2028A	C/A	A	D	ME-West
Alternate	Richard Edwards	2028A	C/A	OA	E	NW
Alternate	Ben Shinn	2028A	C/A	OA	RE	ME-N
Alternate	Mary Gean Cope	2028A	C/A	OA	RE	Mid-S
COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION						
Clergy Full Connection	Jennifer Kilpatrick	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-East
Clergy Full Connection	Sela Finau	2028A	A/P	A	E	South
Clergy Full Connection	Paul Bauernfeind	2028A	C/A	OA	E	NW
Clergy Full Connection	Silvia Wang	2028A	A/P	A	E	ME-East
Professing Lay Members	Jeff Bouis	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-N
Professing Lay Members	Janie Gully	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	Mid-N
Professing Lay Members	Debbie Peacock	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-West
Alternate Clergy Full Connection	Scott Richards	2028A	C/A	OA	E	NW
Alternate Clergy Full Connection	Carol Gibson	2028A	B/A	OA	E	ME-West
Alternate Clergy Full Connection	Luther Henry	2028A	B/A	OA	RE	ME-West
Alternate Professing Lay Member	Kim Desrosiers	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	Mid-S
Alternate Professing Lay Member	Ben Davila	2028A	H/L	OA	Laity	ME-West
Alternate Professing Lay Member	Sakari Spivey	2028A	B?A	YA	Laity	ME-East
Alternate Professing Lay Member	Clay Johnson	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	East
Alternate Professing Lay Member	Linda Strothers	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	NW
Alternate Professing Lay Member	Larry Womack	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-N
COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY						
Layman	Spencer Driver	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	Mid-S

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	NAME	CLASS	ETHNICITY	AGE	CLERGY LAY	DISTRICT
Layman	Jack Fisher*	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	NW
Layman	Fred Marsh	2028A	B/A	OA	Laity	ME-East
Layman	Steve McIver	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	Mid-S
Laywoman	Mary Nickson	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	ME-East
Laywoman	Kathy Edwards	2028A	C/A		Laity	NW
Laywoman	Kylie Campbell	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	ME-West
Laywoman	Deborah Vela*	2028A	H/L	A	Laity	ME-East
Clergy	Kristen Warthen	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-West
Clergy	Stephania Gilkey	2028A	B/A	A	E	NW
Clergy	Katrina Smith*	2028A	C/A	A	D	East
Clergy	Jenna Johnson	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-N
Clergy member SCJ Comm on Episcopacy NTC	Clayton Oliphant	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-East
Laity member SCJ Comm on Episcopacy NTC	Kelly Carpenter	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-East
Clergy member SCJ Comm on Episcopacy CTC	Tim Bruster	2028A	CA	OA	E	ME-West
Laity member SCJ Comm on Episcopacy CTC	Kim Simpson	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-West
Clergy member SCJ Comm on Episcopacy NW	Josh Stueve	2028A	C/A	YA	E	NW
Laity member SCJ Comm on Episcopacy NW	TBD				Laity	NW
EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE						
Chair or designate of Committee on Episcopacy	TBD					
Chair or designate of Conference Board of Trustees	TBD					
Chair or designate of Conference CFA	TBD					
BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS						
	Andrew Brown-Trigg	2028A	C/A	YA	Laity	ME-N
	Phil Bush	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-East
	Ted Haynes	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	East
	Jeanne Clark	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	East
	Natalie Hermes	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	NW
	Steve Heyduck	2028A	C/A	OA	E	Mid-S
	Kissa Vaughn	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-West
	Barbara Dunlap	2028A	C/A	A	D	ME-West
	Austin Foster	2032A	C/A	YA	Laity	ME-West
	Fred Marsh	2032A	B/A	OA	Laity	ME-East
	Alison Barley-Alvarado	2032A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-West
	Katerina Scott	2032A	C/A	A	Laity	NW
	Phyllis Barren	2032A	C/A	A	D	ME-West
	Estella Murray	2032A	B/A	OA	Laity	South
	Amy Tate-Almy	2032A	C/A	A	D	ME-West
	Steve Langford	2032A	C/A	OA	RE	ME-West
CFO (ex-officio)	Jeffrey Pehl		C/A	A	E	ME-East
Cabinet Representative (ex-officio)	John McLarty		C/A	A	E	MidN/E
CFA rep (ex-officio)	to be selected by CFA					

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	NAME	CLASS	ETHNICITY	AGE	CLERGY LAY	DISTRICT
GBOPHB member (ex-officio)	Jessica Vittorio		CA	YA	Laity	ME-East
GBOPHB member (ex-officio)	Necia Dexter		C/A	A	Laity	ME-N

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

	Ellen Diers	2029A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-N
	Drew Clinton	2029A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-W
	Faiana Funaki-Prescott	2029A	A/P	A	E	ME-West
	Jessica Vargas	2030A	H/L	A	Laity	ME-N
	Billy Jay	2030A	C/A	OA	Laity	NW
	Jennifer Kilpatrick	2030A	C/A	A	E	ME-E
	Misti Kingston	2027A	C/A	A	Laity	NW
	Cathy Sweeney	2027A	C/A	A	D	ME-East
Chair	Kelly Wade	2027A	C/A	OA	Laity	East
	Kelly Carpenter	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-East
	Richard Stewart	2028A	B/A	OA	Laity	ME-East
	Marianne Brown-Trigg	2028A	C/A	YA	E	ME-N

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Chair	Craig Clark	2028A	C/A	OA	E	Mid-Central
	Josh Esparza	2028A	H/L	YA	E	ME-N
	Mike Rowe	2028A	C/A	A	LP	NW
	Michael Baughman	2028A	C/A	A	E	ME-East
	David Pierkarski	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	ME-N
	Corey Moses	2028A		A	D	West
	Marsha Thornton	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	ME-East
	Shelby Farmer	2028A	B/A	A	Laity	East
Ex Officio	Shawn-Marie Riley		C/A	OA	Laity	ME-West
Cabinet Representative	Mary Spradlin		C/A	A	E	Mid-S/South

STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

	Ryan Wager	2028A	C/A	A	LP	ME-East
Chair	Tommy Prud'homme	2028A	C/A	A	E	South
	Herman Totten	2028A	B/A	OA	Laity	ME-N
Secretary	Melissa Shamburger	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-West
Vice Chair	Jennifer Kilpatrick	2032A	C/A	A	E	ME-East
	Colin McDonald	2032A	C/A	A	Laity	South
	Dorothy James	2032A	B/A	OA	Laity	ME-East
	Mary Brooke Casad	2032A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-East
Conference Secretary (ex officio)	Kevin Walters		C/A	A	Laity	ME-West

OPERATIONS

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY	Calvin Scott		B/A	A	Laity	ME-West
	Cindy Martin		C/A	OA	Laity	NW
	John Han		A/P	A	E	ME-E
	Brenda Breeden		C/A	OA	Laity	NW

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	NAME	CLASS	ETHNICITY	AGE	CLERGY LAY	DISTRICT
	Kristen Von Gonten		C/A	A	D	South
	Melissa Potter		C/A		Laity	ME-N

INDIVIDUAL ROLES

Conference Secretary	Kevin Walters		C/A	A	Laity	ME-West
Assistant Conference Secretary	Marsha Middleton		C/A	OA	E	ME-East
Conference Statistician	Jeffrey Pehl		C/A	A	E	ME-East
Chancellor	Sam Hamann		C/A	A	D	ME-West
Treasurer	Jeffrey Pehl		C/A	A	E	ME-East

CAMP BOARDS

BRIDGEPORT	Colin Craft	2026A	C/A	YA	E	ME-E
	Kristen Glover	2026A	C/A	A	E	West
	Colton Bobbitt	2027A	A/P	YA	Laity	ME-E
	Amanda Black	2027A	C/A	A	Laity	NW
	John Ozmun	2027A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-E
	Kay Ash	2028A	C/A	A	D	ME_E
	Jennifer Hopson	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-N
	Ryan Galloway	2028A	C/A	YA	PE	East
	Chair Jenna Johnson	2029	C/A	A	E	ME-North
	Anna Shipley	2029	C/A	YA	PD	South
	Chad Johnson	2029	N/A	YA	E	Northwest
	Leanne Johnston	2029	C/A	A	Laity	ME-North
	DS (ex officio) John McLarty		C/A	A	E	Mid-N/East
	HTC Staff Christine Peirce					
PROTHRO	Larry Womack	2028A	C/A	OA	Laity	ME-North
	Erin Sloan Jackson	2028A	C/A	A	Clergy	ME-East
	Blake Durham	2028A	C/A	A	Clergy	Mid-North
	Natalie Nenovich	2028A	C/A	A	Laity	ME-East
	Carly Payne	2028A	C/A	YA	Clergy	ME-West
	DS (ex officio) John McLarty		C/A	A	Clergy	Mid-N/East
HTC Staff	Christine Peirce					
GLEN LAKE	Doug Vaughn					
	Carly Payne					
	Mike Marshall					
	Emily Frantz					
	Joel Robbins					
	Jack Teddie					
	Jessica Raines					
	Johnny Brower					
	Andrew Brown-Trigg					
	Neal Bridges					
	HTC Staff (Ex officio) Christine Peirce					

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		NAME	CLASS	ETHNICITY	AGE	CLERGY LAY	DISTRICT
1	DS (Ex officio)	Tom Long					
	Director (Ex-officio)	Daran Miller					
CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARDS		Name	Class				
DENTON WESLEY FOUNDATION							
	Chair	Karen Anderson-Lain	2028	Lay, First Denton			
	Member	Kent Carpenter	2027	Lay, First Denton			
	Member	Boston White-Smith	2027	Clergy, Aldersgate UMC			
	Member	David Finley	2027	Clergy, First Denton			
	Member	Dale Tampke	2027	Clergy, Argyle UMC			
	Member	Sarah Roberts	2026	Clergy, Aldersgate UMC			
	Member	Leanne Johnston	2027	Lay, Community UMC, Krum			
	Member	Jane Graner	2027	Clergy, Trinity UMC, Duncanville			
	Member	John Bell	2027	Clergy, Christ the Servant ELCA			
	Member	John Radenmacher	2027	Lay, Christ the Servant ELCA			
	Member	Adeline Hicks	2026	Lay, Denton Wesley Student			
	Member	Baranda Fermin	2026	Iliff School of Theology			
	Member	Katie Aldis	2029	Lay, First Denton			
	Member	Karen Nilson	2029	Lay, Christ the Servant ELCA			
	Member	Ephraim Nitanga	2029	Lay, First Plano			
	Member	Sarah Roberts	2029	Clergy, Aldersgate UMC			
	Ex-officio	Marianne Brown-Trigg		Director			
	Ex-officio	Philip Rhodes		District Superintendent			
	Ex-officio	Stacey Piyakhun		HTC Staff			
PARIS WESLEY CENTER							
	President	Lisa Johnson		Laity			
	Secretary	Judy Martin		Laity			
	Treasurer	Dee Jackson		Laity			
		Diann Mason		Laity			
		Keri Lynn Lucas		Clergy			
		Greg Hollje		Laity			
		Marion Hutchison		Laity			
		John Wright		Laity			
		Michael Lee		Laity			
		Rick Erickson		Laity			
	ex-officio	Michelle Stubbs-Wood		Director			
	ex-officio	John McLarty		District Superintendent			
	ex-officio	Stacey Piyakhun		HTC Staff			
SYNERGY WESLEY FOUNDATION							
	President	James Mitchell	2026	Laity			
	Secretary	Carolyn Kennington	2026	Laity			
		Cammy Gaston	2026	Clergy			
		Larry George	2026	Clergy			
		Marilee Hayden	2026	Laity			

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CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARDS

Name	Class	
Mark Petersen	2028	Laity
William Proshek	2026	Laity
Charles Taylor	2026	Laity
Mark Solomon	2026	Laity
Leslee Light		Laity
Ex-officio Brittany Burrows Melrose		Director
Ex-officio Lucretia Facen		District Superintendent
Ex-officio Stacey Piyakhun		HTC Staff

TARLETON WESLEY FOUNDATION

Chair	Eric Douglas	2026	Clergy
	Sheridan Priddy	2026	Clergy
	Frank Owsley	2026	Laity
	Marylin Jones	2026	Clergy
	Gary Sult	2027	Laity
	Eillean Faulkenberry		Faculty Advisor
	Debbie Lincoln	2028	Laity
	Ben Sword	2027	Laity
	Steven Lively	2028	Laity
	Allison Clemons	2028	Alumni
	Mathew Aquino		Ministry Coordinator
	Brandon Jones		Student Representative
ex-officio	Corey Moses		Director
ex-officio	Tom Long		District Superintendent
ex-officio	Stacey Piyakhun		HTC Staff

THE WICHITA FALLS WESLEY

Chair	Zack Landis		
Financial Chair	Jennifer Fleming		
	Katie Pryor		
	Marcy Brown-Marsden		
	Aaron Logan		
	Jessica Wright		
	Jordan Crawford		
	Larry Parks		
ex-officio	Julia Puac-Romero		Director
ex-officio	John McLarty		District Superintendent
ex officio	Stacey Piyakhun		HTC Staff

WESLEY CAMPUS MINISTRIES TEXAS A&M COMMERCE

Chair	Brian Bosworth	Clergy
	David Owsley	Clergy
Secretary	Brenda Moore	
	Andrew Brown-Trigg	Laity
	Cheryl Murray	Clergy
	Rita Sims	Clergy
	Stephen Wright	Clergy

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CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARDS

Name	Class
Larry Crowson	Laity
Mark Schoeder	
Susan Patton	
Larry Cowson	
Marcus Hawkins	
ex-officio Travis Burdett	Director
ex-officio John McLarty	District Superintendent
ex officio Stacey Piyakhun	HTC Staff

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT TCU

Student	Craig Kercho	2028
Student	Tori Couch	2028
	Steve Coffman	2026
	Armando Alvarado	2026
	Lonzetta Allen	2026
	Haley Bryant	2027
	Kelly Carpenter	2027
	Brad Stewart	2027
	Paul Massingill	2027
	Sabrina Gordon	2027
	Amber Benson	2028
	Christy Bailey	2028
	Tonya Frantz	2028
	Estee Valendy	2028
	Sarah Walters	2028
ex-officio	Eddie Kahler	Director
ex-officio	Hanna Newcomer Silva	Associate Director
ex-officio	Todd Boling	TCU Chaplain
ex-officio	Danny Tenney	District Superintendent
ex-officio	Stacey Piyakhun	HTC Staff

UTA WESLEY

Chair	Thevnin Rumende	
Staff-Parish Relations	Madison Boboltz	Clergy, First UMC Arlington
Secretary, Fundraising Chair	Karen Cox	
Finance	Dave Munson	
	Rollin Phipps	
Building/Grounds Chair	Cody Cox	
	Ashley Nguyenminh	
	Will Mayberry	
	Carly Payne	
	Jeanne Cochran	
	Michelle Frawley	
Director	Evve Kuykendall	
DS	Danny Tenney	
HTC Staff	Stacey Piyakhun	

**ITEM 2026-19: DISCONTINUANCE OF BELTON UNITED WESLEY
FOUNDATION**

From: Multiply Jesus Followers Team

Action: The Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolution:

Whereas, the Belton United Wesley Foundation has been under assessment by the Board of Directors, District Superintendent, and the Multiply Jesus Followers team, as required by the Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry in accordance with ¶ 633.4.d.17 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*;

Whereas, the Belton United Wesley Board of Directors engaged in a season of prayerful discernment culminating in a meeting held on April 19, 2026, to determine the future of the ministry;

Whereas, after reviewing prior materials, the history of attempts within this mission field over the past several years, and reflecting on student feedback, the board discussed sustainability challenges including financial viability and fit between the current organizational model and the context of the mission field, while affirming the ongoing spiritual needs of students and a commitment to their continued care. The board voted unanimously to close Belton United Wesley in its current form, setting a closing date of June 30, 2026, and identified next steps for the transition, communication planning, conference coordination, financial follow-up, legal closure, and pastoral support for students as they connect with other communities;

Whereas, Bishop Saenz and the cabinet subsequently voted on April 23, 2026, to discontinue the Belton United Wesley; and

Whereas, grant funding that was provided by the Horizon Texas Conference and is not needed for ministry through June 30, 2026, will be returned to the conference for use in the growth of development of collegiate ministries;

Resolved, That the Horizon Texas Conference terminates our ministry at the Belton United Wesley Foundation.

**ITEM 2026-20: RENEWED COMMITMENT TO MINISTRY AT NAVARRO
COLLEGE**

From: Multiply Jesus Followers Team

Action: The Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following:

Whereas the passing of the 2025 Resolution to discontinue ministry of the UCF Wesley was a difficult conversation for our Annual Conference and a commitment was made to explore the continuance of ministry to students at Navarro College;

Whereas, the vacant campus ministry buildings owned by Horizon Texas Conference at two-year community colleges South Plains College (Lubbock) and Navarro College (Corsicana) are adjacent to primarily ethnic minority student populations, and the ministry at Navarro College reached a majority of Brown and Black students;

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Whereas, a strategic team of twelve members was formed to intentionally reflect the richness and diversity of the mission field that we are called to serve and to ensure that team members reflect a variety of lived experiences;

Whereas, the work of the strategic team was to honor the commitment to diverse populations at all Horizon Texas Conference collegiate ministry campuses;

Whereas, the strategic team has met nine times since August 2025 for analysis of the conference mission field, assessment of the two vacant campus ministry buildings, timelines, staffing, and funding plans for new campus ministries, in addition to completing an IDI (intercultural development inventory) with group and individual debriefings; and

Whereas, members of this team have completed a site visit to Corsicana and met community stakeholders six times since December 2025 to explore ministry redevelopment and community partnerships; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Horizon Texas Conference renew its commitment to continued campus ministry at Navarro College;

Resolved, That the Multiply Jesus Followers team, Center for Multiplication, the Northwest District, and Horizon Texas Conference collegiate ministers lead the exploration of ministry relaunch at South Plains College;

Resolved, That – since there are no United Methodist Churches in the Corsicana area – churches across the Horizon Texas Conference support Navarro College campus ministry through prayers (for the ministry, leadership and students), presence (travel to support and engagement with students), gifts (financial donations and providing snacks or supplies), service (serving meals and working alongside the board), and witness (share the story of campus ministry within your local church); and

Resolved, That the Navarro College campus ministry begin relaunch for the 2026–2027 school year, with continued development on a plan for staffing, funding, and local partnerships.

ITEM 2026-21: PROCEEDS FROM MINERAL PROPERTIES

From: HTC Board of Trustees

Action: The Horizon Texas Annual Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following:

Resolved, That income from mineral properties, in excess of taxes, be designated for new church starts in the Horizon Texas Conference unless otherwise restricted or otherwise determined by the Board of Trustees.

Petitions

Petitions come from a member or members of the conference and request that the conference articulate a position or take an action. They are often written in the form of a resolution. Typically, petitions are considered to be aspirational.

ITEM 2026-50: IDENTIFYING AND CELEBRATING ENCOURAGERS IN CHRIST

Whereas, the Holy Scriptures emphasize the importance of encouragement and mutual support among the people of God, as exemplified by Deborah, who strengthened and accompanied Barak in faith and courage for the sake of Israel (Judges 4–5), and by Barnabas, who was called the “Son of Encouragement” (Acts 4:36–37; Acts 9:26–27); and

Whereas, members of the Horizon Texas Conference (HTC) regularly witness acts of encouragement and support in their local congregations, ministries, and daily lives; and

Whereas, sharing stories of encouragement is itself an act of care and healing, as bearing witness to God's grace through one another's lives restores hope, strengthens resilience, and tends to the wounds that isolation and discouragement can bring; and

Whereas, June 11, 2026, is the feast day of Barnabas in the Catholic Church, providing an opportunity to honor encouragers in our lives in a unified and intentional way with our ecumenical siblings; and

Whereas, collecting stories of encouragement and thanksgiving allows HTC to celebrate the work of the Spirit among its members and encourages a culture of mutual support; and

Whereas, structured report forms enable the Annual Conference to capture these interactions and discern the impact of encouragement across the HTC; it is therefore

Resolved, That the Horizon Texas Conference invites all members to prayerfully identify someone in their lives who has served as an encourager and to intentionally reach out to them by phone, email, text, or other means on or by **June 11, 2026**, so that these acts of gratitude may become part of the conference's living testimony: telling the story of faith, mutual care, and healing within the body of Christ; and

Resolved, That in each contact, HTC members would:

- Communicate that the person they are contacting has been an encourager in their life;
- Offer thanksgiving for this person's presence and ministry;
- Cite at least one specific instance in which the person lifted their spirits or provided encouragement; and

Resolved, That following this contact, members of the Horizon Texas Conference shall complete and submit an **Encourager Appreciation Report (EAR) Form** as a narrative account of how encouragement has served as a means of care and healing across the Horizon Texas Conference, telling our collective story of the Spirit's work among us, which includes:

- Name of the HTC member submitting the report;
- Name of the person identified as an “Encourager;”
- A description of how this person is a Encourager;
- Personal reflection on the experience of expressing appreciation;
- Any additional comments.

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Resolved, that the operations department of the HTC will create and distribute an Encourager Appreciation Report Form to all conference delegates on or by **June 11, 2026**, with a submission deadline of **June 30, 2026**, to allow the Annual Conference to collect, review, and analyze the results; and

Resolved, That the HTC Care and Healing Team will provide a report to the Annual Conference in 2027 that communicates the participation and analysis of the returned EARs, which may include the number of reports received, the proportion of delegates participating, the number and types of encouragers identified, common forms of encouragement described, emerging themes from narrative reflections, and representative stories that illustrate how encouragement has served as a ministry of care, resilience, and healing across the Horizon Texas Conference; and

Resolved, That the Horizon Texas Conference encourages congregations, ministry teams, and members to share and tell our story of encouragement, recognizing that sharing these experiences is itself a ministry of care and healing, thereby fostering a culture of mutual support, gratitude, and discipleship in alignment with the mission of the United Methodist Church and the priorities of the Horizon Texas Conference.

Submitted by Rev. Jason Valendy

Supporting Information

What Biblical text(s) informed you in the development of this petition?

- Judges 4–5 - Deborah encouraging Barak
- Ruth 1-4 - Ruth's encouraging Naomi in her decisions
- Acts 4:36–37 – Introduction of Barnabas as a generous supporter.
- Acts 9:26–27 – Barnabas' encouragement of Paul to join the apostles.
- Acts 18:24-28 - Pricilla does not tear down Apollos but pulls him aside to help him grow
- Hebrews 10:24–25 – The call to encourage one another and spur love and good works.
- Thessalonians 5:11 – “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

How does this petition help further the mission of our Annual Conference to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? How does it align with the HTC vision and the five strategic priorities?

- Maximize care and healing: encouraging and recognizing encouragers fosters spiritual growth, discipleship, and relational vitality within congregations.
- Multiply followers of Jesus: followers of Jesus Christ are bringers of Good News and being an encourager of the Good News.
- Tell our story: Giving people a purpose and reason to not just tell stories, but to hear the stories of others.

Provide pertinent references set forth in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline or the 2020/2024 Book of Resolutions that relate to this petition.

- ¶ 126 The Heart of Christian Ministry - Affirms that Christian ministry is rooted in Christ's “outreaching love” and expressed through a common life of gratitude, devotion, witness, service, and discipleship. This provides a foundational theological basis for recognizing encouragement as a vital expression of Christian ministry.
- ¶ 129 Ministry as Gift and Task - Describes ministry as both a gift of grace and a task of unsparing service, reinforcing that practices such as encouragement are not optional but integral to the church's life together.

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How does this item differ from the stated stances set forth in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline or the 2020/2024 Book of Resolutions?

- None

If applied, what action would be required of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference?

- Distribution of the Encourager Appreciation Report (EAR) Form to all Annual Conference delegates, as well as to the chairs of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, the Orders of Deacons and Elders, and the Board of Laity, on or by June 11, 2026.
- Collection of submitted forms by June 30, 2026.
- Generate a report to the Annual Conference in 2027 that communicates the participation and analysis of the returned EARs.
- Encouragement of ongoing practice of identifying and uplifting encouragers within HTC congregations and ministries.

ITEM 2026-51: CREATING A CREATION CARE/JUSTICE TASKFORCE

Resolved, That the Horizon Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will create a conference-level Creation Care/Justice Taskforce as a part of the Care and Healing Team to address climate justice and resilience in the annual conference. This is a follow-up to the “Affirming the Formation of Green Teams in the Horizon Texas Annual Conference” resolution that was passed at the 2025 session of Annual Conference.

The Horizon Texas Annual Conference hereby asserts and recognizes that creation care/environmental stewardship is a faithful and imperative response to the world-wide crisis of environmental degradation. As stewards of Creation, we have failed on our watch to ensure clean water, flourishing wildlife, and a stable climate for current and future generations. We acknowledge our sinfulness and cry out that Creation Care and Justice is and must be a Missional Priority for the church; and

Resolved, That the Horizon Texas Annual Conference understands the work of creation care/environmental justice to be a part of our Missional Priority.

Affirmed by this conference body, with their work empowered by faith as a Missional Priority, the Creation Care/Justice Taskforce will be charged to accomplish these tasks toward a missional, sustainable, and faithful church:

- Recognize the church as the presence of God— “on Earth as it is in heaven,” both now and for the future—and develop and advance a vision toward a sustainable, net-zero, resilient church, empowering congregations, districts, and congregational groups to take action consistent with that vision, as well as develop resources for that effort.
- Delineate benchmarks and assume accountability to meet benchmarks that move the conference toward net-zero, sustainable, and environmental justice goals in line with the Wesleyan faith, and in partnership with people and communities most affected by environmental impacts and climate change.
- Pursue just partnerships and community recovery both within the congregation and outside the walls of the church, coordinating and collaborating with the strategic work of anti-racism and restorative justice work in the conference.

In line with the Missional Priority work of Creation Care and Justice, the Creation Care/Justice Taskforce will work closely with conference budgetary structures toward the funding and achievement of net-zero and sustainable goals—

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- Participate in the conference budgeting process to ensure that priorities identified by the Creation Care/Justice Taskforce are integrated into the conference budget and funded at robust levels.
- Identify, apply for, and work to secure new funding sources designated to achieve net-zero, greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, ensuring that funding is provided to, and available for, local congregations and conference entities working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their context.
- Support and encourage the Annual Conference and congregations to divest from emissions-laden investments and practices and toward re-investment in low-carbon, sustainable alternatives, such as addressing food waste, single-use refuse disposal, electrification, and obtaining energy from clean power sources.

In line with the Book of Discipline (§ 628.2 2024 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, page 459), the Creation Care/Justice Taskforce, together with the conference Board of Church and Society and the Annual Conference Nominations Committee, hire/appoint/select a Caretaker of God's Creation Coordinator for the conference.

This Coordinator will—

- Serve on the Creation Care/Justice Taskforce as a member.
- Serve with other Caretakers of God's Creation/Green Teams/Creation Care Committees/Creation Justice Ministry Teams across the denomination to contribute to and establish a multiconference network of such groups through the General Board of Church and Society, General Board of Global Missions, Caretakers of God's Creation, The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement, and other appropriate United Methodist bodies.
- "...Be responsible for helping the conference develop programs to become more ecologically sustainable and to address environmental injustices" (as appropriate to Horizon Texas Annual Conference contexts). § 628.2 2024 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, page 459.

Resolved, That Conference Creation Care/Justice Taskforce members shall consist of a minimum of ten people who are passionate about gospel of Jesus Christ, creation care and justice, and anti-racism, and that members shall include in addition to others, at least

- Two youth
- Two young adults (under age 30)
- Two clergy
- Two laity
- One conference staff person

Every District should be represented in the membership listed above.

Resolved, That from this Creation Care/Justice Taskforce, sub-groups shall be formed to address these needs:

- Rudder (Steering, Coordinating)
 - To identify and articulate specific goals and benchmarks for success
- Resource development
 - To provide educational, worship, missional and discipleship materials and to serve as a resource to local churches, districts, and the Annual Conference
- Community Outreach, Local Church Engagement, and Missional Listening
 - To build coalition, restoration, and a renewed body of the church
- Budget engagement
 - To identify and pursue designated funding, grant writing, and funds development
- Repair and support anti-racism partnerships

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- To recognize the expertise and leadership of communities impacted by environmental harms
- To work through a priority anti-racist lens

Submitted by

- Rev. Mel Caraway, Caretaker of God's Creation Coordinator, HTC
- Rev. Phil Dieke, Chair of HTC Board of Church and Society

Supporting Information

What Biblical text(s) informed you in the development of this petition?

- Genesis 1-2
- Psalm 24

How does this petition help further the mission of our Annual Conference to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? How does it align with the HTC vision and the five strategic priorities?

- In order to make disciples for the transformation of the world, we must have a world to transform. This gives us the tools to work with in the Horizon Texas Conference for care and healing as we work to create a sustainable world.

Provide pertinent references set forth in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline or the 2020/2024 Book of Resolutions that relate to this petition.

- Par. 703.9 BOD
- Par. 806.1b(2) BOD
- Par. 628.2 BOD
- Multiple resolutions in 2024 BOR on various aspects of Creation Care/Justice -- Church Land Use, Green Teams, Clean Energy, Net Zero, Solar

How does this item differ from the stated stances set forth in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline or the 2020/2024 Book of Resolutions?

- This resolution does not differ in any way from the 2024 Book of Discipline or Book of resolutions.

If applied, what action would be required of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference?

- If adopted, this resolution will provide a tool for the Horizon Texas Annual Conference to fulfill the language of the 2024 BOD and the BOR at the Annual Conference level.
- There are no direct financial implications.

Notes:

When God brought Abraham out of Ur, atmospheric carbon was about 280 ppm. Today's number hovers around 431.32 ppm (as of March 31, 2026). Find today's exact number at The Keeling Curve.

Find Net-Zero and emissions reduction resources for faith communities from faith communities:

- From the Church of England PDF—A practical path to net zero carbon: A checklist for your church
- From the Anglican church in Canada—Addressing the questions, What is net zero? and What will it require of me?' a FAQ or a net-zero church,
- From the Church of Scotland—Net-Zero Strategic Outline
- From The Methodist Church in Britain—not only have they divested from fossil fuels, but also they have a lot of information about how to get to net-zero.

Find help through partnerships with governmental agencies if they still exist:

- EPA's Resources for Congregations, including Energy Star Action Workbook for Congregations.
- DOE's Renew America's Nonprofits
- DOE's Justice 40 Initiative

Connect with the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement for resources on Caretakers of God's Creation, green teams, worship materials and curriculum, Creation Justice Tips, solar initiatives, and current creation justice legislation in the *Book of Discipline* and *Book of Resolutions*, and support for Creation Care and Justice throughout the denomination.

ITEM 2026-52: SAFEGUARDING CREATION AND COMMUNITY FROM UNSUSTAINABLE DATA CENTER GROWTH

Whereas, the UMC Social Principles (p. 9) declares: "We affirm that all creation belongs to God and is a manifestation of God's goodness and providential care... Rather than treating creation as if it were placed here solely for humanity's use and consumption, we are called to practice responsible stewardship and to live in right relationship with the Creator and with the whole of God's creation;" and

Whereas, the data center industry provides processing for Artificial Intelligence and has quickly overwhelmed social, environmental, and economic resources across the country. In Texas, the data center industry is expanding rapidly; and

Whereas, the Horizon Texas Annual Conference should call for this currently unregulated industry to abide by sustainable standards; and

Whereas, data centers pose health risks to the young, the unborn, and the old, which include, but are not limited to pre-term labor, miscarriage, respiratory illnesses, developmental issues, heart attack, stroke, cancer, and depression, and

Whereas, the UMC *Book of Resolutions* (p. 52) states: "The public health risks of technological development and waste must be fully researched and openly assessed before new technologies are introduced into the home, the workplace, the community and the environment;" and

Whereas, in Texas, energy needed to power data centers exceeds the current capacity of ERCOT to power them, facilitating the call for new gas power plants which would substantially increase CO2 emissions; and

Whereas, local governments are racing to secure data center contracts. Sound policies are not currently in place, and local ordinances do not yet have the strength to provide adequate fiscal and environmental protections. Communities are currently vulnerable to often-unfulfilled financial revenue and job projections while giving tax breaks to the wealthiest companies on the planet; and

Whereas, communities awaken to sudden approvals of data centers near their homes and neighborhoods, despite zoning ordinances and laws designed to protect residential and community integrity. Nondisclosure agreements leave citizens without any warning that a data center is imminent. The failure to share information erodes trust between citizens and industry and citizens and elected officials; it is therefore

Resolved, That we call upon the Horizon Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, through its Board of Church and Society, its leaders and participating local congregations to:

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- Promote policies that uphold the highest level of sustainability for data center development which protect all living creatures, and ensure that data centers should be sited away from vulnerable populations, historic sites, schools, daycares, hospitals, and protected lands,
- Mandate standards for onsite renewable energy generation, air quality, water containment and reuse, and for zoning of data centers as “heavy industrial,
- Oppose the use of non-disclosure agreements, proprietary data claims, and tactics that deprive the public of information,
- Mandate that public officials must disclose financial contributions and/or conflicts of interest,
- Advocate that data centers, not local citizens, pay for developing their facilities,
- Oppose the use of tax incentives and/or abatements for these facilities,
- Urge lawmakers/regulators to develop, enforce, and obey all environmental planning laws to assure a full and fair evaluation of the threats to the community,
- Encourage our districts and congregations to work across district/county lines to advocate for environmental and human justice, to support sustainability in the data center industry, and establish working relationships with nonprofit ecumenical and environmental advocacy organizations in Texas,
- Equip Texas United Methodists to advocate for sustainable standards and managed growth of the data center industry.

Resolved, That we call upon the Conference Secretary to send this resolution to Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, the Public Utilities Commission, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, and share it through the Horizon Texas Conference Communications Office, so that our witness on this issue may be known and effective.

Submitted by:

- Rev. Mel Caraway, Caretaker of God’s Creation Coordinator
- Rev. Phil Dieke, Chair, Board of Church and Society
- Horizon Texas Conference Board of Church and Society (3/26/26)
- Jennie Birkholz, Deaconess Candidate

Supporting Information

What Biblical text(s) informed you in the development of this petition?

- Genesis 1-2
- Psalm 24

How does this petition help further the mission of our Annual Conference to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? How does it align with the HTC vision and the five strategic priorities?

- This aligns with the care and healing component of our Mission Statement.

Provide pertinent references set forth in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline or the 2020/2024 Book of Resolutions that relate to this petition.

- BOD – Social Principles p.9
- BOR – Public Health p. 52

How does this item differ from the stated stances set forth in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline or the 2020/2024 Book of Resolutions?

- This does not conflict with either the BOD or the BOR.

If applied, what action would be required of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference?

- There are no financial implications from this resolution.

ITEM 2026-53: LGBTQ+ INCLUSION TASKFORCE

Whereas, the 2020/2024 General Conference of The United Methodist Church removed Book of Discipline policies targeting the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) community and mandating discrimination throughout the denomination; and

Whereas, dismantling discrimination and harm cannot be realized through legislation alone, but requires ongoing engagement in the context of relationship, including but not limited to: policy change, story-sharing and dialogue, education, support, leadership development, solidarity, advocacy, monitoring, accountability; and

Whereas, the Horizon Texas Annual Conference seeks to be proactive in building relationships, learning, and living into all that is now possible for ministry with and for LGBTQ+ persons; it is therefore

Resolved, That the Horizon Texas Annual Conference calls on our Bishop, Cabinet, and Nominations Committee to create a conference-level LGBTQ+ Inclusion Taskforce under the umbrella of Pursue and Embrace Diversity Team for the purpose of:

1. Actively supporting the LGBTQ+ laity, clergy, and candidates for licensed/ordained ministry in the Horizon Texas Annual Conference with community-building, faith and leadership development, solidarity, and advocacy.
2. Centering and amplifying the voices and experiences of the LGBTQ+ community, especially those who have been marginalized by church and society, most notably, transgender and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) persons.
3. Monitoring Annual Conference committees and policies, as well as the status and needs of candidates and clergy under appointment to ensure justice and equity on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression, and to report findings to the Annual Conference.
4. Curating, creating, and sharing resources to equip local churches for:
 - a. relationship building and continuing education
 - b. meaningful ministry with and for LGBTQ+ church and community members
5. Collaborating with ministry-specific areas, particularly children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry in the desire to safely and most effectively be in ministry with and for LGBTQ+ people of all ages.

Resolved, That the LGBTQ+ Inclusion Taskforce will be established within 3 months of annual conference adjournment, hold its first meeting in 2026, and include:

1. LGBTQ+ persons that make up at least $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total membership
2. Intentional diversity of age
 - a. At least two members under the age of 25
 - b. $\frac{1}{3}$ membership under 35
 - c. $\frac{1}{3}$ membership 36 to 55
 - d. $\frac{1}{3}$ membership 56 and up
3. Intentional diversity throughout all genders
4. Intentional diversity throughout all races and ethnicities
5. Lay and clergy representatives from each district.
6. Members with established leadership in the area of LGBTQ+ justice and inclusion

Resolved, That the LGBTQ+ Inclusion Taskforce shall be fully included in all future annual conference processes related to ensuring an appropriate budget, representation on other committees, reporting to the annual conference, and ongoing membership based on the above criteria.

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Submitted by Rev. Rachel Griffin-Allison

Supporting Information

What Biblical text(s) informed you in the development of this petition?

This resolution is grounded in a broad witness of Scripture that affirms God’s expansive love, justice, and inclusion. Key texts include:

- Genesis 1:27 – All people are created in the image of God.
- Micah 6:8 – The call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.
- Isaiah 58 – God’s vision of true worship as liberation and repair.
- Acts 10:34–35 – “God shows no partiality,” affirming radical inclusion.
- Galatians 3:28 – Unity in Christ beyond divisions.
- Luke 4:18–19 – Jesus’ mission to proclaim good news to the marginalized.

These texts collectively shape a theological vision of belonging, dignity, and justice that informs this resolution.

How does this petition help further the mission of our Annual Conference to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? How does it align with the HTC vision and the five strategic priorities?

This item advances the mission of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by strengthening the capacity of the Church to fully include, support, and equip LGBTQ+ clergy and leaders. When all called leaders are resourced to serve with authenticity and integrity, the Church is better positioned to embody the love of Christ and engage in transformative ministry in the world.

This work aligns closely with the five strategic priorities of the Horizon Texas Conference:

- **Multiplying Followers of Jesus:** By creating resources that support inclusive ministry, this effort helps cultivate communities where more people can encounter the love of Christ and respond to the call of discipleship. When LGBTQ+ individuals and allies experience belonging, the Church becomes a more credible and compelling witness.
- **Championing Children and Youth:** LGBTQ+ youth are among the most vulnerable populations in both church and society. Equipping clergy with tools for care, advocacy, and inclusion directly contributes to creating safer, more life-giving environments for young people to grow in faith.
- **Pursue and Embrace Diversity:** This item directly embodies the commitment to embrace diversity by affirming the full humanity and calling of LGBTQ+ persons. It strengthens the Church’s ability to reflect the breadth of God’s beloved community.
- **Maximize Care and Healing:** LGBTQ+ clergy and congregants have often experienced harm within the Church. Providing resources that foster pastoral care, resilience, and support contributes to healing and wholeness within the body of Christ.
- **Telling Our Story:** This work helps the Church more clearly and faithfully tell its story as a community shaped by grace, inclusion, and justice. It equips leaders to articulate a vision of the Church that is hopeful, authentic, and rooted in the gospel.

In all these ways, this item supports a Church that is not only growing in number, but deepening in faithfulness—participating more fully in God’s work of transformation in the world.

Provide pertinent references set forth in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline or the 2020/2024 Book of Resolutions that relate to this petition.

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Relevant references include:

- Book of Discipline ¶121 – The mission of the Church
- ¶122 – The process for carrying out our mission
- ¶140 – The Wesleyan understanding of social holiness
- ¶162 – Social Principles (Human Sexuality, Human Dignity)
- ¶2702 – Petitions and resolutions process

Book of Resolutions:

- “Human Sexuality” (2016/2020)
- “Equal Rights Regardless of Sexual Orientation”
- “Welcoming the Stranger”
- “Resolution on Diversity and Inclusion”

These provide context for ongoing denominational conversations around inclusion and justice.

How does this item differ from the stated stances set forth in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline or the 2020/2024 Book of Resolutions?

This resolution builds upon, but also moves beyond, existing denominational language by:

- Centering lived experience of LGBTQ+ persons more explicitly
- Emphasizing full participation in leadership and ministry
- Moving from “welcome” toward full inclusion and equity
- Naming justice and belonging as essential, not optional

While the Discipline acknowledges human dignity, this resolution calls for more concrete, contextual action within the Horizon Texas Conference.

If applied, what action would be required of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference?

If adopted, the Horizon Texas Annual Conference commits to:

- Supporting the work of the LGBTQ+ Inclusion Team
- Developing resources and training for congregations and leaders
- Encouraging inclusive ministry practices across the conference
- Providing pastoral and community support structures

Financial implications:

- Modest funding may be required for resource development, training events, and communications
- Potential budget allocation for inclusion initiatives and leadership development

These investments are aligned with the conference’s mission and represent a commitment to sustainable, justice-centered ministry.

ITEM 2026-54: RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

Whereas, public restrooms provide toilet paper, soap, water, and a means to dry hands as essential health items; and

Whereas, menstrual products, such as pads, tampons, and panty liners, are necessary and essential health items for those who menstruate; and

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Whereas, several local cities and school districts, including Dallas, Fort Worth, and Austin, are now providing free menstrual products in their bathrooms; and

Whereas, access to adequate menstrual products is necessary to prevent health issues caused by using inadequate or makeshift menstrual products; and

Whereas, lack of access to menstrual products can also keep those who menstruate from participating fully in society, as shown in a 2021 survey that states “One-third (38%) of people who menstruate have had to miss events or activities in the last year – such as work, school or an appointment – due to a lack of access to period products;”² and

Whereas, the United Methodist Church “calls on local churches, conferences, general agencies, church-related organizations, parents, and individuals” to “[i]mprove access to water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities and safe living environments for all girls along with education and destigmatization regarding menstruation and sanitary products;”³ and

Whereas, Jesus healed the hemorrhaging woman, allowing her to return to full participation in her community, and, likewise, our churches and church events should strive to be places of full participation and access for all; it is therefore,

Resolved, all Horizon Texas Conference churches, ministries, buildings, and events are urged to provide free menstrual products in their bathrooms.

Submitted by: Rev. Barbara Dunlap

Supporting Information

What Biblical text(s) informed you in the development of this petition?

The story of the hemorrhaging woman being healed by Jesus (Luke 8:43-48, Mark 5:25-34) informed the development of this resolution. The woman could not fully participate in society and community due to her condition. Likewise, even today, menstruation can and does keep people from full participation in society and community – including worship and other church ministries. Jesus healed the woman, which returned her to participation in her community. By providing free menstrual products at Horizon Texas Conference churches, ministries, buildings, and events we can also help others more fully participate in all aspects of community.

This resolution was also informed by John 10:10, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (NRSV)

How does this petition help further the mission of our Annual Conference to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? How does it align with the HTC vision and the five strategic priorities?

A 2021 survey conducted by U by Kotex in conjunction with YouGov found that “One-third (38%) of people who menstruate have had to miss events or activities in the last year – such as work, school or an appointment – due to a lack of access to period products.” The study also found that “Feelings of embarrassment and shame, closely aligned with period stigma, follow the inability to afford or access period products.” The simple act of providing free menstrual products in bathrooms can

² 2021 U by Kotex survey conducted with YouGov

³ *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2020/2024* ¶ 4241

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reduce incidents of lack of access to products, thereby reducing not only “feelings of embarrassment and shame,” but also helping people participate more fully in all aspects of their lives.

When Jesus healed the hemorrhaging woman, she was able once again to participate in her community and society. We are called as disciples to help others live out their own fully-embodied discipleship. When we ignore physical needs of our community, we put up barriers to full participation in the life of the church and world. Further, as we equip others for the transformation of the world, we are called to lead by example. Placing free menstrual products in our bathrooms not only helps those who need them, but it also helps break down taboos around menstruation and sets an example for how full participation in all aspects of the “loving, just, and free world God imagines” can look.

This resolution aligns with the following strategic priorities:

Champion Children and Youth – Children and youth are the most impacted by lack of access to menstrual products as they rely on the adults in their lives to provide them. Access to menstrual products at churches and church events will help children and youth participate more fully as well as help destigmatize menstruation.

Pursue and Embrace Diversity – Access to menstrual products helps remove barriers to full participation by those who menstruate, which helps more girls and women be involved in the life of the church.

Maximizing Care and Healing – Care and healing for the physical needs of those who attend our churches, conference events, camps, etc. includes providing menstrual products. Having products available also shows all who visit our spaces that no health issue is taboo and that the church cares about physical needs as well as spiritual needs.

Provide pertinent references set forth in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline or the 2020/2024 Book of Resolutions that relate to this petition.

The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2020/2024 ¶ 162, Other Social Issues, F (Gender Equality and Diversity)

“We support both gender equality and gender diversity as important goals for ensuring that the aspirations of women and girls are taken seriously and guaranteeing that paid positions and leadership opportunities are distributed equally for all. We decry the persistence of sexism and misogyny in the church through its practices and theological teachings, as well as in the broader society. We regret that such prejudices have too often led to the denigration and dismissal of women’s leadership and participation.

Consequently, we reject any beliefs, policies or practices that envision women and men as unequal in either religious or secular settings. We exhort congregations, pastors, boards of ordained ministries, bishops, and other church officials to implement concrete efforts to nurture and promote the leadership of all people, regardless of gender. We also urge governments, businesses, and civil society to enact laws and policies to ensure that all members of society are afforded equal access, opportunities, and protections.”

The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2020/2024 ¶ 4241, The Girl Child

“The United Methodist Church, in accordance with the recommendations of the Report of the Secretary-General on the Girl Child to the General Assembly of the United Nations (United Nations General Assembly, 2017), calls on local churches, conferences, general agencies, church-related organizations, parents, and individuals where appropriate to:

1. Ensure access to inclusive and equitable education for girls including quality curricula as well as safe and enabling learning environments.

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2. Improve access to water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities and safe living environments for all girls along with education and destigmatization regarding menstruation and sanitary products.

3. Prioritize girls' health and nutrition through educational initiatives as well as access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services, including those related to puberty, menstruation, and the prevention and treatment of HIV."

How does this item differ from the stated stances set forth in the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline or the 2020/2024 Book of Resolutions?

There are currently no specific provisions in the *2020/2024 Book of Discipline* or the *2020/2024 Book of Resolutions* to provide menstrual products.

If applied, what action would be required of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference?

Horizon Texas Conference churches, ministries (including, but not limited to, Wesley Foundations and camping ministries), buildings, and events (including, but not limited to District and Annual Conferences, clergy retreats, Board of Ordained Ministry interviews, and youth events) would provide free menstrual products in their bathrooms. Financial implications would be a small amount for each church, Wesley Foundation, and the Conference office. The petitioner estimates that the cost for camps would be approximately \$500 each year.

Through 2027, Sacred Worth Ministries commits to assisting the Conference and individual churches in sourcing products, raising funds, and/or conducting menstrual product drives. This allows time for each entity to determine their actual needs and adjust their budget accordingly.

ITEM 2026-55: PEACE WITH JUSTICE MINISTRY

Whereas, "as United Methodists, we understand our call to transform the world involves personal, social and civic righteousness;"

Whereas, "the relationships we form in our communities, often through our direct service and mercy ministries, lead us to be advocates for justice;"

Whereas, the Hebrew Scriptures call for us to seek not only to perform acts of compassion for our neighbor "but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God;" (Micah 6:8b NRSVUE)

Whereas, Jesus' mission statement, coming from the prophetic tradition, was that the "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor;" (Luke 4:18-19 NRSVUE)

Whereas, "faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead;" (James 2:17 NRSVUE)

Whereas, United Methodists have a rich history, stemming from our Wesleyan Theology & Heritage, that we are not only people of personal piety but also equally people of social holiness; and

Whereas, "The church is called to be a distinctive community, marked by preaching of the Gospel, studying of Scripture, breaking of bread, and witnessing to the power of redemption in the midst of a broken world. We respond to God's call in the world by giving witness to the transformative power of the

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Gospel, engaging in acts of mercy, and striving toward the attainment of justice and peace as hallmarks of God's coming reign;" (United Methodist Social Principles, 2024) it is, therefore,

Resolved, That every congregation in the Horizon Texas Conference along with its members be encouraged to engage in peace with justice ministries through being people of advocacy for the poor, the vulnerable, the immigrant, the old, the young, and the marginalized;

Resolved, That we encourage congregations and individuals to look at doing the following:

1. Learn about the United Methodist Church's Advocacy Ministry through the General Board of Church and Society at its website www.umcjustice.org and through various seminars and opportunities offered by the Conference Board of Global Ministries in conjunction with Peace with Justice Ministries (both conference local events and trips to the United Methodist Building in Washington, D.C.).
2. Learn about the United Methodist Church's Social Principles which "articulate our ethical aspirations for the common good in our public policies and personal commitments. Through them, we seek to love God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength and to desire for our neighbors what we desire for ourselves." (<https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-as-adopted-by-general-conference-charlotte-2024>) You can find our Social Principles and download it for you and your congregation's use at <https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124>, and you can find educational, Sunday School, and small group study resources at <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-as-adopted-by-general-conference-charlotte-2024>.
3. Sign-up for and use the General Board of Church and Society's Action Alerts at <https://www.umcjustice.org/search?q=Action+Alerts>. At this site you will be able to sign up to receive action alerts on various issues. When action alerts are emailed to you, you can then send communications to your congressional representatives. This site, through the General Board of Church & Society, will have prepared templates of communication you can send in your advocacy messages as well as direct links to your senators and representatives so that you do not have to figure out how to send the advocacy message.
4. Join with other Horizon Texas Conference United Methodists in Justice Work by starting and/or collaborating with the Conference Peace with Justice Team.
5. Seek to be part of local justice groups dealing with state and local justice issues such as education, homelessness, discrimination, income inequality, fair housing, gun violence prevention, the environment, and other community issues; and

Resolved, that every congregation in the Horizon Texas Conference, after paying 100% of their shares of ministry, be encouraged to annually take up a Peace with Justice Offering on Peace with Justice Sunday (celebrated every year on the first Sunday after Pentecost) or on a Sunday most convenient for the congregation. Fifty percent of the funds collected on Peace with Justice Sunday remain in the Annual Conference to support ministries that promote peace, fairness, and education through Peace with Justice grants (apply for a local grant at www.htcumc.org/grants). The other fifty percent support United Methodist efforts across the U.S. and beyond.

(<https://www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/umcgiving/special-sundays/churchwide-special-sundays/peace-with-justice-sunday-ministry-article>)

Submitted by: Rev. Phil Dieke

Reports

Conference Reports

LEAD TEAM

REV. ANDY LEWIS, ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP

The Unification Plan for the Horizon Texas Conference states that the Lead Team will oversee the implementation of the decisions of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference working through conference teams and departments. The roles of the Lead Team will be accountability, advocacy, goal-setting, planning, coordination, communications and decision-making between annual conference sessions, as permitted by the Discipline.

The Lead Team gathered at the Ft. Worth Conference Center on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. After a time of spiritual centering, the team divided into four sub-groups, focusing on one of the four Lead Team roles: amplify strategic impact, ensure unity and governance, leverage resources, and future-proof the Church. Each sub-group generated one or two recommendations for next steps the conference could take. The full Lead Team reconvened, heard reports from the sub-groups, and discerned the following three recommendations to pursue:

- Create and seize natural opportunities for intentional mixing and building new relationships across the Horizon Texas Conference
- Encourage and facilitate collaboration among local churches
- Provide educational resources for connectional giving and develop positive messaging for the impact of connectional giving

The Lead Team gathered for a virtual check-in on November 12, 2025, to monitor progress on the three efforts listed above.

The Lead Team gathered virtually on February 12, 2026, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. After a progress check on the efforts discerned in September, Bishop Saenz and Rev. Andy Lewis presented the Permanent Strategic Framework, which is guiding the work of the extended cabinet, and Conference-Level Objectives and Key Results for 2026. The Lead Team engaged in a focused conversation on the presentation to reflect on the strategic direction of the Horizon Texas Conference. Then, Rev. Jeffrey Pehl presented 2025 apportionment payout information, and the team discussed implications for 2026 and 2027 to ensure good stewardship of HTC resources. Finally, the Lead Team discussed and approved a proposal to schedule the 2027 meeting of the HTC in Denton at the Denton Convention Center on Thursday, June 10 – Sunday, June 13, 2027. This represents a shift to a Thursday evening through Sunday morning schedule, which is intended to reduce barriers to participation from younger lay members.

The Lead Team gathered virtually once more on April 15, 2026, in preparation for annual conference. The team affirmed Bishop Saenz's designation of Rev. Sam Hamann to serve as conference chancellor. Bishop Saenz and Rev. Andy Lewis shared final grades and reflections on OKRs from quadmester 1 (January – April 2026) and engaged the team in discussion. Then, Rev. Andy Lewis presented the 2027 budget proposal from CFA that will come before the annual conference.

FAQs REGARDING ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2027 DATES

Why is the conference proposing this schedule change?

The new Thursday-to-Sunday format is an intentional effort to make annual conference participation more accessible to young people, working adults and those who have conflicts during weekday work hours. Under the current Sunday-to-Wednesday format, many lay members of Annual Conference must take multiple days away from work to attend. The new schedule means a lay member could participate fully and only need to request a single weekday off, making attendance a realistic option for more people in our connection.

No schedule will be perfect for everyone. But this change reflects the conference's commitment to an annual conference that is more representative of the full diversity of our membership in age, vocation, and life circumstance.

What about churches whose lay members work weekends?

We know that many of our faithful lay members work in jobs that require weekend availability: healthcare, hospitality, retail, food service, transportation, and other service industries. For these members, a Thursday-to-Sunday format may present different scheduling difficulties.

We know that there is no single schedule that removes barriers for every working person equally. For 2027, this format was chosen because it opens the door more widely for the greatest number of potential lay members. The conference is committed to continued creativity in expanding participation and will pay attention to whether annual conference is growing more representative over time.

Are there other Annual Conferences that meet on Sundays?

Yes. This format is not new to the connection; meeting into Sunday morning is already the established practice for nearly one-fifth of U.S. annual conferences and was the practice in the legacy Northwest Texas Conference. While the adjustment will require planning and preparation for our local churches, we are not charting unknown territory and can learn from the experience of conferences that have navigated this well.

If Annual Conference concludes Sunday at noon, what happens to Sunday morning worship in our local churches?

This is among the most significant pastoral and logistical questions raised by the new format, and the conference takes it seriously. Sunday morning worship will be a feature of annual conference itself under this schedule. The conference will hold a worship service as part of its closing session. For local settings where livestreaming is possible, this is an invitation for the full Horizon Texas Conference to participate in worship together.

Clergy serving local congregations will need to make arrangements for Sunday morning worship at their churches while they fulfill their annual conference obligations. This is consistent with expectations that already exist when clergy attend continuing education events, are on sabbatical or serve in other conference capacities on a Sunday.

This is also a meaningful opportunity for laity to demonstrate their gifts and graces in leading worship. The UMC has long celebrated lay leadership in worship through Laity Sunday and Youth Sunday services. The Sunday of Annual Conference can be another such special Sunday.

Is Annual Conference mandatory for clergy, and does that include Sunday morning?

Under the Book of Discipline ¶602, clergy in full connection are members of the annual conference and should be present to actively participate. This expectation encompasses the full session, including

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Sunday morning. Clergy who have questions about their specific obligations or who anticipate a conflict should be in conversation with their district superintendent ahead of Annual Conference 2027.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

KEVIN WALTERS, HTC SECRETARY

At our 2027 meeting, the HTC will elect delegates to participate in the 2028 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The Commission on the General Conference determined that the HTC will elect the following:

Clergy	Lay	Type
7	7	Primary Delegates: Primary Delegates will be seated at General Conference and will have all voting rights, privileges, and responsibilities for the work of General Conference.
7	7	Alternate Delegates: Alternate Delegates will serve as a delegate to Regional or Jurisdictional Conferences . Additionally, these delegates could be asked to serve (move up) should a Primary Delegate be unable to fulfill their responsibilities (either permanently or periodically during General Conference).
Determined by HTC	Determined by HTC	Reserve Delegates: Reserve Delegates are those who are willing to serve, and will be able to serve should an Alternate Delegate be unable to fulfill their responsibilities (either permanently or periodically during Regional or Jurisdictional Conference)

The election of delegates is governed by ¶ 35, Articles III-V of the *2024 Book of Discipline*.

MULTIPLICATION TEAM

REV. STACEY PIYAKHUN, DIRECTOR OF MULTIPLICATION

In the summer of 2024, the Center for Multiplication gathered to review the tasks from our legacy conferences. What began as ninety-three inherited tasks from our legacy conferences has now taken new form—some carried forward, some consolidated, and others reimagined—so that our work is aligned, sustainable, and clearly focused on God's future for the Horizon Texas Conference. While there will always be more to do, we are moving with purpose towards God's future, with a focus on the ways we – together – will multiply Jesus followers for the next generation of United Methodists. The dust storms of the pandemic, disaffiliation, and unification have settled enough for us to be prepared for the twists and turns of the first chapter of our Horizon Texas Conference history.

We want to thank you – clergy, laity, and local churches – for your hospitality in welcoming Multiplication Masterclasses, Board of Ordained Ministry, Clergy Retreat and Clergy Covenant Day, Vision Day, and many other gatherings into your local church spaces. Thank you for your invitations to fill a pulpit for your pastor or to provide resources to churches of all sizes across our Horizon Texas geography. Your encouragement to one another across the conference has increased in the past year and is truly inspiring. We have a lot to celebrate as we gather the Annual Conference!

Leadership & Ministry Pathways

The work of the Board of Ordained Ministry has demonstrated our shared commitment to increased diversity and has been strengthened through training, participation in a group IDI, a board retreat, and LGBTQ ally training. While much of the board's work focuses on commissioning, ordination, and

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continuation interviews, the board has also provided candidate forums, residency retreats, and ongoing support and training prior to paperwork submission. The use of new tools such as JotForm and Box.com has transformed three conference systems into a streamlined process for candidates.

Here is a list of Horizon Texas Conference firsts in leadership development:

- Ministry Discernment Summit welcoming twenty new candidates
- Licensing School with fourteen individuals certified
- Intentional Interim Training equipping twenty clergy for this work

As we welcome our new provisional members and ordinands, we renew our commitment from the Center for Multiplication to prayerfully walk alongside candidates who continue in this process.

Developing a Transformational Learning Ecosystem

A transformational learning ecosystem provides resources, tools, and training to laity, clergy, and local churches in a timely manner, enabling information to be adapted to a variety of contexts and helping us embrace the changes needed to be the United Methodist Church of our future. The vision for our Horizon Texas Conference learning ecosystem is to combine in-person learning sessions and cohorts with virtual content. There are many components of an ecosystem, so let's talk about a few big ones: masterclasses, online learning, coaching, and cohorts.

The Multiplication Masterclasses held in July and September 2025, and in January 2026, equipped participants with skills in hospitality, evangelism, and bridge events. These classes are intended to be “strength training” in the skills a faith community needs to reach our neighbors and welcome new people. Since we last gathered for Annual Conference, the Center for Multiplication has held twenty-three in-person masterclasses in English and Spanish, and two virtual masterclasses with Spanish translation. We estimate that more than 110 churches (over 600 clergy and laity) within the Horizon Texas Conference have participated in these masterclasses. Thank you to each of the churches that hosted these gatherings, shared these stories, and modeled radical hospitality within our connection.

The Center of Multiplication has made a positive impact on Hillside UMC by providing tools, resources, and relationships that have better equipped us to live into the servant leadership modeled by Jesus. Your encouragement has given us the confidence to take more risks through “experiments,” trusting that if something doesn’t turn out as we hope, it’s okay—we can learn from it and try again.

Rev. Jordan Cramer, Hillside UMC

Portico is an online learning platform supporting scalable, ever-ready formation opportunities for the Horizon Texas Conference. As each strategic priority center or other conference group creates learning opportunities, we will add them to the Portico dashboard. **You can create your own login to Portico by scanning the QR code to the right or at <https://htcumc.myabsorb.com/#/signup-form>, using the enrollment key: HTCUMC Sign Up.** You will find *Equipped to Reach*, *Genesis: for starting new things*, and *Wesleyan Roots* available on the portal, with more coming soon!



Equipped to Reach exists as both a course on Portico with information about the culture, mission, and strategic priorities of our Horizon Texas Conference, as well as the basics of Wesleyan theology, and a template for exploring a new idea or starting a new ministry that reaches new people. Cohorts will be formed on a revolving basis, specifically for the laity, to receive additional support and resources as these new ideas are launched. *Equipped to Reach* is accessible today at the QR code above.

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Coaching, Onboarding, and Cohorts

The Horizon Texas Conference engages in three types of coaching. *Pastor coaching* is led by clergy and laity trained in the CAST (Coach Approach Skills Training). This coaching is confidential and intended to help the recipient discover what they didn't know they already knew. Through intentional, open-ended questions, these coaches help a clergy person discern direction for the leadership and life. *Growth coaching* is led by experienced clergy or laity with a specific skill set, providing leadership with insight and guidance. *Project coaches* are engaged for clergy and, often, for local church leadership when a church is in a season of rapid change or discernment.

Onboarding is led by trained facilitators who walk with a clergy person, staff, and/or lay leadership in preparation for a new appointment through a series of facilitated conversations. This is a new tool for the Horizon Texas Conference, created by the Candler School of Christian Leadership for the UMC, which was piloted in Spring 2026. With nine trained facilitators, we anticipate that many churches receiving a new pastor in the 2026 appointment season will be invited to participate in an onboarding process this year. Our pastoral transition seminars (*Leaving Well* and *The First 30 Days*) establish the patterns for saying goodbye and for welcoming a new pastor by providing tools for local church leadership. Onboarding accompanies the pastor, staff, or lay leadership as the church moves into its next season of ministry.

This training provides the "missing link" for onboarding. It empowers those dedicated to building strong foundations between pastors and laity by delivering essential information from the start. My hope is that these tools will enable the selected churches to begin their journeys rooted in mutual respect and shared understanding.

Sharon Spratt, Certified Onboarding Facilitator, St. Paul UMC, Dallas

The benefits of the training were that as facilitators we received a process for onboarding that is proven to work, we gained insight into some of the nuances of onboarding (a.k.a. we got to learn some of the tricks of the trade from experts), and we got to practice in a safe environment where we could practice and receive feedback to help develop our skills. In the business world, I've personally seen the benefits of onboarding for many years, and it is a known and proven fact that if onboarding is done well, the person being onboarded has a better experience and is more likely to have earlier success. I would expect the same to hold true for our efforts in the HTC. My hope for the churches who are selected to be offered onboarding is that they would embrace it as a best practice to help pastors get a jump start in their new appointments as well as reduce the anxiety that comes from change for both the church and the pastors!

Tim Hopson, First UMC Plano, Metro North District Lay Leader

This training has helped me see how we can help pastors and congregations begin their journeys through open, transparent conversations. It helps congregations and pastors to learn to communicate with one another in healthy ways and to expedite the process for the new pastor to get to know the congregation in meaningful ways.

Rev. Danielle Buwon Kim, Certified Onboarding Facilitator, First UMC Coppell

Cohorts are used to gather clergy and laity for shared learning and growth. Thirty-one people attended the Genesis co-creator retreat, with fifteen completing a 6-month cohort focused on the tools and practice of starting a new thing. While it can be difficult to measure the fruitfulness of new initiatives, we estimate that at least four new ministries began as a part of this work. Similarly, the first Equipped to Reach cohort was formed in March 2026 with a committed group of laity meeting weekly to explore new ways to reach new people.

The co-creator event helped me to recognize that Jesus is calling me to a new ministry, and the Genesis Cohort gave me the tools to make this ministry a reality. The combination is an amazing

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mix of inspirational, relational, and practical. The tools and techniques I learned are helping me plan enough to be successful while also recognizing when I have planned enough and I am ready to execute. Having the opportunity to speak regularly with Matt throughout the process has been extremely helpful. It is wonderful that the UMC offers such a program to both clergy and members of the laity. I simply cannot recommend Genesis Cohort enough.

Heidi Cooper, Journey of Faith UMC

The Genesis Cohort helped me take Austin Music Church from a vague idea into a movement. It gave me a better framework for clarifying the mission, naming the people I'm trying to reach, and turning big vision into actual next steps. I appreciated that it pushed me to think more specifically and practically about what the new ministry could look like in the real world. The support was the most valuable, it's heartening to know we're not alone out here trying crazy stuff for Jesus!

Pastor Colin McDonald, Austin Music Church

As the Lead Pastor of an established church in the process of starting something new, I was deeply grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Genesis Cohort and Co-Creator event. What stood out most was the powerful combination of collaboration, creativity, and a shared sense of calling that shaped the community. That sense of community took root during the Co-Creator event and continued to grow throughout the cohort experience. In my previous experience planting a new community, much of the emphasis in shared learning spaces centered on the "how" of starting something new. Genesis, however, offered a refreshing and meaningful shift—intentionally grounding us in the "why" and the "with whom." Those questions became an anchor, shaping not just what we did, but how we discerned each step along the way.

Rev. Daniel Hawkins, William C. Martin UMC

Horizon Texas Academy is a cohort of clergy gathered at the bishop's invitation to learn from seasoned clergy within our conference. This cohort was formed with the intention of peer learning for the skills that clergy do not learn in seminary. Twenty-nine clergy have begun in this cohort, which will complete its work at the end of the calendar year, with the intention of beginning a second cohort in 2027 or 2028.

With the recent merger of our three annual conferences, we have many new colleagues and relationships to form. I hope the Horizon Texas Academy will help clergy build lasting connections, engage in meaningful dialogue, and grow together in faith and leadership. My prayer is that this shared learning will equip pastors more effectively and inspire innovation that strengthens our churches as communities of transformation and grace.

Rev. Kantrice Robinson, St. Paul UMC, Dallas

It is exciting to see young pastors who are hungry and motivated to sharpen their skills and grow in their leadership. I have great hopes that this academy will produce fruitful ministry in the Horizon Texas Conference.

Rev. Clayton Oliphint, First UMC Richardson

The Horizon Texas Academy is a meaningful investment in raising up the next generation of clergy leaders by cultivating practical wisdom, adaptive leadership, and life-giving collegial relationships. As a pastor serving in a rapidly growing and changing community, this experience is equipping me with the insight and support I need to lead more faithfully and courageously. I believe the fruit of this investment will be seen not only in stronger local churches but also in a more connected, innovative, and mission driven Horizon Texas Conference.

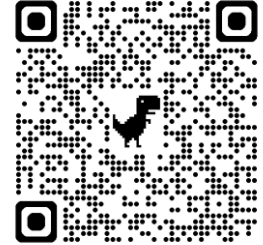
Rev. Changsu Kim, Hutto Discovery UMC

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Leadership Engagement and Discernment (LEAD) is a process for learning about one's leadership gifts, specifically for planting new churches or starting new initiatives. Thirty-six individuals participated in the learning sessions, of whom thirty completed the assessment process.

Collegiate and Young Adult Ministry

The Young Adult Council (YAC) initiated a gathering of young adults (age 18-35) in Wichita Falls prior to the Annual Conference, beginning Saturday, May 30. Incorporating young adults into all facets of ministry and leadership, especially in the local church, is essential. This group of young adults is passionate about the United Methodist witness and the ways in which our conference is living into the reality of God's kingdom— a Beloved Community woven from the richness of varied cultures, life stages, and lived experiences. **To foster this connection, the YAC is building a database of young adults across the Horizon Texas Conference to connect and share important info— join by scanning this QR code.**



Collegiate ministries and universities have each submitted annual reports for the conference to review. We encourage you to locate the Wesley Foundation or the university nearest to you to see how you can support this important work.

Wesley Foundations function as a ministry of the Horizon Texas Conference, a nonprofit entity, and a university program or outreach. The Center for Multiplication has been working to support Wesley Foundations by connecting executive directors and board chairs and by providing tools and training in board development and fundraising.

- Board Development Day on March 21, 2026, brought together representatives from all 9 Wesley Foundations to connect and learn. Led by the Center for Nonprofit Management, we spent the day talking about strategy and fundraising. Who is God calling each Wesley Foundation to be in the next 5 years? How will we share that vision?
- Participation in the Faith & Fundraising Conference and the Rise of Sustainable Giving Workshop, along with tools such as Bloomerang, has provided our Wesley Foundations with resources for sustainable giving strategies. This is evident in the development of recurring donor programs across many of our Wesley Foundations.

The support from the Center of Multiplication in connecting us with Sustainable Giving has completely shifted how we not only fundraise for Wesley, but even more so how we grow generosity as we fulfill our mission.

Rev. Eddie Kahler, TCU Wesley

Utilizing the shared database allowed the Denton Wesley to more than double our giving in one year without increasing our staff or sacrificing our programs. Our community of donors, volunteers, parents, and churches are more connected to our students, and we are able to make more strategic ministry plans knowing our means of support are organized and integrated to our other systems.

Rev. Marianne Brown-Trigg, Denton Wesley Foundation

A strategic team gathered in the weeks after the 2025 Annual Conference to fulfill our commitment to the exploring reinitiating ministry at Navarro College in Corsicana. This team has been working independently – meeting with stakeholders first – to explore using the existing building and to work with Corsicana stakeholders to create new bylaws, form a new board, develop stakeholder relationships, and connect with Navarro College to launch the ministry beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. This team will bring a resolution for consideration by the Horizon Texas Annual Conference.

Church Development and Vitalization

Churches that connect with the Center for Multiplication for grant funding for innovation, planting, or vitalization engage in a partnership that includes pastor check-in calls, learning tools, and financial reporting, and stakeholder calls. This pattern helps to ensure that apportionment dollars allocated for this work are used with faithful stewardship within our conference geography. The Center for Multiplication is currently engaged with forty-four churches across the conference in this process.

We are celebrating alongside many of these churches that met, exceeded, or nearly met their generosity growth goals in 2025! This growth in generosity and discipleship is evident in the faith formation taking place in our churches and communities. These churches gathered in January for visioning and to set clear, contextually relevant objectives for 2026. This gathering, Vision Day, was held in three languages (Spanish, ASL & English), three locations, including a virtual one, with eighty-five participants and thirty-two churches. By the end of 2026, the Center for Multiplication will be in partnership with fifty churches for church development and vitalization work.

En el día de la Visión, fue un momento donde, como líderes, nos unimos no solo para cumplir, sino para crecer y reflexionar en acercarnos más a nuestra comunidad, con el propósito de extender el regalo del amor y gracia de nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

On Vision Day, it was a moment where, as leaders, we came together not just to fulfill our duties, but to grow and draw closer to our community, with the purpose of extending the gift of the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastora Aurora Rodríguez, New Riverside UMC

Several churches within the conference had milestone moments this year:

- New Buildings
 - Opening on October 8, 2025: Grace Lubbock (Northwest District)
 - Consecrated on February 8, 2026: Open Door, Clyde (Northwest District)
- Mergers
 - Adoptions
 - Effective June 1, 2025: Button Memorial UMC adopted by Grace Avenue UMC (Metro North District)
 - Effective June 15, 2026: Epworth UMC adopted by Trinity UMC (Metro West District)
 - Effective March 31, 2026: First UMC Petrolia adopted by First UMC Henrietta (Mid-North District)
 - Consolidations
 - Effective July 1, 2025: Cogdell Memorial UMC and Lakeshore UMC merge to form Hillside UMC (Mid-South District)
- Launch/relaunch
 - Effective December 14, 2025: River Oaks UMC has launched as an independent congregation after several years under the care of Arborlawn UMC.

The Center for Multiplication has been instrumental in guiding River Oaks UMC toward independence, providing not only financial support but also faithful accompaniment throughout the process. Their partnership has helped us grow into a welcoming and unified bilingual congregation, where both new and long-time members feel valued, resulting in meaningful growth across our Hispanic and Anglo communities.

Rev. Sam Macias, River Oaks UMC

The unwavering support of the Center of Multiplication and their commitment to our church and community have been inspiring. Being a listening ear to our unique context has provided us with

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more than just resources; it has given us the encouragement of knowing we are cared for and never alone.

Rev. Hyung Kim, Open Door UMC

Multiplying Diversity

One area of focus and growth for our center is expanding the reach of our conference to populations who have been historically underrepresented, in line with our shared strategic priority to *pursue and embrace diversity*.

AAPI clergy and laity are well organized and working to shift their emphasis from an annual worship service to a conference-wide gathering and retreat. A sacred movement is unfolding among our Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in the Horizon Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church—one that continues beyond a single gathering, shaped by faith, resilience, and hope. What began three years ago was not just an event; it was a seed planted in good soil.

Last year's gathering, with its focus on children and youth, reminded us that the future of the Church is already among us. In their laughter, courage, and inherited stories, we witnessed God's unfolding promise—and we practiced fellowship and worship in ways that honored young voices.

Now the Spirit is inviting us to widen the circle—to gather not only as AAPI siblings, but alongside minority clergy and laity leaders across the Horizon Texas Conference. This is more than inclusion; it is communion: a deeper wholeness in the Body of Christ when every voice is valued and every story woven into God's grace.

This ongoing ministry is bridge-building—connecting generations, connecting communities across cultures and languages, and connecting our purpose to justice, compassion, and transformative discipleship.

Let us not underestimate what God is doing in these gatherings. Around tables, in prayer, and through shared leadership, the Spirit is cultivating something enduring: a network of leaders who will serve their communities and stand together as witnesses to God's inclusive love.

We are moving forward with intention—not just to meet, but to discern; not just to speak, but to listen; not just to plan, but to be formed. In this sacred work among clergy and laity, especially among those who have known life at the margins, we are rediscovering that the margins are often where God does God's most powerful work. And there, together, we will continue the ministry—multiplying and thriving in our communities. Thanks Be to God!

Korean pastors serving in cross-cultural contexts gather with a shared vision for fellowship, prayer, education, and pastoral consultation—strengthening both Korean-language and English-language ministries. Through these relationships, they share stories of faith and ministry and integrate the gifts of Korean culture into the life of the Horizon Texas Conference. The group also serves as an Ethnic Advocate Group, offering mutual support and guidance during seasons of challenge.

To support this work, the HTCUMC Korean Ministry Team includes Chair Rev. Kenneth Park, Vice Chair Rev. Sukgyun Hong, Secretary Rev. Changsu Kim, and Financial Secretary Rev. Stella Eunbyul Cho. The team meets monthly by Zoom, hosts an annual pastors' retreat, and convenes a joint annual gathering with other ethnic/racial ministries within HTCUMC. These efforts help Korean pastors navigate language and cultural barriers and sustain long-term ministry in their appointed contexts.

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This initiative is grounded in the vision of the Korean Ministry Plan⁴ (*Advancing United Methodist Ministries Among Koreans*), presented at the 2024 General Conference: “Our vision is to integrate Wesleyan tradition and Korean spirituality to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” The plan advances this vision through five key areas:

6. Congregational Development & New Church Start,
7. Leadership Formation,
8. Next Generation Ministries,
9. Justice-related Ministries, and
10. International Missions.

Creating Momentum with the Black Church Academy by supporting Clarity, Courage, and Strategic Movement Across the Horizon Texas Conference. Since relaunching in July, the Black Church Academy (BCA) has engaged nine churches across the Horizon Texas Annual Conference through a rhythm of gatherings, webinars, and monthly check-ins. These churches represent a wide range of realities—from those experiencing growth to those facing significant challenges—and engagement has varied accordingly. To date, direct strategic work has been conducted with three congregations, including Morningside UMC and McMillan UMC in Fort Worth, where intervention sessions led to a unanimous decision to merge after years of stalled conversation. In Dallas, a strategic planning retreat with St. Paul United Methodist Church yielded three clearly defined priorities that now guide the church’s direction, with strong energy and alignment emerging from the process. At the same time, several other churches are in difficult seasons, with plans in place to conduct strategic planning sessions or interventions with five additional churches before the end of the year. A central component of this work has been equipping churches with practical tools and frameworks. Congregational surveys have been widely introduced to gather honest, anonymous feedback and ground decision-making in real data. In addition, the BCA developed both an Advent Toolkit (2025) and an Easter Toolkit (2026), each supported by webinars and focused on invitation, hospitality, and follow-up—helping churches move beyond isolated attendance spikes toward more intentional systems of engagement. Some churches have adopted these tools more fully than others, and early signs of growth are visible in a few congregations, while others continue working to stabilize and clarify their next steps.

In parallel, the BCA has developed a video-based learning series that will be incorporated into the Junius B. Dotson Institute for Music and Worship in the Black Church and Beyond (April 29–May 2, 2026), hosted at Hamilton Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, one of the BCA cohort churches. The series features Disciples Central Community Church (DC3), DeSoto Campus, led by Rev. Marcus King, as a best-practice model with origins that reflect the realities many of our churches share. In addition to documenting current practices across five key areas—hospitality, technology, worship and music, marketing and follow-up, and preaching—the interviews also surface lessons learned, including mistakes and “war stories,” offering practical insight for churches navigating similar challenges. Across all this work, there is a consistent emphasis on strengthening data systems and leadership capacity, with the goal of helping each church create momentum appropriate to its context.

Viva La Church and Hispanic Church Multiplication. The Center for Multiplication is engaged with 16 Hispanic or Spanish-language congregations across the conference through masterclasses, 1:1 meetings, cohorts, new expressions, and gatherings. These churches, the laity, and the clergy are excited about connecting with their communities. There seems to be a sense of building relationships and bridging communities. In October, a Horizon Texas Conference group gathered in Henderson, Nevada, at Viva La Church. Cohorts in English and Spanish were formed for continued growth and connection. Through these cohorts, four Spanish-language cohort participants are experimenting with new ideas and ministries in their churches!

⁴ Report On the Korean Ministry Plan, <https://umcmmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/4.-KOREAN-MINISTRY-PLAN-REPORT-TO-GC24.pdf>

The Viva Las Vegas Conference reshaped my understanding of diversity as intentional belonging, not mere inclusion, leading us to cultivate a multicultural, multigenerational church where every voice—especially youth—is valued and formed through shared practices like music and worship. By reimagining the church as a community bridge and opening our space to diverse organizations, we have embodied a theology of hospitality, justice, and mutual learning. Together, these practices reflect our participation in God’s work of reconciliation, transforming the church into a living sign of shared life and grace.

Rev. Isabel Marquez, Oak Lawn UMC

Pioneering: A Hypothesis for Planting

A pioneer is one of the first to research and develop something new. A pioneer learns about the community, engages in genuine relationships to understand its needs and desires, and seeks to allow the Body of Christ to gather in a way that feels right for that context – without a deep commitment to weekly worship gatherings as the primary point of invitation. They may form new expressions or new faith communities. They may grow into full new churches with weekly worship options. They might be fantastic learning opportunities (FLOps) where we learn about the community and discern that the time or the place is not right for faith community development.

The hypothesis for a pioneer ministry project is that creating a one-year experiment for a clergy person to follow God’s call to reach a new community creates the space for us to see fruit from the initiative or learn about church development in ministry contexts without a United Methodist presence. Each pioneering project will receive a high level of support through:

- Cohort prayer gatherings and experiences coordinated by the Center for Multiplication.
- Project coaching focused on the growth of the ministry and community.
- Pastor coaching focused on leadership development.
- Generosity growth learning focused on the development of sustainable giving.
- Prayers from across the Horizon Texas Conference that we may be open to reaching new people as we multiply Jesus’ followers.

Austin Music Church (AMC), anchored by Journey of Faith, is the first of our pioneering experiments. Pastor Colin McDonald has been engaging the Austin music scene in a way unique to their context and seeks to walk with individuals as they become in tune, in time, in harmony, inspired, and enthused with the love of Christ. **Learn more at austinmusic.church.**

As of the writing of this report, AMC engages in the following discipleship opportunities:

- Over 6,000 people through their Facebook group, where comments often turn into conversations,
- Weekly Open Mic Nights with 20-30 attendees supporting new songwriters,
- Two Target Alignment Teams (TATs) with 5-10 people each meeting at least once a week for encouragement and community centered on scripture, and
- The second gathering of a Bible study and songwriting group that meets for six weeks to develop and share new music based on familiar stories.



This appointment season brings two new pioneer appointments to the Horizon Texas Conference, with Rev. Sean McDonald to Bishop Arts and Rev. Danielle Buwon Kim to the South Carrollton area. These pioneers will learn from the mission field as they follow God’s call to form communities of engagement

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and discipleship – especially among those who feel less connected to the established church but are drawn to Christ as revealed in our United Methodist theology and witness.

For this pioneering work – and for any time we are multiplying Jesus followers – it is important to remember that God has called us to be with those in our communities. Pastor Colin McDonald says it this way: “It’s important to serve a community that you are already a part of, where you are not crashing a party. You must be in the community to serve it and build it. Instead of building and conquering, you unite and honor those around you.”

Looking Ahead to Next Year

The Center for Multiplication is poised to connect, support, and encourage your local church's efforts to reach new people and multiply Jesus followers. In late April, we returned from a Multiplication Road Trip, and we hope to repeat road trips to visit in your local church contexts at least once or twice each year – in addition to our regular visits for worship, workshops, and conversation. We plan to launch an additional masterclass series on New Expressions, including information about the *Equipped to Reach* program. New classes will be built on Portico for training within your context, including ministry action plan resources and training for the District Board of Church Building and Locations. We are committed to multiplying diversity in our leadership pipelines and in our local churches, recognizing this as a significant area of growth for our conference. The Young Adult Council is set to play a pivotal role in broadening our outreach to young adults both within and beyond traditional church structures. Additionally, the Center will continue to expand our efforts to support and strengthen campus and collegiate ministry, church development and revitalization, and planting and pioneering through connection, resourcing, and tools.

If you are wondering about how to lean into our strategic priority of multiplying Jesus followers, here are a few suggestions for your prayerful consideration:

- Reach out to young adults in your area to listen to their stories. Connect young adults in your church with the HTC young adult database.
- Use the QR code in this report to log in to Portico to explore the Equipped to Reach course and plan a new expression to reach new neighbors in the places where you live, learn, and work.
- Reach out to our Center to learn more about developing a ministry action plan for your local church.
- Locate your nearest campus ministry to learn more about what they do and how you can connect with them.
- Stop by our Annual Conference table to say ‘hi,’ find some fun fidgets, and let us know what you are celebrating as we gather in Wichita Falls.

Our shared Horizon Texas Conference vision is to *seek the loving, just, and free world which God imagines for all people*. Alongside your ministry, we will continue to take the next faithful step towards this vision as we remember God’s promise to Abram that “his descendants would be more numerous than the stars” (Genesis 22:17). Thank you again for the work you are doing to continue welcoming and multiplying Jesus followers – there is much work ahead, and, together, with Christ and one another, we can accomplish extraordinary things!

BOARD OF LAITY

DR. MARY NICKSON, CONFERENCE CO-LAY LEADER

The purpose of the Board of Laity (BOL) is to foster and support the ministry of the laity within the church. This board serves as a bridge between lay members and church leadership, encouraging active participation in church life and mission. BOL responsibilities include promoting leadership development, ensuring effective communication among laypersons, and advocating for the interests and concerns of the laity.

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Additionally, the Board of Laity works to equip lay members for service, provide training opportunities, and collaborate with other church entities to advance the church's mission. It plays a key role in empowering laypeople to take on leadership roles both within their local congregations and throughout the broader conference.

The Board of Laity of the Horizon Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church has been meeting over the past year to plan and present training to the lay leadership in local Churches. On February 1, 2026, Laity Training Day more than three hundred lay members joined in to an online seminar presentation that helped to inform and organize leadership in the local church. The training District Lay Leaders Tim Hopson, Ted Haynes, Jackie Carter, and Jennifer Wang presented sessions. Additional session presenters were District Superintendent Cassie Wade, Lay Servant Karen Goodwin, HTC Co-Lay Leader, Mike Jones and Marty James, a lay member of First UMC Plano. Videos from the Laity Training Day 2026 can be viewed on the HTC Website.

Lay Servant Ministry, under the leadership of Director Chris Buse, has provided online courses for laity on preaching and prayer. Lay Servants of the Horizon Texas Conference “conduct, or assist in conducting, services of worship, preach the Word, or give addresses when requested by the pastor, district superintendent or committee on Lay Servant Ministries” (BOD, 20/24, pg. 218).

Additionally, the Board of Laity values the input and active participation of the President of United Women in Faith, Wendy Campbell, United Methodist Men representative, Carl Swanson, II, and youth representative Leo Barrios.

Finally, on behalf of the other HTC Lay Leaders we are working to strengthen the laity's engagement in the Lord's work by “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” As the laity of HTC, we also called to support the five strategic priorities of the conference to:

1. Multiply Followers of Jesus
2. Champion Children and Youth
3. Promote and Embrace Diversity
4. Maximize Care and Healing
5. Tell Our Story

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

CHRIS BUSE, CONFERENCE DIRECTOR OF LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) has much to celebrate since last year's annual conference. LSM training equips and empowers laity to serve God and neighbor through effective leadership, authentic caring ministries, and respectful communication. This past year LSM offered seventeen classes using in-person, online, and hybrid formats. In addition to the core classes required for certification as a Certified Lay Servant (CLS) and Certified Lay Speaker (CLSp), LSM offered advanced classes, *Lay Servants Lead in Conflict Resolution and Sacraments: Means of Grace*. As LSM continues to expand its ministry to embrace diversity, the Metro East District offered one of the newest advanced LSM classes, *The Millennial Narrative*, with fifteen participants in attendance.

Each year at charge conference, all lay servants must submit a report with their local church's charge conference to request initial or renewed certification. This past fall we received annual reports from over 150 lay servants. Of these numbers, thirty-three lay servants were requesting new or continued certification as Certified Lay Speakers and sixteen as Certified Lay Ministers.

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Through online gatherings, our lay servants can network with other lay servants from around our jurisdiction and across the nation. As we share ideas and celebrate each other's ministries, we continue to expand our borders and increase our abilities for collaborative learning.

In September 2025, the Deaf Mission Church sponsored a delegation of six participants to attend an advanced LSM training in Baltimore. As a result of the connections made during their training, the church was able to secure facilitators who were willing to travel from the Baltimore-Washington Conference to present the LSM Basic Class for a group of twelve deaf and four hearing people. We look forward to seeing this group of lay servants growing and reaching out to disciple others.

Also, with the help of facilitators from the Pacific Conference, the Metro West District hosted its first advanced LSM class in the Tongan language for the twenty-eight participants. The Tongan LSM community has been active for many years, but this was the first time they were able to host an advanced class in our conference. We celebrate the dedication and commitment of our Tongan lay servants.

Looking forward to next year's annual conference, we ask for your continued prayer and support as LSM reaches across borders to empower and equip a growing community of lay servants dedicated to sharing God's love with the world.

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

REV. BETH EVERS, CHAIR

The Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) recruits, trains, mentors, credentials, and equips individuals for fruitful ministry through the United Methodist Church as certified, licensed, and ordained clergy. The work of the Board of Ordained Ministry extends beyond interviewing candidates for commissioning and ordination, and the Horizon Texas Conference BOM has embraced the fullness of their work.

The following are highlights of the HTC Board of Ordained Ministry's Work

Examination and Credentialing of Clergy Candidates

The BOM had three credentialing retreats in February, March, and April 2026. During these retreats, candidates were interviewed on matters related to their submitted paperwork, theology, worship and proclamation, and their call and disciplined lives. The BOM prayerfully discerned candidates for commissioning and association memberships' readiness, continuing candidates' progress in their journey toward ordination, and candidates for ordination and recognition of orders' effectiveness in ministry.

The BOM is delighted to recommend ten individuals for commissioning and provisional membership (three for commissioning as deacons and seven for commissioning as elders), one individual for associate membership, thirteen individuals for ordination and full membership (three for ordination as deacons; ten for ordination as elders), and one individual for recognition of orders.

The candidacy process in the United Methodist Church is detailed and rigorous. It is process that can last up to twelve years. Through the process, the district committees on ministry (committees of the Board of Ordained Ministry) and the BOM guide candidates through a journey that includes a ministry discernment summit, robust theological paperwork, group and individual mentoring, licensing school, a residency program, and interviews. This intentional process is designed to help candidates to continually discern their call and have it reflected upon by the church through the DCOMs and the BOM.

District committees on ministry work closely to discern, credential, and oversee the ministries of Licensed Local Pastors (LLPs). Individuals who are called to ministry in the United Methodist Church are invited to

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discern if their calling is to ordained or licensed ministry. LLPs provide fruitful, effective, and essential ministry through their ministries. DCOMs interview and affirm candidates for licensure upon completion of Licensing School and after receiving an appointment to ministry. LLPs remain under the supervisions of DCOMs until they complete the educational requirements for licensed local pastors. This education can be completed by either successfully fulfilling the requirements of the course of study program through the denomination or completing their studies through a seminary approved by the University Senate. We will celebrate those LLPs who have completed their educational requirements this year during Clergy Session.

Functions of the BOM Outside of Examination and Credentialing

The BOM is charged with supporting clergy of our annual conference in areas outside examination and credentialing. The functions of the BOM include administering changes in clergy conference relationships, administering and recommending clergy transfers, providing support services for ministries, administering to the needs for certification in specialized ministries, administering the Ministerial Education Fund, and partnering with the Global Board of Higher Education in Ministry. This year, we will celebrate that D'Andre Smith will be recommended for certification of youth ministry. Additionally, the BOM is working with Perkins School of Theology to explore ways we can partner to provide additional certification offerings for clergy and lay leaders within the annual conference.

The BOM is responsible for discerning the needs and distribution of the Ministerial Education Fund. These funds provide financial support for clergy and candidates for ministry. Applications for Course of Study reimbursement funds, seminary scholarships, and continuation education funds for clergy are available on the HTC website. This is a powerful resource that all clergy and ministry candidates are encouraged to request. As clergy continue their education and training, they are better prepared to live out their calling in effective and healthy ways.

A Word of Gratitude

The work of the Board of Ordained Ministry is remarkable. It is a great responsibility to walk with people through discernment of their call, to help prepare clergy for the rigors of ministry, and to say with confidence to the bishop, cabinet, and local churches that individuals are prepared for licensed and ordained ministry. We are incredibly aware of the trust that is instilled in the Board of Ordained Ministry. Our work is holy; our task is sacred, and we undertake it prayerfully.

This work cannot be done without the wisdom and talent of an incredible team. Thank you to the lay and clergy members of the BOM. They give hours and days toward this work and take it very seriously. Thank you to Rev. Philip Rhodes for serving as the cabinet representative to the Board of Ordained Ministry. We are grateful for his wisdom, insight, and care for this work.

Thank you to our incredible Executive Committee: Rev. Kay Eck, Dr. Mary Nickson, Rev. Ann Willet, Rev. Alan McGrath, Rev. Kim Long, Rev. Matt Ybañez, Dr. Edgar Bazan, Rev. Marcus Jones, Rev. Maggie Proshek, and Rev. Josh Stueve. They exemplify dedicated service to their individual work with the BOM. They have also modeled tremendous collaboration as we live into our work as the Horizon Texas Conference BOM.

We are incredibly grateful for the staff support of the Center for Multiplication. Rev. Derek Jacobs provides resources and opportunities that continually challenge the BOM to improve its service to the candidates for ministry and the annual conference. Ms. Camale Allen provides tremendous support and leadership to the BOM. She has dedicated herself to the Board of Ordained Ministry with her detailed work, compassionate heart, and creative ideas.

The work of the BOM is inspiring and life-giving. It is a joy to share a brief description of this year's accomplishments of the Horizon Texas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Thank you.

WESLEY FOUNDATIONS & CAMPUS MINISTRY

BELTON UNITED WESLEY FOUNDATION

BELTON, TEXAS

ANNA SHIPLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Belton United Wesley is an ecumenical campus ministry serving students at the University of Mary Hardin–Baylor. Our mission is to create a nurturing Christ-centered community where students are invited to belong, encouraged to wonder, and empowered to lead with courage and compassion. This year marked an important season of relaunch and rebuilding as we reestablished a visible and relational ministry presence on campus.

Over the past year, our primary focus has been building relationships with students and strengthening connections with our local church partners and community supporters. Through individual coffee meetings, small gatherings, service projects, and campus outreach events, we made eighty-four new student connections and hosted eighteen unique participants in Wesley programming during our relaunch year. These relationships have already begun to form the foundation for a consistent core group of students who participate regularly in our community.

A significant milestone this year was the opening of a newly remodeled student space shared with Belton First United Methodist Church's Family Life Center. The space now serves as a flexible gathering place for conversation, study, fellowship, and ministry programming. We have also made the space available for UMHB students and campus groups in addition to our weekly programming.

This year we launched a new website and refreshed our social media platforms to better tell the story of our ministry and share how God is at work in our community. Alongside this digital relaunch, we developed a new logo, tagline, and organizational values that clearly articulate our mission to be a welcoming spiritual home for students as they grow in faith and community.

Participating in community service opportunities continues to be one of the most meaningful entry points for students. This year students participated in multiple service opportunities including partnerships with local organizations, pop-up service activities on campus, and preparing and serving meals for community members experiencing food insecurity. These projects helped connect Belton United Wesley with students from across the broader campus ministry network. In addition to group programming, pastoral care and relational discipleship have been central to this year's ministry. Regular individual meetings for prayer, conversation, and spiritual support have been an important part of helping students navigate the academic, emotional, and spiritual challenges of college life.

This ministry is sustained through the generous partnership of local churches, donors, and the Horizon Texas Conference. Current partner congregations include Belton First United Methodist Church, St. Cornelius Episcopal Church, Salado First United Methodist Church, and Covenant Lutheran Church in Temple. These partnerships support the ministry through financial contributions, shared leadership, prayer, and collaboration in programming. We are deeply grateful for the prayers, encouragement, and generosity of the many individuals and congregations who make this ministry possible. Together, we are helping create a community where students are welcomed just as they are and invited to grow in faith, belonging, and purpose.

If you would like to learn more visit beltonunitedwesley.org or check us out on Facebook or Instagram.

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DENTON WESLEY FOUNDATION
DENTON, TEXAS
MARIANNE BROWN-TRIGG, DIRECTOR

Greetings from the Denton Wesley Foundation! We are a campus ministry that exists to embody Christ's radical love on campus and empower faithful young leaders at University of North Texas, Texas Woman's University, and North Central Texas College. We serve campus through feeding ministries, free groceries, mental health services, public witness, and community care, alongside our weekly programming of worship, Bible study, community groups, and leadership development.

On the Denton campus, our Open Doors program provides free groceries and lunch, as well as opportunities for students to learn about community service partners. Our free mental health program has allowed many under-served students access therapy and spiritual direction, as well as lift the stigma around mental health care through community workshops on topics such as managing boundaries in family relationships and coping with adverse religious experiences. Originally launched through a multi-ministry grant through Texas Methodist Foundation, we have been able to sustain weekly therapy sessions and 'drop in' support for students this school year through other grants and individual donors.

This year, we expanded our ministry to include the Gainesville campus of North Central Texas College. Lions For Christ: Gainesville has made about one hundred outreach connections, served international students needing groceries over school breaks, and helped many students learn about local churches and summer service opportunities.

The board has been exploring opportunities for developing our property as part of a long-term strategic plan. We are excited about the possibilities for the ways we can contribute positively to the campus ecosystem and make our ministry more sustainable for coming generations. We hope to be able to share details about our progress soon.

Regarding the statewide campus ministry fund: every conference in Texas has voted to join the Texas Campus Ministry Fund as partners. Following the Horizon Texas Conference's commitment to support the fund with 5% of the net proceeds from unrestricted church closures, Texas Annual Conference has launched a funding campaign that will match the first \$500,000 of gifts from their conference over the next five years. We look forward to this fund being able to support campus ministries across the entire state with one source of predictable annual funding and giving supporters the opportunity to make a gift that is widely impactful. To give to the fund, text **txcampus** to **50155** or give through the Texas Methodist Foundation to **Account #5043**.

We are so grateful for the local churches and individuals that have supported our ministry this year. You embody Christ's radical love on campus and raise up faithful young leaders when you donate, volunteer, pray, or share about this ministry.

To give, refer a student or see our most current needs for support, visit our website: thewesley.org

PARIS WESLEY CENTER
PARIS, TEXAS
MICHELLE STUBBS-WOOD, DIRECTOR

Hello, Annual Conference 2026! Paris Wesley Center is a campus faith community in Paris, TX creating a home away from home for the students of Paris Junior College.

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There's some very exciting news coming out of Paris Junior College this year! Starting in August 2026, every high school graduate from Lamar and Red River counties will be eligible to attend PJC and earn their associate's degree completely free of charge. With the poverty rate around the school sitting at twice the national average, this change has the potential to break young people free from the systems of generational poverty. The Paris Wesley Center board is working and discerning all the ways we can best support students through this exciting, shifting landscape!

Paris Wesley Center creates a space where diverse students come together and are transformed by one another and God in their midst. Throughout the week, students are gathering between classes, playing together, encouraging one another, and inviting their friends to join them. Every semester, including summer term, student interns are hired to cultivate and grow their leadership capacity through leading fun events, connecting students with needed resources, and facilitating small group discussions on mental health, world religions, the Bible, and life skills. The Open Table Bible Study has created space for some meaningful conversations, spiritual growth, and collective learning. The Mindful Expressions group meets weekly to learn about a mental health topic, to communally share about their experiences, and then to create a related art project together.

In 2025, the Paris Wesley Center served over 3,300 meals during Thursday free lunches. The number of people attending Free lunch grew from 75 to 90 during the Fall semester of 2025. The Paris Wesley Center also has a food pantry, which is treated as "walking into your home kitchen" to lessen any stigma around using extra support. Shelf stable meals, snacks, drinks, and freezer meals are available for students whenever the building is open. Students are also able to prepare meals in the Paris Wesley Center kitchen.

The Loads of Love Laundry provides a space for the students to wash their clothes free of charge. We've become a part of students' weekly life rhythms in a new way, which provides regular opportunities to build relationships and offer socio-emotional and spiritual support. Approximately 2,000 loads of laundry were washed here in 2025. Local churches have been extremely generous in donating laundry detergent as well, which is one more way that students experience the people of God exuding God's prevenient grace and impacting their lives in tangible ways.

The Wesley Center is an inclusive community of students who gather to support one another through life, and it is growing quickly. 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! The Paris Wesley Center cares for Paris Junior College students, through seeking to meet their holistic needs, so that they can be fully equipped to become the strong community leaders our world desperately needs. For more information, contact Rev. Michelle Stubbs-Wood at director@pariswesleycenter.org.

SYNERGY WESLEY FOUNDATION (UTD/DALLAS COLLEGE/COLLIN COLLEGE)

RICHARDSON, TEXAS

BRITTANY MELROSE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Synergy Wesley Foundation provides supportive space for college students to build authentic relationships and community, grow in faith through worship and discussion, discover their gifts, discern their vocational call, develop as Christian leaders, and serve alongside their neighbors to transform the world. Our programming includes weekly worship, Bible study, retreats, praise band, volunteering, fellowship events at the center of campus, free weekly meals, and leadership development programs. Over the past year we served in ministry with more than 200 college students, with about sixty students involved in weekly programs at a deep and consistent level.

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Eight years ago, we moved into our current facility – a 900 square foot storefront space directly across from the UT-Dallas campus, and we have been so blessed by this ministry hub. These days, our space is bursting at the seams – students crowd in for worship, meals, and fellowship each week – and it is often standing-room only.

Here is the great news: God has opened the door for us to create a ministry center designed for growth. It is more than a building project: it is about cultivating leaders, nurturing faith, and transforming lives.

In late 2025, we launched our “Growing Together Campaign” and began raising funds to expand our current facility by doubling our footprint, combining our space with the unit directly behind ours, and redesigning the layout to ensure it is a fully-accessible, functional ministry space with room to grow. This includes a large, open worship space and patio for indoor and outdoor programming.

We are so thankful for the support of the Horizon Texas Conference and our partner churches for supporting our Growing Together Building Campaign and sustaining our day-to-day ministry programming with your generous support. To partner with Synergy Wesley Foundation, you can contact Leadership@SynergyWesley.org or visit SynergyWesley.org or [@SynergyWesley](https://www.instagram.com/SynergyWesley) on social media. We would love to work with you to reach and grow a rising generation of young Christian leaders for the transformation of the world!

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS COREY MOSES, CAMPUS PASTOR/DIRECTOR

The purpose of the Wesley Foundation is to create a community of faith to develop students of Tarleton State University as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are creating leaders that are desperately needed to transform the Church and the world. We do this by providing a community for the students allowing them to determine their beliefs in a safe space and community so that they can be more like Christ as they love God, serve others and live righteously.

While we do continue to engage with students in our conventional ways of Free Lunch, Bible Study, Dinner-Church, Missions trips, and community building events & activities, we are also working to intentionally expand our reach in more “out of the box” endeavors. Our goal is to work to bridge the gap between the world of Tarleton State University and the church. More times than not, when we meet students for the first time, their response is not the most open to involvement in a faith-based community. This can be the case for several different reasons. As a result, we want to invest in those around us, and work to build an authentic community through the cultivation of meaningful, intentional relationships.

Our Nerd Ministry continues to be a constant thread of engagement and community building for us. Over the past year, we’ve helped our students navigate major identity crises, various mental health crises, the first time experiencing the grief of a grandparent’s death, and loss of a job to name a few. The relationships built over the shared interest of video games is what leads us to be able to walk our students through these (sometimes) tectonic events in their lives.

At the Wesley, we have groups that meet online together to build relationships over gaming together, chat sessions over Discord, movies, anime, tabletop games, and of course... food! Through these endeavors as well as our more conventional methods mentioned above, relationships are not just formed but deepened and community emerges. In fact, we even have had students continuing to engage with us in person as a result of them first meeting us online. This semester we added some time each week to enjoy the popular card game, “Magic the Gathering,” and the D&D. What started as Mathew and I hanging out

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at the Wesley playing MTG has grown to now multiple groups of students playing their own games of Magic. In fact, several of them are even meeting at the Wesley on their own to gather and play games.

Mathew Aquino continues to utilize his favorite past time of Karaoke to engage with students and help them navigate healthy ways of expressing their emotions. For some, this includes the work of processing some past church hurt in their lives. The relationships built and conversations engaged in through this form of our mental health initiative has been fruitful.

Our mental health initiative's purpose is to equip students with the experiences and coping skills to properly manage the day-to-day stressors of making the transition from young adolescence to adulthood. Every other Monday, we host a specific discussion or event to get the students involved from discussions about setting healthy boundaries to having karaoke nights to overcome our anxieties and getting closer to one another over a meal. This program is meant not to be a replacement for therapy or the services already available to Tarleton students but rather to supplement those services and create a safe space for our students.

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY FORT WORTH, TEXAS EDDIE KAHLER, DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

We are increasingly aware that today's college students are not only looking for community but are also searching for a faith that can withstand complexity, doubt, and the changing seasons of life. That is why discipleship remains at the center of everything we do.

Each week, students gather for worship. Young adults gather for daily prayer every weekday afternoon. Multiple small groups meet for study throughout the week. Student leaders engage scripture and pray one-on-one every week for an hour with a campus minister to deepen their own faith and they gather as a team monthly to plan events and programs for the Wesley community.

Keeping Christ at the center continues to bear fruit. Since 2020, our graduates report the following outcomes:

- 93% can articulate how Christ has shaped their lives
- 84% describe a meaningful connection with Scripture
- 90% feel confident in their ability to pray
- 96% express a desire to remain engaged in community, service, and justice

This year, we placed particular emphasis on helping students engage the deeper questions of faith. Through teaching series, small groups, and one-on-one discipleship, students wrestled with topics such as doubt, calling, identity, and the nature of prayer.

Rather than avoiding difficult questions, our community has become a place where those questions are expected and where students are equipped to engage them with theological depth and spiritual maturity. Faith is put into action through mission and service opportunities that help us exist beyond ourselves. The result is a more grounded and resilient faith that can carry them well beyond college.

Over the past year, students have served across our conference and beyond by helping lead camps and retreats, offering leadership in local churches, and investing in youth and children. Many have also pursued summer ministry opportunities, further discerning their own sense of calling and vocation. We are seeing a growing number of students not only participate in our ministry but begin to embrace and live out their own calling from God.

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These outcomes point to strong student formation during their years at TCU, but the witness of our alumni shows that campus ministry continues shaping lives long after graduation. One powerful testament to this is that nearly 50% of total alumni giving comes from recent alumni (ages twenty-eight and under).

The continued expansion of Texas Christian University presents both opportunity and urgency for our ministry. With new residential developments surrounding our location and increased student presence in our immediate context, we are actively engaged in strategic planning to ensure we are positioned to meet this moment faithfully. This includes ongoing conversations around program capacity, facility use, and long-term sustainability. Alongside this work, we have strengthened our efforts to reconnect with alumni and cultivate broader support for the future.

Each year, we are reminded that the true measure of this ministry is not only what happens during a student's time at Wesley, but what continues afterward.

As we sent out another graduating class this year, it has been encouraging to see many already connecting with local congregations and seeking transformative ways to live out their faith. Our hope remains the same: that students leave not only with meaningful experiences but with a faith rooted in the life of the Church and sustained over time.

We are deeply grateful for the continued partnership of the Horizon Texas Conference, whose support makes this work possible. Together, we are fulfilling our mission of leading young adults toward lifelong discipleship of Jesus by nurturing their faith development, supporting their vocational exploration, and engaging them in community, service, and justice.

Thank you for your prayers, trust, partnership, and investment in this ministry.

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
ARLINGTON, TEXAS
EVVE KUYKENDALL, PASTOR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on this year in the life of the UTA Wesley Foundation, I begin with deep gratitude for the continued support of the Horizon Texas Conference. The commitment of our conference to collegiate ministry makes the work we do possible and reminds our students that the wider church is invested in their faith formation and leadership.

Building upon the work of my predecessor, Rev. Marcus Jones, and his Beloved Community Initiative, we have continued to cultivate a community that reflects the radical hospitality at the heart of the Gospel. In a moment when state and federal funding structures have required universities to close or reconfigure many diversity, equity, and inclusion spaces, the Wesley has leaned even more intentionally into our calling to be a Radically Inclusive Community at UTA. Our hope is to ensure every student who walks through our doors encounters the grace of Christ and a community that honors the diversity of God's creation.

LOOKING BACK

Celebrating Community and Cultural Outreach

Led by our Director of Outreach Jesus Canales and our dedicated team of student leaders consisting of Associate Director Laureen Kuizon and Ministry Lead Derek Goodrich, the Wesley hosted several initiatives celebrating the many forms of diversity present at UTA.

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During Hispanic Heritage Month, we collaborated with three Hispanic student organizations to host events highlighting the cultural and spiritual contributions of the Hispanic and Latinx communities. The month culminated in our annual *Día de los Muertos* celebration, which welcomed more than 200 students, faculty, and community members. Mariachi music, traditional dance, and the student-lead building of an *ofrenda* helped shape the evening. While joyful in its celebration of culture, the event also retained its solemn focus—remembering those who have gone before us, honoring the stories that shape the lives of our community.

We also hosted a Suicide Awareness worship, hosted in partnership with the UTA Counseling and Psychological Services office. This training helped equip Wesley leaders and students with practical tools to recognize the signs of mental health crisis and connect those in need with the resources necessary for support and intervention.

Our Black History Month provided space to celebrate the history, resilience, and contributions of people of African descent, both in the US and around the world. Through reflection, discussion, and celebration, students were reminded that the story of faith is deeply intertwined with the story of justice and liberation.

During Women's History Month, working alongside several campus women's organizations, we hosted a Women's Empowerment Panel discussion featuring female students, leaders, and community influencers. Together, they explored the challenges facing women in the 21st century and reflected upon how faith can help shape a path forward.

Through these initiatives and partnerships, the UTA Intercultural Engagement Center recognized the UTA Wesley Foundation for our contributions to campus cultural life, making us the only UTA campus ministry to receive this distinction.

DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

At the heart of our ministry is the work of forming disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Throughout the year, we partnered with churches across the area to ensure 30 Tuesday night worship dinners were provided for our students.

These meals represent far more than hospitality. They are tangible reminders that congregations across North Texas are praying for and supporting these students—communities ready to welcome them as they continue their faith journey.

Beyond worship, students deepen their faith through Bible or devotional book studies. Our sermon "Talk Back" sessions invite students to engage with the message, asking questions and exploring how faith speaks into their daily lives. Additionally, Wesleyan Bands provide the historic small-group discipleship model of faith where students can pray together, wrestle with theological questions, and encourage one another in their walk with Christ.

BUILDING THE FUTURE CHURCH

A major emphasis of this year has been reminding students the UTA Wesley cannot be their only faith community. As students approach graduation, it is important they already have relationships with congregations to continue nurturing their faith.

To help facilitate these connections, we routinely invite local churches and leaders into conversation with our students through panel discussions and events. We also hosted the first annual *ReKindle Young Adult Ministry Summit*, designed to equip local churches in the development of young adult ministries. More than eighty registered for the event whose keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady (the first UMC

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President of Brite Divinity School) with breakout sessions led by leaders shaping young adult ministry, including my collegiate ministry colleague Rev. Corey Moses of Tarleton University Wesley. The summit helped create a shared vision for how churches and campus ministries can work together to build the Church of the future.

LOOKING TO THE HORIZON

As I look forward, I am filled with encouragement and hope. Our student membership continues to reflect the remarkable diversity of the UTA student body, creating a community that embodies the richness of God's creation. We remain deeply grateful for the support of the Horizon Texas Conference, whose commitment to collegiate ministry multiplies the impact of what we do every day across our conference. Because of this partnership, UTA students are discovering purpose, call, and community as they grow in their faith and prepare not only to lead the church but be the Christ-led leaders of the future.

WESLEY AT EAST TEXAS A&M COMMERCE, TEXAS TRAVIS BURDETT, DIRECTOR

The East Texas Wesley exists to build an open and affirming United Methodist community where students are known, welcomed, and transformed through intentional outreach and discipleship. In a moment when a reconciling Christian witness is urgently needed, our ministry creates sacred space for students to grow in faith, belonging, and purpose. With sustained support we can continue engaging students and ensure a faithful, sustainable ministry for the long term. We appreciate the support of the Annual Conference to ensure a thriving ministry long term at the East Texas Wesley.

Students Numbers

During the 25-26 school year we have celebrated over thirty students who have become or remained involved at the Wesley. This engagement has taken the form of participating in Worship, engaging in small groups, attending on campus meals, and participating in our fun events. Those fun events include Karaoke night, Game night, Bowling night, and more. Our average attendance numbers are below (as of 3/3/26).

Attendance in Worship:	10.5
Small Groups:	5.3
On Campus Meals:	3
Fun Events:	11

The hope is that continued investment will allow us to continue to reach out to new students and engage in ministry long term at Wesley. This is only the beginning!

In worship we have engaged in several subjects and led the students in communion every single week. Those subjects are:

- Abundant Life, Jesus wants us to have Joy!
- Struggles, No matter the issue Christ is with us.
- God Is, Who is God and why does that matter.
- Grace Unending, the threefold Methodist grace
- Spiritual Practices, the practices that can draw you near to God.

In February we took two students on the All-Campus Retreat. It was an exciting time and an engaging time in ministry. We learned about joy and about the power of rejoicing in every circumstance. We hope to bring more next year to this exciting retreat.

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Fundraising

When I started at the Wesley there were bare bones fundraising efforts. The Wesley had a total of \$30 pledged per month, and we have since increased that number by 3000%. As of today, we have \$875 pledged per month to the Wesley. This investment helps us do ministry and engage with students. A number of people both on the board and off the board are part of this giving. As of today, we are starting a new campaign to recruit Wesley Partners. The hope is that this campaign will increase this monthly giving substantially. To do ministry at the Wesley we need regular givers and it is happening as we speak. Please be in prayer for the Wesley and the ministry long term.

Grant Funding

Wesley applies for all grants it encounters. We have applied for several grants and have been approved for three out of the four. The grants are as follows:

Hesta Stuart Grant	\$10,000
Holman Foundation	\$5,000
Sam Taylor Grant	\$9,300

I am in the process of applying for Grants with Young People (UMC) and the Hesta Stuart grant again. It is the hope that these grants will provide regular funding that will help us do ministry at the Wesley.

Building

When coming into the position in the summer of 2025 the building was one of the strengths of the ministry. Past directors had kept up well with the building and maintained necessary systems. We have endeavored to keep this trend going.

We have updated specific rooms, thrown out furniture, and updated areas. This May we will have trustees workday to update lights and clean up rooms.

Future Plans

We are laying a foundation for what is to come. Our plans at the Wesley are to make it into a leadership and ministry training center where all who are engaged at the Wesley feel equipped and empowered to lead in ministry and in life. Our intern's program is a start to this goal, but long-term engaging in leadership training for the whole of Wesley is key. We want all the Wesley to be leaders and be equipped for leadership.

We hope to provide laundry services to serve the community in Commerce. We are applying for grants that will allow the funding to redo the back room at the Wesley into a laundry room. The hope is that laundry services will provide a service to the community and allow the building to become a hangout and engaging place for students everywhere.

Student Stories

"I would say my time at the Wesley so far has been eye opening and transformative, since joining the Wesley I have found more ways to become a better Christian and get deeper in my faith, a deeper understand of the Bible, and I've felt closer to God and to Jesus because of it. Plus, I've made some amazing friends along my journey too." Jake Lee

"Ever since I've gotten to the Wesley I've felt at home, heavily because of your welcoming spirit and your humor. You've given me an opportunity to be more than just a member but a leader and just the community we are building, it makes me love going back every week." Xavier Trent

"My time at the Wesley has been the most eye-opening journey for me. I've learned that I don't have to be perfect at everything, I just have to try my best, and that might be different from day to day but that's ok. Something that you said the first time I went was, "God loves you are you are, but way too much to

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leave you that way,” and that really stuck with me. Like now I know that I am loved and I can get better at the same time!” Lee Hill

WESLEY FOUNDATION OF WICHITA FALLS

WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

REV. JULIA PUAC-ROMERO, DIRECTOR

The Wichita Falls Wesley (MSU/Mount Vernon College) continued to serve the students of Midwestern State University (MSU TX) and Vernon College in the Wichita Falls surrounding area of the Mid-North District this year.

This school year, the Wesley of WF continued to serve 40-50 unique students from across the MSU TX campus and began discussing potential opportunities for growth and outreach to Vernon College. With our director, Julia Puac-Romero, completing her fourth year, we also graduated ten unique students. We have served students through our weekly Thursday free lunch, Wednesday night Bible study, Movie and discussion nights, partnerships with the Pride Student group of MSU TX, and the Catholic Campus Ministry. This past fall, our intern Cheyenne Brown hosted two events focused on engaging our female students, and one this Spring. We also partnered with our local FCA Chapter on continued worship events and a game night to build camaraderie between our two campus ministries.

This year, we built upon our relationship with the Black Student Union, the Sigma Lambda Alpha Latin Sorority, and our football team. This continued relationship-building has helped regrow Wesley into an even more diverse campus ministry, and our reach across campus has grown. This partnership has also created a space for the Wesley of Wichita Falls to host two cultural graduations at University United Methodist Church, expanding our exploring diversity goal of the Horizon Texas Conference

Our focus theme this year has been “Lakeshore,” which centered on four main themes; call stories from the “shoreline,” accepting our call as followers of Christ and “getting on the boat,” leaning on Christ during “storms and turbulent waters” and concluded with moving from being followers to disciples being sent “out of the boat.” Each has encouraged students to express and share their faith stories, grounded in grace and in who Christ is to them.

We were awarded the Hesta Stuart grant, which allowed us to operate on a successful general budget and to continue receiving various support from individuals and Sunday school classes. We were also awarded the Sam Taylor grant for the second year in a row, which is now focused on us continuing to strengthen what it means to be Black & Hispanic/Latin@ in the United Methodist church, with a focus on justice ministries. We were able to take three students to the U.M. Army mission trip, with full funding from private donors who were sponsors to our students.

The Wesley of Wichita Falls has now held two successful golf tournaments, each of which has generated funding to continue our vital work. We have set out the next golf tournament for October 16th, 2026, at Weeks Champions Golf Course in Wichita Falls. We would love to encourage all golfers across our conference to attend and help us reach our \$15,000 goal!

For more information about our ministry communities, discipleship model, and ways to support our ministry, email campusministry@wfwesley.org and follow us on Instagram @wesleyofwf.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWFAITH)

WENDY CAMPBELL, PRESIDENT

We believe love in action can change the world. Our faith brings us together, and our spirituality pushes us to do more to advocate for and support ministry with the oppressed and dispossessed, with special attention to the needs of women, children and youth; to build a supportive community among women; and to foster spiritual growth and soul care, mission education and Christian social involvement. **As the Horizon Texas Conference organization of United Women in Faith (UWFaith), we learned that by working together we can make a big impact and change lives!**

The UMC *Book of Discipline* requires that each local church establish an organized unit of UWFaith. The foundation of our organization is the local unit where individual members nurture each other, volunteer, and donate. Local groups have educational programming, mission activities, and budgets that financially support their local missions and a Pledge to Mission sent to District, Conference and National UWFaith. Those without a local church-based unit may gather with another church's unit or a District unit. All members are encouraged to be "All Access" to be part of the national online community supporting our sisterhood. We welcome all women of faith to join us – there are no age or church membership requirements.

Like the UMC, UWFaith is a connectional ministry. Women connect beyond their local group with their District and Conference for mission education, social justice and mission projects, soul care, and spiritual growth programming. Virtual programming is open to everyone. Large in-person Conference events, like Annual Meeting and Racial Justice events, are livestreamed so anyone can participate. Members of our Conference Leadership Team live across our vast conference. We function as eight Districts, all now with programming and leadership teams. As a lay-led ministry we operate on a calendar year basis for our officers, budget, and programming plans.

Programming during the past year included:

- **UWFaith Luncheon at Annual Conference (June 2025 at SMU, Dallas) "Practicing Hope through Social Justice,"** This was a special chance to gather and get to know each other, and welcome guests attending AC without a connection to UWFaith. Sally Vonner, our UWFaith CEO, and HTC member, spoke. We also got an update on our annual mission project.
- **Mission u "Practicing Hope" (July 2025 at McMurry University in Abilene)** We gathered for mission education, fellowship, fun, and inspiration. We had four classes of attendees at the three-day event and two virtual classes later in the summer. Our Study Leaders were all young HTC clergywomen, trained on the national curriculum.
- **HTC UWFaith CELEBRATION! (Nov. 1 -- Virtual)** At this special called session we elected new officers and approved the budget for 2026. It was a powerful, interactive Zoom celebrating with the girls at the Jerri Savuto Girls Center in Kenya. We announced that we surpassed our \$20,000 goal by raising \$25,664 for a security fence to protect the vulnerable girls!
- **Local Officer Training (January 2026 – Virtual)** Conference officers presented virtual training sessions for each of eleven local UWFaith roles, resulting in more than 400 trainings that day. Women connected with officer counterparts to learn best practices together.
- **Texas UWF Legislative Event (January 2026 - in Austin and Virtual)** - UWFaith from conferences across Texas partnered with Texas Impact for this 38th annual event. Experts informed us about current Texas issues and current public policy affecting Texans. With knowledge and discussion, we prepared to be effective advocates for economic justice, human rights, climate justice, and civic participation for all Texans. Advocacy is important even when the Legislature is not in session and our impact is amplified by sharing accurate information with church groups and others.
- **HTC UWFaith 1st Annual Meeting & Celebration (March 7, 2026, Lovers Lane UMC in Dallas & Livestream)** "Love In Action: Stories, Ideas and Inspiration" with fellowship, mission and UWFaith

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resource displays. Our annual meeting featured awards and results of our 2025 Annual Reports. Keynote speaker, Rev. Mara R. Bim, inspired us with “Public Witness Today – God’s Call in Troubling Times.” After lunch, our Love In Action sessions included Human Trafficking 101, Reproductive Rights Advocacy, A Neighbor Immigrant’s Journey and UWFaith resources. Despite heavy morning storms, there were 120+ in attendance and about 100 with us on livestream.

- **Soul Care Mini-Retreats (Virtual on 5th Thursdays throughout the year)** These highlighted the need for and the nature of soul care and how it supports our mission efforts with insight, prayer, group discussion, and individual engagement with the topic. Morning and evening sessions each had optional prayer and contemplation afterwards. These are well attended by HTC and other conference women. uwfaithhtc.org/mini-soul-care
- **Virtual Book Clubs (Monthly at various times, Virtual)** Community is created using books in the UWFaith Reading Program. Both Book Clubs meet monthly. Additional groups that are open to all are welcome. uwfaithhtc.org/book_club

Our 2026 Mission Project is a Creative Arts Studio for the Lydia Patterson Institute (LPI) in El Paso, TX. Our Goal is to raise \$20,000 to transform a room into a vibrant, multi-use Creative Arts Studio. We recognize that 7th-12th grade LPI students deal daily with the stress of immigration issues. This will be a space where they can safely explore their God-given gifts through art, music, and dance -- and nurture imagination, build self-worth, and encourage community.

The HTC United Women in Faith budget for the 2026 calendar year is just over \$126,000. About \$95,000 will go directly to unrestricted mission and supplemental giving that impacts lives locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. The balance of the budget will fund educational programming, member and leadership development, and administration costs.

Plans for the coming year include:

- **Horizon TX Annual Conference (June 2, Wichita Falls)** We are co-sponsoring a social justice lunch with HTC Church & Society.
- **Mission u (July 16-18 at First UMC Hurst) “Experiencing Emmanuel”** Together we’ll explore how we experience God in our lives and in community as we work for justice. Once again, we have chosen young clergywomen to be our Study Leaders.
- **Charter for Racial Justice Events (Fall 2026 in Districts).** Continually reaffirming our commitment to racial justice efforts, the conference team is working with Districts to present meaningful racial justice experiences to impact more women closer to home.
- **Soul Care Retreat (October 2-4, Prothro Center at Lake Texoma)** At this 3-day retreat we’ll look closely at the powerful impact of God’s grace on our lives. Led by three women who understand the deep meaning of grace, we’ll study, contemplate, create, and play together.
- **HTC UWFaith Celebration (Nov. 7, Virtual)** – special called meeting to elect new officers and approve the 2027 budget and celebrate our annual mission project.
- **2027 plans: Officer Training in early January, Texas UWF Legislative Event in late January, and the 2nd Annual Meeting and Celebration in the first quarter.**

Our weekly HTC UWFaith newsletter promotes mission and UWFaith events, inspires advocacy, provides programming ideas, mission updates, community building, and two blogs: soul care and member musings. You can learn lots more about us on our robust website with ways to get involved, program information, training resources, advocacy links, up-to-date calendar, our Annual Mission Project details, and more. Keep up with all we have going on by joining our newsletter list at www.UWFaithHTC.org

CHAMPIONING CHILDREN AND YOUTH TEAM

CHRISTINE PEIRCE, DIRECTOR OF CHILD AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The work of 2025-2026 was building from the legacy projects each conference brought into the unification and building systems, programs, and ministries that enabled children, youth, directors, parents, and camps to connect, with emphasis from our Area Coordinators to consult and coordinate opportunities that empower children and youth. In doing so, we continue to work to foster collaborative ministries that advance the vision of the HTC.

Our biggest task has been building in opportunity for those that need resourcing support, leveraging those who have done excellent work to support those that are building it into their own ministries. Within that, communication became a clear center point of our work, guiding the Children and Youth (C&Y) team to focus with Tell Our Story to provide resources via our monthly emails. In addition, we utilize direct emails as opportunities arise that can support the ministries at the local church level, being able to offer scholarships for youth and children workers to trainings that include Mental Health First Aid, the young adult workshop Rekindle Summit, Games We Play by Group Dynamix, and more.

One evergreen task is making sure we have the correct contacts for churches and whoever is working with children, youth, and parents. This includes those working with the children, youth, and parents both in the church and in the greater community around the church. This includes more than keeping track of names. We want to include if they are clergy or lay, volunteer, parttime, or fulltime, paid or unpaid, how they have participated in the conference camping programs and more. This list helps us when we find new opportunities to share for training, connection, grants and more.

An additional big undertaking was setting the conference children and youth calendar through 2027. The following dates are secured on our calendar:

2026:

- Sept. 18-20 - Bible Camp (Bridgeport)
- Sept. 18-20 – Bible Camp (Glen Lake)
- Sept. 25-27 - Confirmation Camp (Bridgeport)
- Oct. 3 – Conference Youth Leadership (Location TBD)
- Oct. 4 - Bishop's Rally (Metro East, Location TBD)
- Oct. 5-7 – Director Gathering with Leanne Hadley and Tanya Campen
- Oct. 15-17- Children and Youth Leader Pilgrimage – Civil Rights
- Dec. 28-30 – Conference Youth Leadership Christmas Conference

2027:

- Jan. 8-9 – Conference Youth Leadership Midwinter Planning retreat (Bridgeport)
- Jan. 22-24 – Midwinter (Bridgeport)
- January 24 - Bishop's Rally (Mid-South, TBD)
- Feb. 5-7 – Midwinter (Bridgeport)
- Fe. 5-7 – Winter Camp (Glen Lake)
- March 7 - Bishop's Rally (NW, Midland)
- TBD – Children and Youth Workers Gathering Retreat
- April 24 - Youth Leadership in Person Date
- April 25 - Bishop's Rally (NW, Amarillo)
- May 28-30 OR June 4-6 - Youth Leadership AC Camp
- July 11-14 - Youth 2027! (Dallas)
- Sept. 17-19 - Bible Camp (Bridgeport)
- Sept. 24-26 – Confirmation (Bridgeport)
- Sept. 26 - Bishop's Rally (NW, Lubbock)

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- Oct. 2 – Conference Youth Leadership (Location TBD)
- Oct. 4-6 - Director Gathering Retreat (Location TBD)
- Nov. 7 - Bishop's Rally (Metro North, TBD) - First UMC Rockwall
- Dec. 28-30 - Youth Christmas Conference

Piloting new things

This year, we began a few new things and expanded a few opportunities:

- Confirmation United – In the South and Mid-South district, a confirmation class alternative is happening. Churches are gathering monthly to ensure a critical mass and build connections beyond the semester. Rev. Jen Chickering, area coordinator in the South and Mid-South districts, pioneered this work, ensuring no matter what size, churches could offer confirmation in their congregations.
- Embodied Exploration – Continuing education is a great way to move ministry forward. In the Fall of 2025, this on-the-road learning opportunity hosted Becky Ghose to speak to best practices for neurodivergent community members and Nicole Melrose to lead work in polyvagal theory and somatic work. Central UMC in Waco hosted this work. In Spring 2026, Ash Lane UMC in Euless hosted Amanda Herridge and discussed Children's Sermons by Children (and Youth). Each of these workshops served to share a needed skill for churches that are working to grow in how to equip workers, volunteers, parents, youth, and children into the community of God.
- Bishop's Rally – previously held in the metroplex area, we have set a schedule to hold one in each district over the next three years, enabling all youth to connect but also meet Bishop Saenz. This year, First UMC Paris (East District) hosted Bishop Saenz in the fall and First UMC Killeen (South District) hosted in the spring. At each of these events, students who provide leadership in the district will determine a service project, fun activities, and how worship builds their community together.
- Partnerships in Ministry – Currently, Mt. Zion UMC in Paris, TX is working to develop a program to equip and train a young person in the best ways to build a children and youth program. This program is intended to benefit churches without paid staff who are working to invest in ministry geared toward young people.

Additional youth leadership opportunities we are working to pilot in youth-led opportunities:

- Our biggest task is to provide an online, always-accessible leadership training program, that no matter their location, youth from across the conference can participate. We aim for four modules to be available this summer with an additional four modules dropping each semester. Each module includes four parts: 1) a short video explaining some aspects with questions to discuss with a mentor, 2) a suggestion of how to live out that skill, characteristic, or a piece of that module for the next 30 days, 3) a reflection of what they learned in the thirty days and what they discussed with their mentor, and 4) a final project that will be shared with other youth and youth groups that showcases their learning. Once a youth has completed ten modules, we are working on a pilgrimage opportunity for them to participate in.
- We are also working and hope to launch summer opportunities for 1-3 youth to help with the social media aspects of sharing their story with their youth group on mission trip, at camp, volunteering at their church, etc. with the whole conference.
- We'd like a team of 5-7 youth that work towards a year-round model for YSF funds that may include shirts and other opportunities. The youth who serve in this group will meet quarterly to determine what things they want to invest their time into offering and ways they can expand their impact in the conference.
- We'd love a team of 5-7 youth to research and select a few recommended mission/service/learning trips for summer 2027. This group would work with current directors and their plans as their selection's purpose would be to help churches with 1-5 youth add into other groups that already have plans, enabling all youth to have the missional experience.
- Our last committee desire is to have a team of 5-7 youth representing camping ministries across the conference and from all conference camps to bring ideas forward and shape how things work. Youth

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have a unique voice that we want to make sure and hear when making decisions about 2027 and forward.

Area coordinators

Our area coordinators continued their work of connecting to churches in their areas. While they are spread across the conference and in a specific location, they each have their own area of expertise that is continually developing. In addition to their expertise, they can help share resources we have collected within the conference to help you and your ministry.

- Tessa Armes - expert in children's ministries (including preschool), family faith development, larger church systems, and department alignments with theology.
- Julia Castleman - expert in youth ministries, scaling programs, rural and suburban churches, including multi-staff management, and student leadership development.
- Jen Chickering - expert in children, youth, and families, with additional expertise in camping, confirmation, curriculum, and theology.
- Abigail Harrison - expert in systems development for family ministries, youth, young adult leadership, internships, and missions.
- Bill Mauldin - expert in intergenerational full church discipleship, youth ministries, collaborating projects, and group thinking.
- Kat Smith - expert in youth, navigating dual roles (worship service and ministry), conflict resolution, and can help greatly when consensus is needed.

Camps

Our camps are a big part of our ministry with children and youth. Campers can experience something that cannot be done in our churches or in our homes: community without distraction. In an era where life is busy and notifications are frequent, camp offers a liminal space to find reprieve from all that pulls us from the love and presence of God.

In September of 2025, new legislation following the historical and devastating floods of the summer added a unique challenge to our camps. Each of our summer camps (Bridgeport and Glen Lake) required modifications and consistent discussion with legislators and community leaders.

Much of the time since September was spent on connecting with camping groups, understanding the ramifications of these new rules, and more. Paired with these expectations, the conference invested in training through UMC Retreat Ministries to learn best practices for fundraising and building a sustainable giving campaign with Rev. Mitzie Schafer. As part of the program, both Bridgeport and Glen Lake have been able to attend monthly meetings geared directly to grow their fundraising abilities. In addition, and to build community while navigating the new legislation, the conference invested in sending at least one person per summer camp to a few opportunities. The conference sent Wendy Owens, Glen Lake's program director, and Cassidy Barrett, Glenlake's assistant program director, to the American Camp Association Winter Conference at Mo-Ranch in Hunt, TX. HTC also sent Daran Miller, Glen Lake's executive director, to the Camping Association for Mutual Progress (CAMP) conference in San Antonio, TX. Each opportunity posed additional support in navigating the impact of the new rules.

In addition, Bridgeport and SEEK are also now part of North Texas Giving Day, along with Glen Lake. All three camps can use the platform to collect both one-day funds and sustainable giving. All funds go to support the work of these camps.

Training

In our local churches, we continued to offer the following trainings:

- QPR – Question, Persuade, Refer. - Callie Barbee continues to offer these trainings around the conference for churches looking to ensure their volunteers, staff, and community know how to respond when a student or adult shares about suicide. This past year, she offered two at annual

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conference 2025, one with Revive UMC in Azle, one with White Rock UMC in Dallas, and three with First UMC Lubbock. She is available for some in the fall and spring 2027. *As a note: this training is best done before something happens rather than in the wake of something happening.*

- Faith at Home – C&Y staff continues to offer this training about taking best practices in how coaching works, setting a goal but also a cue to build faith in the home. This is best hosted with the pastor and parents when children are cared for in another room.
- Ripple out – C&Y staff can offer this as you evaluate your community to find where their need meets your assets, enabling you to reach beyond your church's walls and share in the ministry God calls your church to.
- Wonderfully Made - This is a tween-geared human sexuality course that is designed to be done in the local church. Our conference currently boasts ten people trained in facilitating this work.

At the conference level, we will continue to offer the following trainings:

- Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) - in person or online, we plan to host a training at the end of August 2026. If you desire sooner, we can help you find a training in your area and match your funding.
- Perkins School of Children and Youth Ministry (PSYCM) - this training, hosted by Perkins will be held in January 2027. This past year, over fifteen conference members attended and we will continue to offer scholarships.
- Wonderfully Made – This is a tween-geared human sexuality course that is designed to be done in the local church. Writer Rev. Dr. Tanya Eustace-Campen trained approximately ten individuals in the curriculum and the various components of the weekend to be a facilitator or host. Our hope is in Fall 2026 that we combine with other churches in Texas to host an in-person training that trains an additional ten people to spread a healthy human sexuality approach within our churches.

Resources

We are continuously reviewing resources that come before us. In January and February, we worked with Dandelion Marketplace and We Who Thirst to offer 50% off selected items for Lent and Easter. We will continue to work with entities to find valuable resources to make ministry choices for curriculum and more as inexpensive as possible.

Current resources provided from this year in our conference children and youth resource folder (Google Drive hosted, email anyone on C&Y staff to get the link) Faith at Home toolkit, Handing over Leadership for Worship resource, a basic third-fifth grade Bible curriculum, and more.

Another resource we are building is with the work of Creation Incubators and Kay Kotan. Her work creating The Table, a Lilly Grant-funded opportunity, gives churches the ability to place faith development of preschoolers in the hands of who is in the home, offering an easy-to-use app for parents to instill the values desired for their young children. In addition, it builds parents into a small group cohort to share their highs and lows with various aspects of imbuing faith into their children.

Thanks to Rev. Jen Chickering, we also now offer a “bare essentials” sixth-tenth grade confirmation curriculum that can be used with other churches or alone. It was used by Confirmation United in the Mid-South and South districts this year, but it is available for all churches to teach their young people the ins and outs of the UMC expression of the Christian faith.

One last resource is a window hanger for drivers to discuss with their riders after church what they heard, what they learned, and more. Based off the four questions “What did I hear?”, “How did I feel?”, “What have I learned?”, and “What do I still have questions about?” adults can converse and learn what thoughts were held and share their own experiences. Adults who answer these questions also model the need for curiosity and can utilize the Wesleyan quadrilateral in thinking.

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Conference Youth Leadership

There are three tiers to our leadership program as currently designed:

- Tier One – Entry. Students merely need to fill out the form to be included in the emails and be notified of the opportunities available to them at both the area and conference-wide levels. There is an expectation that they will resubmit their information yearly so we can maintain correct contact information. When their name is submitted, we email directors, pastors, and such asking for feedback. This feedback is to help us shape our goals
 - This year, we had seventy-six youth on our list.
 - A vast majority of the students (79%) were from Metro East, Metro North, and Metro West. We hope to increase participation from the other seven districts in 2026-2027.
 - Launching in summer 2026, we hope to have four online youth modules to develop young leaders in the local church by the local church that can build an online community across the conference for youth.
 - Continuing the work of summer 2024 and 2025, we hope to offer three localized trainings for churches to build their youth into church leaders.
- Tier Two – Area participation. Once students fill out the form in tier one, we send monthly emails sharing the opportunities that students have in youth leadership. This includes connecting students to the ELI (Emerging Leaders Institute) at Glen Lake and the JC (Junior Counselors) at Bridgeport programs, plus district youth committees, as well as planning Midwinter (Bridgeport), serving to plan aspects of Bishop's Rally, and more.
 - 91 percent participated in an opportunity offered via tier two leadership this past year.
 - In 2026-2027, we hope to evaluate how many are participating in some aspect of leadership within their local church community.
- Tier Three – Conference participation. Students here participate as officers on trips to jurisdictional conferences and beyond, and in the annual conference membership.
 - Ten youth went to the Jurisdictional Youth Gathering Labor Day Weekend 2025 in Hinton, OK. Youth from the Arkansas, Great Plains, Oklahoma, and Oklahoma Missionary Conference interacted together.
 - Eight youth attended Veritas, the Arkansas Conference CCYM led retreat weekend in Fort Smith, AR February 27-March 1.
 - Youth elected the following people to these leadership roles for 2026-2027:
 - Maddie Armes, Co-Chair of Conference Youth Leadership
 - Eliza Heyduck, Co-Chair in Training
 - Rebecca Nalley, Chaplain
 - Beau Wallace, Secretary
 - Bella Pluas, YSF Chair

MinistrySafe

As we make disciples of Jesus Christ, we must act very intentionally to protect children and youth from sexual abuse. To do so, the HTC adopted in 2024 the Conference and District Events Children, Youth and Vulnerable Persons Abuse Prevention and Protection Policy as well as the Local Church Policy as the foundational policy for all HTC churches and ministries. The adoption in 2024 set up the HTC for all churches to implement the plans on all spaces no later than January 1, 2025. This abuse prevention system requires screening of employees and volunteers, including an application, interview, reference check, and criminal background check. In addition, the system requires online training to help people better understand how to prevent sexual abuse and provides tools to help churches monitor compliance.

To find information or ask questions:

- The Championing Children and Youth Committee operates as the oversight committee meets to answer questions, clarify policies, and more. Any church with a question for the MinistrySafe Oversight Committee should contact the conference at ministrysafe@htcumc.org.

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- To find these policies, resources, and support visit: <https://www.htcumc.org/resources>.

SEEK

This past summer, SEEK (Summer Events for Exceptional Kampers) hosted four camps between Bridgeport (Youth SEEK) and Prothro (Young Adult SEEK 1, Young Adult SEEK 2, Adult SEEK). The program pairs special campers with a counselor in a 1-to-1 relationship, giving them a camp experience that is unlike any other. The curriculum this summer leaned into superheroes.

Youth Seek (directed by a team that included Chaney Fisher, Dinina Sharber, Abby Flanagan, Trent Flangan, and Brady McQueeney,) hosted forty-four campers and fifty-seven counselors at Bridgeport. One special thing from their week was their talent show, where campers performed and showcased their talents, especially in music and dance.

Young Adults SEEK 1 (directed by Megan Racca,) hosted forty-eight campers and fifty-four counselors at Prothro. One special thing their week is they brought a face painting artist to camp to airbrush the superhero of choice on each camper. However, the highlight of their day was always swim time.

Young Adult SEEK 2 (directed by Kellie Floyd) hosted fifty-four campers and sixty-six counselors at Prothro. Their dance night was epic, bringing in a DJ, especially as the campers formed a soul train that circled the whole conference center.

Adult SEEK (directed by Jerry Jones) hosted fifty-two campers and thirty counselors at Prothro. They brought in a yoga instructor to donate her time to the campers, instructing floor and chair exercises with a focus on breathing, which brought calmness to a day packed with excitement.

BRIDGEPORT CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

BEAU TAFT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2025 was a very solid year for us all around. Our camping sessions are holding their form for the past few years. We have continued to hover right around the 800 number for attendees over the five weeks of conference camp offerings. We still have room for growth in our conference camps, but we can also provide camping opportunities to other groups that need a space to attend.

In the non conference camp business, we saw a marked increase in both attendees and income. In 2025, we had sixty-eight non conference camp events, up from fifty-four the year before. And we had 3,970 guests join us 2025, up over 500 from the previous year as well. We were blessed to have groups from all over the spectrum of special needs camps, to university students, from a wide variety of Christian organizations and other religious groups. We are very proud that our non conference camp events continue to grow and set new standards almost every year for our facility.

We were happy to have so many of our old friends be able to join us this year and relished the opportunity to make so many more new friends from all our attendees. We hope and pray that all the successes here at Bridgeport Camp continue the kingdom work of the Horizon Texas Conference. For any additional information about bringing your group to Bridgeport Camp for conference camps or for a retreat, please visit our website, www.bridgeportcamp.org, or reach out to us at info@bridgeportcamp.org.

GLEN LAKE CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

DARAN MILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center has been in ministry since 1939. This sacred space has profoundly impacted countless lives over the years. Many of our pastors experienced their call to ministry at Glen Lake. They have been summer staff, full-time staff, and even campers when they felt God's nudging to take the next steps. Now, those same individuals are leading our congregations and helping to raise the next generations of children and youth by encouraging them to attend camps and create their own meaningful moments. We would love to hear your story or stories from your congregations about how Glen Lake has made a difference in their lives.

Glen Lake's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We strive to create an environment where authentic relationships are formed. In 2025, we had over 115 different retreat groups who brought over 6,170 participants onsite. Glen Lake leads Summer Camp, Bible Camp, and Winter Camp for Children and Youth. In those events, we had over 1,250 students and adults participate. Each summer, we hire about 30-40 college-age students who shepherd campers through experiences that draw them closer to Christ and each other.

Seven years ago, we engaged an organization to develop our Master and Strategic plan. We have been able to accomplish some of these priorities over the years. A pavilion was built on the hill by the cross. Meeting spaces in Siceloff and Turner were updated. Updated A/C units were installed in Vintage Cabins, and bathrooms were remodeled as well. The Master Plan's primary priority hasn't changed in 7 years; a new water park is still needed. A new feasibility plan is needed to reach that goal. If Glen Lake is to offer water activities in the future, a new water park is essential. Summer Camps and Retreat Groups rely on the water activities to allow an enjoyable time in the Texas heat. We cannot reach this goal without the intentional and continual support of the community that loves Glen Lake so dearly. Our "newest" facilities are over 30 years old.

We have been a part of a GBS Fundraising Cohort working with a non-profit consultant and other Camps that are also a part of the United Methodist Camp & Retreat Ministries Association (UMCRM) over the past 10 months. We have been learning how to gather and share impact stories that show how Glen Lake Camp has made a huge difference in so many lives each year. Participation with this group is helping us to increase the number of recurring donors and yearly contributions. Prioritization of fundraising has become a necessity. We are looking for churches, donors, and groups that would like to partner with us to make projects like the waterpark and needed improvements possible. We need your help. Every donation is valued and appreciated. Each investment is an endorsement in the future of Glen Lake Camp. Please let us know how you or someone you know can help us.

The legacy of Glen Lake Camp stands as a proud testament to the vision of nurturing believers and making them disciples of Christ. It is our honor to serve your congregation, and we invite you to continue to partner with us as we explore ways to expand your off-site ministry programming by utilizing Glen Lake Camp in an even greater capacity in the years to come.

PROTHRO CENTER AT LAKE TEXOMA

CLIFF DYER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Prothro Center is a host site for camps, conferences, and personal retreats. We strive to meet each group's unique vision, ensuring every event reflects the needs and spirit of its participants. With 100 acres of deep forest, picturesque lake views, abundant wildlife, inviting beach fronts, towering tree canopies, and remarkable natural beauty, we aim for every guest to feel God's peaceful presence upon arrival.

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Throughout the year, we welcomed a diverse range of conferences and retreats, including The Bishop's Cabinet, Clergy Spouse Retreat, 3 Seek Camps, and numerous individual church and youth retreats. Seek camps are a big part of our summer. For 3 weeks, we hosted a total of 154 special needs campers and 150 counselors. We also had a rise in school usage at our facility. Eight districts found their way to Prothro for teacher training, band camps, end of school parties, and team building.

As we look to the future, we will find ways to incorporate our thirty-six additional acres with our mission. We are working closely with cultiv8 community, to provide an outdoor education field trip designed to connect children with nature. We are also exploring the possibility of adding RV pads, to add a way for families to connect in our beautiful environment.

We continue to develop areas around our greatest asset, Lake Texoma. Covered canopies and patios make for more comfortable settings and easier beach access. With two beach areas, in-house guests always have lake access while we reserve the second beach for day use groups.

The Prothro Center proudly represents the Horizon Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support provided on behalf of the conference.

MAXIMIZE CARE AND HEALING TEAM

REV. JOY DISTER-DOMINGUEZ, DIRECTOR OF CARE & HEALING

Overview

When Jesus sent his disciples out into the world, he gave them a clear charge: proclaim the good news, heal the sick, and care for those in need. Care and healing were never an add-on to the gospel; they were the gospel made visible, tangible, personal, and communal. That calling remains at the center of the church's identity and mission. As followers of Jesus seeking the loving, just, and free world God imagines for all people, our strategic priority to "Maximize Care and Healing" embodies this vision in tangible ways. We recognize care ministry not as merely one ministry among many but as the foundational stream, culture, and posture from which all our other work and witness flows. By creating spaces for healing and providing opportunities for people to connect with Christ on their healing journey, we make God's vision for a loving and just world a reality in people's lives.

Jesus exemplified a revolutionary pattern of care that challenged the social norms of his time, consistently valuing those on the margins and showing compassion to the excluded. His approach was holistic, addressing body, mind, heart, and spirit as an interconnected whole, and focused on restoring community and themselves. Following Jesus' example, our approach encompasses the whole person through compassion ministries, justice work, mental wellness initiatives, disaster and crisis response, conflict transformation, prayer initiatives, clergy well-being, and pastoral care support systems. Cultivating a culture of care requires prayerful teamwork and collaboration. Expecting pastors alone to undertake this work is neither biblical nor practical. The laity are gifted and called to lead, just as Jesus sent his followers into communities to proclaim the good news, feed, and heal. This is what it means to love boldly.

This year has been one of significant momentum. Through a comprehensive ministry inventory of 352 churches with a 97% self-reporting rate, we now have a clear, conference-wide picture of care and healing across the Horizon Texas Conference for the first time. That picture reveals 24,047 lay volunteer leaders serving in care-related ministries (some noted below) and 18,722 people served every month, with lives truly being transformed. This also measured honest gaps in areas like mental wellness, grief support, justice work, and caregiver ministry that we are actively working to address. A first response to these findings was to partner with The Caring Congregation to launch care training cohorts for churches

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of every size and context, drawing over 200 participants from approximately ninety-six different churches across the fall 2025 and spring 2026 seasons, and received a Sam Taylor grant to help offset these expenses. We released "The Table Extended," a resource equipping clergy and laity to carry Holy Communion beyond the sanctuary to those who are home-centered, incarcerated, or in healthcare facilities. We surveyed 646 clergy to understand their well-being needs, and the results are shaping how we resource and advocate for the people who shepherd our congregations. We hosted authors Dr. Hillary McBride and Joshua Harris for a conversation on spiritual trauma that drew over 150 attendees, launched an online grief group, invested \$23,000 in Care and Healing Grants across seven ministries, and continued to fund four legacy community care partners doing vital work in immigration legal services, rural community development, neighboring, and faith-based advocacy. Our disaster response team continued long-term recovery efforts in Valley View, Gordon, and flood-affected communities across western Texas, including the provision of over 100 UMCOR-funded storm shelters. The Crisis Response and Care Ministry Team served fifteen congregations through crisis intervention and advocacy, while the Transform conflict transformation team engaged thirteen churches and conference work areas in the courageous work of loving boldly through difficult conversations. And the fourth annual Altogether Women's Retreat gathered clergy, laity, and their guests at Glen Lake Camp to worship, rest, and discover what it means to be "Altogether Bold."

Across the conference, new care and healing ministries are taking root in beautiful ways. Here are a few we want to share and celebrate:

Arapaho UMC, Dallas — Developed and organized a care team following 2025 training; engaged in community organizing and prophetic witness; established a Faith Community Nurse position.

Christ Foundry, Dallas — Hosted Hispanic care team training, developed a team, and provided excellent outreach to the immigrant population.

Christ UMC, Levelland — Developed and activated a care team after attending care training in 2025.

DFW Clergy — Numerous clergy across the DFW area participated with CLEAR, protested harmful immigration detention, and accompanied immigrants at check-in.

First Clifton/Walnut Springs UMC — Attended two care trainings and grew community outreach.

Friendship UMC, Sherman — Provided extensive community care including prison ministry, veteran care through "Taking it to the Streets," Market Depot food pantry, Operation Gratitude, Meals on Wheels, and FLITE ministry for mentally and emotionally challenged youth.

First UMC Allen — Assembled kits for children at the immigration center in Dallas.

First UMC Celina — Established a community nursing program; provided excellent witness in schools following a crisis situation.

First UMC Cleburne — Developed school partnerships.

First UMC Colleyville — Built excellent community partnerships, including paying off school lunch debt.

First UMC Georgetown — Strengthened care team and outreach; responded to the July 2025 floods.

First UMC Gordon — Formed a care team after fall 2024 training, provided strong community care post-tornado, and pursued mental health wellness partnerships.

First UMC Hurst — Engaged in immigration advocacy work.

First UMC Mexia — Engaged in immigration work.

First UMC Nolanville — Expanded a community health clinic that had been developing over the last few years.

First UMC Winnsboro — Partnered with the local ISD for children's mental health, bringing in speakers to equip children around mental wellness.

Grace Ave, Dallas — Participated in immigration involvement and community witness; hosted an immigration symposium.

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Grace UMC, Dalhart — Partnered with community agencies to provide mental health support and addiction recovery.

Henrietta/Petrolia — Merged congregations and maintained food ministry through a food truck.

Keller UMC and Oak Lawn UMC — Created communion bags for lay people to take into their communities.

Millsap UMC — Continued community outreach, drove community engagement, and experienced church growth.

Mt. Vernon UMC — Increased to a 17-member care team with transportation, funeral, meal, card, prayer, and prayer shawl ministries, plus monthly community lunches including "Soup for the Soul."

Oak Lawn UMC, Dallas — Trained and commissioned the conference's first Spanish-speaking care team with eight newly commissioned care ministers serving the church and the community; added a Community Parish Nurse in collaboration with covenantal partner Methodist Health System.

Olney/Jean UMC — Engaged in community recovery work.

Open Door UMC, Clyde — Responded to tragedy in the community.

Open Table UMC, Mansfield — Hosted "Caring for Our Neighbors" training on March 7th; developed outreach in the community.

Wellspring UMC, Georgetown — Hosted 2025 care training; deepened care team, community outreach, and justice ministries.

Wesley Denton — Provided excellent mental health care for students, partially funded by Care and Healing grants.

Wesley UMC, Greenville — Developed partnerships with unhoused persons; attended care training and participated in the spring care cohort.

Whitesboro UMC — Started a day-hab program for adult children with disabilities and developed a worship program for their care; resulted in new members joining the church.

While this list isn't exhaustive, it highlights the wide range and depth of care and healing efforts across our conference, as well as the many ways our churches and extension ministries positively impact their communities this year.

As we look ahead, it is important to name what "maximize" means in the context of care and healing. It does not mean adding more for the sake of "more." It means discerning what is most needed for this season, bringing ineffective ministries to a faithful conclusion, and going deeper where God is already bearing fruit. As Jesus reminded us, "I have not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it" (Matthew 5:17). In the same way, we are called not simply to do care and healing, but to fulfill it — to deepen and mature our understanding, broaden our reach, and become more inclusive in our holistic response to all of creation, as we love God, love our neighbor, as we love ourselves.

This strategic priority does not stand alone. It naturally intertwines with our overall vision and every other strategic priority. When we cultivate a culture of care and demonstrate genuine, holistic support, we create the conditions for others to experience the loving, just, and free world God imagines for all people. Care and healing is discipleship and multiplies disciples of Jesus. It champions and includes children and youth, recognizing their importance in the kin-dom of God. It actively embraces diversity with inclusion as the goal. And it compels us to share our story of transformation and healing so that others may turn their hearts toward Christ and do likewise.

We give thanks to God for the holy honor of serving in this capacity, walking alongside faithful clergy and laity, and look to the future with hope and excitement about how this ministry will continue to evolve and mature, and impact lives across our conference. We move forward with deep gratitude for all who have contributed their gifts, both clergy and laity, and with full confidence that God walks alongside us, guiding our efforts and empowering our service. Together, under the Holy Spirit's direction, we will keep

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transforming our churches and communities as we follow Jesus in creating the loving, just, and free world God imagines for all people.

Clergy Wellbeing

We continue the ongoing investment of clergy health and wellbeing, following the generous grant from Golden Cross Division, which funded a Faith Community Nurse from May 2024 through August 2025. While the grant was not renewed, we have continued working with the Faith Community Nursing Program at Methodist Health System to further our partnership and increase the number of Faith Community Nurses in our conference. An example is Oak Lawn UMC added a nurse with the guidance of Methodist Health System to connect the church to the community through health and wellness, specifically with our unhoused friends.

The Care and Healing team, in consultation with Bishop Saenz Jr., surveyed 646 active and on-leave clergy in July 2026 and received 177 responses, for a 27% response rate. The results reveal a clergy body that is deeply engaged in their calling and attentive to their well-being, with 89.2% maintaining annual wellness checkups and two-thirds participating in some form of wellness programming. Clergy reported their strongest wellness in the spiritual and intellectual dimensions (both averaging above 4.0 on a 5-point scale), reflecting a deep commitment to their relationship with God and to lifelong learning. Sources of recent ministry satisfaction included baptisms and confirmations, impactful preaching and teaching, and the sacred privilege of pastoral presence during moments of crisis and loss. When asked what conference-provided support has been most meaningful, over half of respondents named check-ins from their District Superintendent, underscoring that personal, relational connection from leadership matters.

The survey also highlights areas where our clergy need greater support. Physical well-being scored lowest among all wellness dimensions at 3.45, and the barriers clergy identified tell us why: nearly one-third cited time and schedule constraints as their primary obstacle to wellness, followed by stress and workload pressure (18.8%), health issues (13.9%), and family caregiving responsibilities (12.5%). Financial constraints, church conflict, isolation, and difficulty maintaining boundaries also appeared as significant challenges. Emotional well-being (3.77) and holistic well-being (3.81) round out the lower-scoring dimensions, painting a picture of ministers who pour themselves out in service while struggling to replenish their own reserves.

These findings are an invitation to every congregation and every layperson across the Horizon Texas Conference. Our clergy are showing up faithfully — preaching, teaching, sitting at bedsides, casting vision, and leading through complexity. They need us to show up for them in return. That can look like honoring a pastor's day off, encouraging them to attend a clergy retreat or use their continuing education funds, encouraging renewal leave, asking how they are doing and meaning it, and building church cultures where a pastor's own well-being is treated not as an afterthought but as a shared priority. We recognize that this is a demanding season for ministry, and the Care and Healing team is here to walk alongside both clergy and congregations as needs continue to evolve. We provide resources, guidance, and encouragement for renewal leave, pulpit supply on Sunday mornings, and building support systems for ongoing sustainability and well-being. We encourage clergy to take ownership of their well-being, stay connected, and set healthy boundaries. We also have funding available for mental health support for clergy who serve less than full-time or do not qualify for conference health benefits, and we can offer recommendations for therapists, spiritual directors, and other mental health agencies as needed. As we continue listening and responding to the changing realities of ministry across our conference, we invite congregations to join us in encouraging clergy to model the wellness we hope to see in every community of faith and extension ministries. When we care for the ones who care for us, the whole body of Christ is strengthened.

Cultivating a Culture of Care - Building Systems to be Outward Focused

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In July 2025, the Care and Healing team completed a comprehensive ministry inventory across the Horizon Texas Conference, with 352 churches reporting and a 97% self-reporting rate. This inventory gave us something we have never had before: a clear, conference-wide picture of how our churches are caring for their communities. The data reveals both remarkable strength and important opportunities for growth.

The numbers tell a story of a conference that is actively engaged in the work of care and healing. Across our reporting churches, 24,047 lay volunteer leaders are serving in care-related ministries. Together, these ministries serve 18,722 people every month, a reach that extends well beyond our church membership and into the broader community. Prayer teams are present in 59% of our churches, visitation ministry in 50%, lay care teams in 46%, meal ministries in 43%, and food or clothing pantries in 41%. These five ministries form the backbone of care across the conference and reflect the deep commitment of our clergy and laity to show up for their neighbors.

At the same time, the inventory revealed areas where we have room to evaluate, deepen, and mature. Mental wellness support groups exist in only 10% of our churches. Grief groups are present in 25%, caregiver support in 15%, and recovery ministry in 14%. Ministries addressing domestic violence, divorce and separation, miscarriage and child loss, and foster care and adoption support each appear in fewer than 6% of our churches. These are not rare needs; they are common human experiences that our congregations encounter regularly. The gap between the prevalence of these needs and the availability of ministry to meet them represents one of our most important areas of opportunity.

These data did not sit on a shelf. Every District Superintendent received their district-specific results, and together we identified next steps tailored to each context. Based on the inventory findings, the Care and Healing team partnered with The Caring Congregation (TheCaringCongregation.org) to design training opportunities that directly address the needs revealed in the data. In the fall of 2025, we hosted a two-day basics of care training in Dallas that drew eighty participants, with about forty-two different churches represented. Also, in the fall, we hosted an afternoon kick-off for the online Spanish care training, with forty-seven attendees from six different churches.

In February 2026, trying something new and creative in our training approach, we launched two care training cohorts led by The Caring Congregation, designed to meet churches where they are: one for small and rural congregations and another for medium and large congregations. These spring cohorts, financially offset by a generous Sam Taylor grant, drew ninety-eight registrants from approximately forty-eight churches across ten districts, with seventy-five laity and twenty-three clergy participating side by side. The small and rural cohort drew the larger enrollment with sixty-three registrants, reflecting the deep hunger for support and equipping in communities that often have fewer resources but no less need.

When we asked the spring 2026 cohorts where their church currently stands in developing care and healing ministry, registrants painted a picture that is both honest and hopeful. The largest groups reported that they have informal caring happening but no sustainable, organized system (44 responses) and that they have a team but need help with structure and sustainability (43 responses). Thirty-four indicated they have momentum and want to extend their care ministry beyond the church to impact the community and reach new people, while thirty-two said they have an established team and want to add to it. Sixteen are ready to start but do not know where to begin, eleven are brand new and just exploring the idea, and six have tried before but need a reboot. Most of our churches are not starting from zero. They have caring people doing caring work. What they need, and what these cohorts are designed to provide, is help moving from informal efforts to sustainable, structured systems that can grow, endure, and flourish.

This is the heart of what we are building together. As Rev. Joy Dister-Dominguez has framed it, "A system of care is an interconnected process working together to deepen discipleship and expand your church's

reach. This creates sustainable ways to respond to guests and your community, walk alongside members, and support your volunteers for lasting impact in your unique context." That framework guides our work in helping churches move from informal caring to sustainable, structured systems of care.

It is important to name what "maximizing care and healing" can look like. It does not mean that every church needs to have every ministry, or that we should do more just to do more. Maximizing care and healing is about responding faithfully and prayerfully to the needs in your context. It requires honest evaluation: How can we best respond to our community and their emerging needs? What ministries have served their season and need to come to a healthy conclusion? What needs to be organically birthed? What is already happening that needs to be developed and deepened? And how do we grow as mature Christians with more compassion, empathy, and capacity for advocating for all God's people?

These are the kinds of questions we are helping churches explore and prayerfully consider. We are not asking congregations to adopt a one-size-fits-all system. We are walking alongside each church, when they are ready, to help them build a system of care that fits their size, their context, and their community; one that connects the caring impulses already present in their people into something organized, sustainable, and outward-facing. When care becomes a system rather than a reaction, it does more than meet immediate needs. It deepens discipleship, strengthens the congregation from the inside out, and becomes a bridge to the community, creating natural on-ramps for new people to experience the love of Christ. Worship attendance increases. Generosity increases when people feel cared for and feel connected to a church that is doing good in the world and leading people to Christ.

Looking ahead, we will continue to offer unique training cohorts, develop new resources, and work alongside District Superintendents to ensure that every church in the Horizon Texas Conference has a pathway to build and sustain a care ministry and cultivate a culture of care in the church that reflects the unique calling of their community. The care and healing ministry inventory has given us a baseline, a starting point for measuring maturity, celebrating faithfulness, and continuing to equip our churches to be the caring, healing presence of Christ in every community across the Horizon Texas Conference. In the coming year, we will measure lagging metrics: How many care or prayer teams are formed? What systems of care are developed? How are churches reaching into the community as agents of care and healing? How are teams and church cultures maturing in Christ? What ministries have been celebrated and concluded? We look forward to reporting next year on these metrics and the transformation that has taken place; we ask for your prayers in this work.

Support for Local Churches and Communities

The Care and Healing team is committed to equipping congregations to extend the healing presence of Christ into their communities. In the spring of 2026, we hosted an online grief group that drew eighteen participants from five districts. Led by Pastor Dawn Anderson, who brings a depth of wisdom and experience to this work, the group explored the landscape of normal grief, including its emotions and responses, self-care practices, the reality of secondary losses, a theology of grief, and moving forward with hope. This kind of offering reminds us that healing happens in community and that our churches can be safe places for people to bring their whole selves before God. Our hope is that those who have experienced healing will carry this forward and consider starting a grief group in their church or community. Healed people help other people heal. We use the power of our story to share how Christ has been at work mending our broken hearts, in hopes that others may be open to it as well.

Building on that momentum, later in the spring of 2026, we will offer a two-part webinar on discerning, planning, and launching support groups in your local church or surrounding community. Topics will range from grief support and care for the caregiver to groups focused on Alzheimer's, recovery, and cancer support. Hosting a support group is one of the most tangible ways a congregation can love boldly. It is a bridge into the community, an on-ramp into a faith community where people can connect with Christ on

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a deeper level and be welcomed into a loving communion. We encourage every church to consider how God might be calling them to become a place of care and healing for their neighbors.

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The Table Extended: Holy Communion as Care and Healing

In October 2025, the Care and Healing team released a new resource designed to equip clergy and laity for one of the most meaningful expressions of care ministry: extending Holy Communion beyond the sanctuary to those who are home-centered, incarcerated, or in healthcare facilities. Grounded in guidance from Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. and supported by The Book of Discipline (2020/2024), paragraph 340(b)(e), the resource includes a video teaching (<https://youtu.be/9tQDIgKkIIU>) and an accompanying workbook that walk through the theology, practice, and practical steps for trained lay people to carry consecrated elements to those who cannot be present in worship, under the direction of their clergy person. To further deepen this work, an in-person training event led by Rev. Dr. Mark Stamm brought his expertise in sacramental theology and practical ministry to our conference.

At its heart, this work is built on a conviction central to our care and healing mission: Holy Communion is Christ's invitation to all who love God, and no one should be forgotten or left outside the circle of care simply because they cannot be in the sanctuary on Sunday morning. When lay people extend the table, they carry more than bread and cup. They carry the promise that every person is a valued member of the Body of Christ. The video, workbook, and additional resources are available for use by any church in the conference, and the Care and Healing team is glad to assist with questions or implementation.

Women's Retreat

The Horizon Texas Conference helped to sponsor the fourth annual "Altogether" Women's Retreat at Glen Lake Camp, January 30 through February 1, 2026. Led by volunteer retreat leaders Rev. Faiana Funaki, Rev. Katie Newkirk, Rev. Melissa McDuffee Beal, Rev. Erin Sloan Jackson, and Rev. Joy Dister-Dominguez, the retreat welcomed clergy, laity, and their friends and neighbors for a weekend of worship, rest, and renewal.

We decided on this year's theme, "Altogether Bold," after much prayer and drew inspiration from the Council of Bishops' guiding vision of loving boldly, inviting women to push back against the cultural messages that tell them to calm down, quiet down, and not be "too bold." Through the stories of Rizpah's unwavering protection, Rahab's courageous leap of faith, Mary's brave "yes" in the Magnificat, and the joyful support shared between Mary and Elizabeth, attendees explored how true boldness is not about fearlessness but about faithful obedience even when the path seems uncertain. Rev. Nicole Caldwell-Gross of Noblesville First UMC in Indiana served as the featured preacher and teacher, bringing her gifts as a dynamic storyteller who draws listeners into the biblical narrative and challenges them to be bold in faith.

For two nights and three days, women from across the conference worshiped together, rested in God's presence, and discovered how God plants seeds of bold faith, transformative love, and unshakeable hope within each of us. The gathering continued to strengthen connections across the Horizon Texas Conference and created space for women to embrace the bold woman God has created them to be, returning to their communities with renewed discipleship, courage, and confident expectation.

In the words of those who attended, here is what the gathering meant to them:

The retreat is a renewal and refreshment of my spiritually and walk with Jesus. It's one of the highlights of my year! Like most people, I have been through a lot in the last years, and the retreat gives me strength and hope to carry on. I've also met so many wonderful women from other churches in the conference and look forward to seeing them each year. We know that we are all praying for each other, the conference, the clergy, and the bishop. There are not enough words to express what this means to me, and how much it helps me. I always leave feeling closer to the Lord and the other women in the conference. Rating: 1000000 out of 10. (Christi Summerour, New World UMC)

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For someone who lost their way and has been trying to find connection with God, this retreat brought me comfort and hope. The speakers, the other guests and the overall message gave me encouragement to keep searching, keep learning and see the Bible in a way I've never seen before. Curious and willing to learn for the first time in my life. I am forever grateful for this experience. (Kerri Hwang, First UMC Burleson)

As a working mom of two teenagers, I feel like life pulls me in many different directions. The Altogether Women's Retreat is a place where I can intentionally slow down and ground myself in my faith. It's been a place to connect with women of different generations in different phases of their faith walks who have helped me challenge beliefs, or reaffirm gifts, or simply offer their friendship. The Altogether Women's Retreat is a place to take a deep breath in a world that never stops moving. (Melissa Collett, Grace Avenue UMC)

This was my first Altogether Retreat to attend and it was powerful in so many ways. From worship to small group time, it affirmed my call from God to be exactly where I am. I felt seen and heard by women at all stages who shared how God is working in their lives and the lives of those they serve. It reignited a fire in me to continue working for those who don't always have a voice. (Jessica Wasson, Director of Youth Ministry, First UMC Burleson)

Prayer, Mental Health Care, and Trauma-Informed Care

The foundation of our faith includes prayer. We see it modeled for us and taught by Jesus, who followed up with a caring response. The Care and Healing team maintains a [prayer and care request form](#), where clergy, members, and the community can ask for prayer. Personal and on-going follow-up is provided by Rev. Joy Dister-Dominguez and held in confidence when indicated. For those who ask for their requests to be shared, they are lifted in cabinet and staff meetings for prayer. Since the form's creation in November 2024, we have received 178 prayer requests, some of which are requests for care and are connected to local churches for further resources and support. A goal for the coming year is to develop a conference-wide prayer team made up of clergy and laity who actively pray and follow up with needs across the conference. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please reach out (joy@htcumc.org).

The Blue Christmas initiative that began two years ago continues, along with the conference resource [OfferHopeNow.com](#), which serves to engage communities who are hurting and in need of support and healing resources. Mental health concerns remain significant across our conference, especially in rural communities where access to care is limited. A few partnerships with local therapy offices are in the works, and we are prayerful about how we can expand the reach of support to those who need it most.

In the spring of 2026, we hosted a two-part workshop, "Leading with Connection: Practicing Embodied Faith and Trauma-Informed Leadership in Today's Church," led by Nicole Melrose, which was offered both in person and virtually for clergy and laity. Grounded in polyvagal theory and sacred embodiment, the workshop explored how the nervous system, designed by God, plays a direct role in our capacity for spiritual openness, healing, and connection. Participants gained practical tools for understanding their own nervous system responses, recognizing how burnout and secondary trauma affect ministry, and building trauma-informed spaces within their congregations. The sessions cast a vision for the church as a regulating, healing presence in the world, one that creates safety so that people can more fully connect with God, with one another, and with themselves.

We also had the honor of hosting authors Dr. Hillary McBride and Joshua Harris on the book release tour of McBride's book, *Holy Hurt: Understanding Spiritual Trauma and the Process of Healing*. Hosted at Oak Lawn UMC, over 150 attendees engaged with the premise that all trauma is spiritual trauma because we are spiritual beings. The conversation explored the lasting impact of harm done in the name of God and the intentionality required to create safe spaces where healing can begin and future harm can be

prevented. Joshua Harris also recorded a podcast on our conference show, Pod Strangely Warmed, with Rev. Kristin Warthen and Rev. Joy Dister-Dominguez about the church hurt he caused and the journey of repentance and repair he has been on.

This work matters deeply for who we are trying to become as a conference. If we are genuinely trying to reach new people, we must assume they have experienced trauma in some way, shape, or form, and that framing matters for us as a church. If we are trying to encourage and equip others to multiply Jesus followers, our leaders need to be trauma-informed and trauma-sensitive. Something that does not get named enough: each of us is likely experiencing at least secondary trauma on a daily basis. Turning on the news, absorbing the pain of the people we serve and work with, navigating conflict with angry or hurting people, and carrying our own personal weight all accumulate. We cannot lead others through what we have not begun to acknowledge in ourselves. It is important to continue leaning into this understanding and this work while keeping our eyes open to who we are trying to reach. More resources and opportunities are being planned in the future, and we encourage anyone to reach out with questions or for support.

Care and Healing - Justice and Advocacy

Care and Healing are also reflected in the work of faithful Christians' advocacy for human dignity, embodying mercy, and in bearing witness to the reign of God's righteousness. Our Horizon Texas Annual Conference vision statement supports this dimension of our care and healing work: "We are followers of Jesus seeking the loving, just and free world God imagines for all people." Below are some of the ways The Horizon Texas Conference is living this vision in concrete ways, led by Associate Director, Rev. Andrew Fiser.

Care and Healing Grants

In late 2025, applications for Care and Healing Grants were solicited from churches and ministries across the Conference for up-to \$1000 start-up or \$5,000 expansion grants. The grant process was designed to *maximize care and healing by emboldening local churches to love their neighbors through practices and relationships that embody a holistic vision of care and healing with compassionate care, community organizing, courageous witness, and anti-racism.*

We are proud to share these seven grant-funded efforts in which \$23,000 has been invested into ministry through Horizon Texas leaders and churches:

- **The Julian Way's Spiritual Care and LIFT Fund (\$5000)** The expansion of access for those with disabilities to find community and get through asset gaps that are increasingly prevalent in population.
- **Loving the Whole Person: Therapy and Spiritual Direction Support through Denton Wesley Foundation (\$5000)** The expansion of access to counseling or spiritual direction that are inaccessible otherwise.
- **Community Kitchen at Oak Lawn UMC (\$5000)** The expansion of capacity for community meals kitchen that serves diverse friends in Oak Lawn.
- **Hearts United/Corazones Unidos a FirstChurch Dallas & La Fundicion De Christo UMM Partnership (\$1000)** A luncheon event to celebrate and solidify a one-on-one prayer partnership between FirstChurch Dallas and Christ's Foundry UMM congregants.
- **Prayer Ministry of First UMC Fort Worth (\$1000)** An outdoor prayer and outreach ministry to build connections with and among diverse downtown neighbors.
- **Decatur Cares Food Pantry with Decatur First UMC (\$5000)** An expansion of food security partnership for increasingly underserved population going hungry in Decatur community.
- **Mission Mobility at First UMC Coppell (\$1000)** Start-up of mobility items collection and distribution ministry in Northern Tarrant and Dallas Counties.

Information about forthcoming Care & Healing Grant availability is expected by September 2026.

Community Care Partners

The Care and Healing Team provided budgeted grant funds to four legacy partners who help our churches extend their work into the public sphere through compassion, justice, and relationships:

- **Justice for our Neighbors** – North Central Texas (\$20,000) offers free and affordable, high-quality immigration legal services, provides education to the public, and engages in advocacy with and for our immigrant neighbors.
- **Cultiv8 Community** (\$15,000) connects neighbors to neighbors, engage people with nature, and restore life-giving habitats. Cultiv8 focuses on nature camps for rural children, respite experiences for clergy and rural leaders, creating affordable rural housing, and helping landowners reclaim their space for native habitat restoration.
- **Good Neighbor Experiment from The Neighboring Movement** (\$7,000) A coaching and cohort experience offering practical resources to connect churches with their communities using Asset Based Community Development.
- **Texas Impact** (\$2,000) A collaboration to engage United Methodist Texans and other Texans of faith in advocacy for public policies that advance the social principles of the United Methodist Church, particularly related to immigration and public education.

Immigration Advocacy

Horizon Texas churches and their people have continued to show solidarity and care for immigrant constituents and neighbors who are increasingly subject to unfair and cruel treatment by the government. A working group planned the Immigration Advocacy Symposium on September 21st, 2025, with approximately three-hundred participants live or via watch parties across the Conference. The event featured updates on the realities facing immigrants, a Know Your Rights training from a respected Immigration Lawyer, and assistance planning how individuals and groups can connect to work already going on in their area. Since that time, participants have been encouraged to take their next steps in offering care to immigrants through planning guides and highlighting how some United Methodists are leading in their contexts. Fifteen Horizon Texas lay people and clergy attended the “Faithful Resistance: A Public Witness for Immigrant Justice” held in Washington, DC by The General Board of Church and Society at partners in February 2026. Participants were energized by worship, and a prayerful procession to Capitol Hill, and made visits to Congressional representatives.

LGBTQ+ Care

An important component of our care is for LGBTQ+ persons post-disaffiliation and in an era in which they are targets for politically-motivated repression or even violence. A working group was convened in Spring 2025 and continued to meet into late that year to resource leaders around supporting transgender persons being targeted in Texas and the United States by laws, policies, and violence. The conversations fostered in this space prompted dialogue and policy analysis among Cabinet members and with the Board of Ordained Ministry. In Fall 2025, Care and Healing plus Diversity and Cultural Engagement staff met with Queer UMC clergy to create space for listening to the stories of queer persons in the Horizon Texas Conference, and to begin a conversation about trust-building and equity. This initial conversation has prompted deeper conversations about appointment equity and LGBTQ+ identity, future programming possibilities around religious trauma, and equipping local churches to better understand and know how to better welcome LGBTQ+ persons newcomers and appointed clergy.

SNAP Disruption Response

The pause of SNAP benefits in Fall 2026 prompted an outpouring of support from local United Methodists in their communities to care for the vulnerable persons put at risk of hunger. A Hunger Roundtable was convened to help church leaders understand the issues facing neighbors and constituents, plus share ways to respond collectively. While the SNAP funding was restored, participants expressed appreciation for the ability to gather and discern ways to respond together. We were also able to support clergy who needed financial support in this season.

Clergy Justice Network

In the wake of the shifting immigration policies in the United States, leaders have expressed a desire for tools for helping congregations grow in their ability to respond faithfully to social issues and their neighbors. Churches in which there are a variety of political viewpoints or theological frameworks can find it difficult to even discuss difficult topics. A small group of clergy came together in Lent at the urging of Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr., led by Rev. Jaime McGlothlin of First UMC Mexia, to prayerfully explore the work of Rev. Dr. Leah Schade in her book *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide*. Schade offers a sermon-dialogue-sermon methodology for preachers that partners them with their congregants to discern God's Word together on any number of issues. Instead of pitting preachers against a congregation or group within a congregation, this model equips the whole church to go deeper into discipleship to discern values and responses in faith. This initial small group will be offering feedback on ways they discern this and other models being of help in a variety of HTC ministry contexts as we navigate polarization and reactivity.

Disaster Response

Under the leadership of Rev. Jeremy Basset, the Horizon Texas Conference continues to strengthen and expand its disaster response ministry. We are in an extended season of extreme weather events in Texas, several of which have required long-term response efforts to be mobilized. With our recently united and geographically enlarged annual conference, we are reshaping, re-energizing, and broadening this work. We are working towards the goal of making disaster response an ongoing ministry of the local church, one that does not simply wait for a disaster to happen. Rather, we will build skills and opportunities to serve as wide a spectrum of people who wish to participate.

In the meantime, there is a need to stay the course for the recovery efforts currently being worked on: in Valley View, Gordon, and the many areas affected by the flooding in July of last year (San Angelo, Menard, San Saba, and Burnet among them).

Our work in the Valley View recovery from their May 2024 tornado has been to support the unmet needs committee of their long-term recovery committee (LTRC). Through the generous giving of our conference churches, we can provide funds for clients' recovery that would not be possible from their own resources. Mike Hupp, the chair of the LTRC, calls the Horizon Texas Conference the "tag-team partner" in the work! A typical comment from a client: "We are so happy and extremely thankful to know we can move on with our lives" in a home that is now safe, sanitary, and secure.

However, our biggest contribution in Valley View has been the UMCOR-sponsored storm shelter program. Many of the homes in Valley View are mobile homes and, thus, vulnerable to future storms. Through UMCOR's grant and a strong partnership with The Salvation Army and the Valley View Long-Term Recovery Committee, we have been able to allocate over \$400,000 to provide some one hundred storm shelters for residents in the affected area. This provides both reassurance and resiliency to the community. Several residents spoke of the "peace of mind" the storm shelters offer, with one client expressing that "this storm shelter program is the only reason we feel safe enough to stay in this community for the long-term."

Our work in Gordon focuses on recovery from a tornado in May 2025. While limited in area and size, the tornado still affected over one hundred homes, with precious few resources available for their recovery. UMCOR came to our assistance once again. A grant has enabled us to employ a disaster case manager, Heather Dawes, and support the unmet needs of those whose resources will not enable them to reach full recovery. Several of our conference churches have already sent volunteer teams, doing outstanding work repairing affected homes. Outside of a small initial fund from within the community, the recovery here is driven by the UMCOR grant and UMC churches. Heather notes, "The deep commitment and vast experience of the various UMC teams that have come our way have made such a difference."

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The recovery effort that will be in front of us for the foreseeable future is the flood recovery in a widespread area of western Texas. Most of the affected areas are within the Rio Texas Conference – and we are working closely with their recently-appointed Recovery Director, Lamar Davis. Lamar and Rev. Jeremy Basset connect weekly to share updates and information, and to coordinate our activities in the best way possible. HTC raised over \$400,000 from the bishop's appeal following the floods. This is being used to support the unmet needs in all the above-mentioned communities.

Volunteer teams are needed in Gordon and in all flood-affected areas. Please go to our conference webpage for the latest information of how to register and volunteer. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these recovery efforts; we are being the hands and feet of Christ as we care for our neighbors and provide healing after difficult disasters.

Crisis Response and Care Ministry Team for Congregational Crisis

The Crisis Response and Care Ministry Team (CRCM), led and coordinated by Rev. Liz Greenwell, is comprised of a specially trained, trauma-ready team of clergy and laity prepared to engage in the work of assessment, intervention, and healing care for congregations and individuals during a misconduct allegation or crisis.

Clergy and laity of the Horizon Texas Conference (HTC) may call upon the Response Team for:

- consultation regarding problematic issues
- one-to-one advocacy and care for aggrieved and accused persons in complaint processes
- SPRC/Leadership training and support, including assistance with policies and procedures
- work with interim ministers and after-pastors following a crisis
- resources in crisis prevention and preparedness
- services for congregational crisis response

Work of the Team:

In 2025, 15 congregations were served and 6 Resource Persons were deployed for one-to-one advocacy and support. Five congregations required full congregational crisis intervention services. Of the fifteen cases, eleven were related to sexual misconduct.

For confidentiality reasons, most names and locations have been removed to share the feedback we received this year:

The staff wishes to make it clear that we are deeply thankful and appreciative of all the support provided by the Crisis and Care Ministry team. The fact that we've been able to put this in the rear-view mirror is due in so small measure to the assistance and loving care provided by you and your team, and we are forever grateful. You have been and continue to be a blessing to the congregation of our church. (staff at an HTC church)

Thank you for... the care and attention everyone continues to give to this process... I am grateful for the clarity provided and reassured... I am especially thankful for you (the Resource Person) and all of your help and support throughout this process... (care recipient of Resource Person)

I cannot express how valuable, caring, and knowledgeable the Crisis Response Ministry Team is. As a District Superintendent, this team and the work it provides is invaluable. This ministry team helps the wounded, not only find a just resolution, but helps them to know they have been heard, have a voice, and find healing. (Rev. Tom Long, North/West District Superintendent)

Resources have been updated for the new HTC website (htcumc.org) and will serve as valuable resources for the laity, clergy, local churches, and district superintendents.

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Expansion of the Team:

In 2025, three Team Leaders were trained for the Horizon Texas Conference (HTC) to lead teams in the Northwest Texas Region (Rev. Dr. Shera Atkinson), Central Texas Region (Rev. Barbara Dunlap), and North Texas Region (Doris Smith). Fourteen new team members covering each region have been recruited and vetted. One new Resource Person was recruited and trained. Training for new team members began in February 2026.

CRCM Goals for 2026:

Complete training of new members, continue recruitment and development of regional teams and new Resource Persons, and continued identification and development of prevention and training resources for the Horizon Texas Conference.

Conflict Transformation “Transform” Team

The Horizon Texas Conference’s conflict transformation team, called “Transform,” is a network of conflict transformation district point persons—gifted laity selected from each district who have received training to support churches during times of tension. Led by volunteer Kim Brannon, these individuals serve as a non-anxious presence in potentially volatile situations, ready to facilitate challenging conversations or provide third-party participation when needed. Through education, accessible resources, and trained local support, the Transform team has created an infrastructure that acknowledges conflict as a natural part of community life while providing tools for transformation. Congregations are discovering that conflict, when approached with proper support, can become an opportunity for growth, creativity, and deeper community.

The easiest thing to do in times of conflict is to ignore it or wish it will go away. To “Love Boldly” requires acting courageously and engaging in the hard conversations necessary to resolve and transform conflict. Thirteen churches or conference work areas have chosen to Love Boldly this year and engage the Transform team in addressing difficult situations. The Transform team has provided mediation, conversation facilitation, skills sharing, teaching, and listening during times of anxiety.

After a recent Transform team facilitated conversation between laity and clergy, the pastor acknowledged: “The work of ministry creation involves messiness and do-overs, but we must keep talking.” The Transform team celebrates the courage and love it takes to engage in difficult conversations.

In addition to walking alongside churches in conflict, the Transform team leads workshops and classes to teach skills to others. When the Transform team led a workshop for the UMC’s Transitional Intentional Interim Ministry Specialists Association in 2025, one experienced interim pastor reminded the group that, during times of hurt in a church, she responds by simply “loving on the people” – loving boldly to address hurt and grief.

The fourteen members of the Transform Team meet quarterly for training and team updates. Team members represent all three legacy conferences and reside in eight out of the ten Horizon Texas Conference districts.

A resource list of conflict transformation tools is continuously updated and will be available on the Horizon Texas Conference website. This curated collection provides clergy and congregations with access to best practices and intervention strategies.

The 2026 goals for the Transform team include increasing diversity to better address cultural and language differences across the Conference, continuing team training, and increasing speaking/teaching opportunities to raise visibility and share learning.

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CARE AND HEALING COMMITTEE REPORT

REV. DR. SHERA ATKINSON, CHAIR

The Care and Healing Team is committed to equipping and supporting congregations and leaders across the Horizon Texas Conference to cultivate holistic care and healing. This work encompasses mental, physical, spiritual, relational, and social well-being, expressed through ministries such as grief care, caregiver support, mental health initiatives, addressing food insecurity, and responding to a wide range of community needs. At its core, this priority seeks to help every church become a place where people experience the healing presence of Christ in tangible and transformative ways.

This commitment reflects the very heart of the gospel. The ministry of Jesus consistently demonstrated that proclaiming good news and offering care are inseparable. As a conference, we are leaning into that same calling by strengthening our capacity to respond to the real needs of people in our churches and communities. Care and healing are not treated as isolated ministries but as a unifying thread that shapes how we engage in discipleship, leadership, and mission.

Over the past year, the Care and Healing Staff led by Rev. Joy Dister -Dominguez have made meaningful strides in clarifying both our strengths and our opportunities. A conference-wide assessment of local church ministries has provided an unprecedented level of insight into how care is currently being expressed. This process not only highlighted the remarkable number of individuals being served and the extensive involvement of lay leadership, but it also revealed important areas where additional focus is needed—particularly in mental health support, grief care, and ministries for caregivers. This clearer understanding has allowed us to move forward with greater intentionality and alignment.

In response, efforts have been directed toward equipping congregations with practical tools and sustainable models for care. Training opportunities have been expanded and tailored to fit a variety of church contexts, helping leaders move from informal, reactive care toward more intentional and organized systems. These systems are designed not only to meet immediate needs but also to foster deeper relationships, strengthen congregational life, and extend the church's presence into the wider community.

A significant area of focus has been the well-being of clergy. Recent engagement with clergy across the conference has provided valuable insight into both their strengths and the pressures they face. In response, the conference continues to strengthen resources, partnerships, and systems that encourage sustainability and renewal among those who serve.

Beyond congregational life, this priority is being lived out through broader efforts that embody care in action. This includes responding to crises within churches, participating in long-term recovery efforts following disasters, supporting community-based initiatives, and engaging in advocacy that reflects a commitment to human dignity and justice. These expressions of care extend the reach of the church and demonstrate the tangible love of Christ in diverse and meaningful ways.

As we continue forward, the work already underway provides a strong foundation for future growth. With clearer insight, expanded training, and a shared commitment among clergy and laity, the Horizon Texas Conference is increasingly positioned to embody a culture of care that is both faithful and transformative. Trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we remain committed to this vital work—believing that as we care for others, we more fully reflect the heart of Christ and participate in God's ongoing work of renewal in the world.

CONFERENCE SECRETARY OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES REPORT REV. MOLLY HAYES

The United Methodist Church, through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Global Ministries, continues to support holistic mission initiatives around the world. These efforts span disaster response, health and sanitation, agriculture, education, leadership development, and international partnerships. Together, these projects reflect a deep commitment to love, justice, and service in the name of Christ.

It is inspiring to witness the growing impact of the Horizon Texas Conference within our wider United Methodist connection. In 2025, 41 churches and 290 individuals representing 105 different churches generously gave a total of \$168,293.83 through Global Ministries and Advance projects to support mission and ministry around the world. Additionally, we gave \$140,006.65 to UMCOR.

What follows is a sampling of the global ministries impacted by your generosity, organized according to our conference's missional focus and strategic initiatives:

Global Migration

These ministries respond to the growing challenges of displacement, refugee support, and rebuilding lives with dignity.

- UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery (IDR): Provides emergency assistance, long-term recovery, and support for displaced populations in crisis zones worldwide.
- Latvia In Mission Together / Hope Center of Latvia: Supports vulnerable communities, including those navigating economic hardship and displacement, through outreach, faith formation, and community development.
- English-Speaking United Methodist Church of Prague (ESUMC Prague): Serves as a spiritual home for an international and transient population, including migrants, expatriates, and refugees.
- Congo Restoration (DRC – North Katanga Undesignated): Enables flexible response to instability and displacement in a region facing ongoing conflict.

Maximizing Care and Healing

These programs address physical, emotional, and spiritual health through sustainable, community-based initiatives.

- Lowell and Ruth Gess UMC Eye Hospital: Restores sight and provides critical eye care services in underserved communities.
- John Wesley Medical Boat: Delivers medical care to remote and river-based communities with limited healthcare access.
- Andean Rural Healthcare Program: Expands access to healthcare services in rural South America.
- AIDS Orphans and Community Health – Maua Hospital: Provides comprehensive care, especially for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Abundant Health & WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Program): Improves overall health outcomes through clean water access, sanitation, and disease prevention.
- Water for Life / Fresh Water for Central Congo: Expands access to safe drinking water in vulnerable communities.

Championing Children and Youth

Focused on education, safety, and holistic development, these programs invest in the next generation.

- Next Generation Ministries (formerly Haiti Children Project): Provides housing, education, and spiritual formation for vulnerable children.
- Carolyn Belshe Orphanage Center (CBO): Offers care and stability for children in need.
- Southern Philippines Methodist Colleges (Scholarships and Meals): Supports students through education and daily nutrition.

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- Bethlehem Bible College: Forms young Christian leaders in a complex and challenging context.
- Camp Wesley: Cultivates faith formation and leadership development among children and youth.

Pursuing and Embracing Diversity

These initiatives lift up the beauty and strength of God's people across cultures, contexts, and lived experiences.

- Susannah Wesley Education and Healthcare Center (Morogoro): Serves diverse community needs through education and healthcare.
- Katanga Methodist University (Professors' Salaries): Strengthens theological and professional education in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Yambasu Agriculture Initiative (YAI): Empowers local communities through sustainable agriculture and economic development.
- Advancing Food Security through Organic Agriculture (Brazil): Supports environmentally sustainable and culturally appropriate farming practices.
- Women's Gardens – DRC: Empowers women to sustain their families and communities during times of instability.

Multiplying Jesus Followers

These efforts support evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, and church growth around the world.

- Give Ye Them to Eat: A holistic ministry that feeds communities while developing leaders and new faith communities.
- Salary Support for Pastors: Sustains clergy leadership in regions where local resources are limited.
- United Methodist Mission in Honduras: Our growing partnership has deepened significantly this year, culminating in their first ordination class in February 2026, a powerful sign of a maturing and multiplying church.
- Global Ministries – Where Most Needed: Enables responsive, Spirit-led mission support wherever needs arise.

Invitations to Serve

As we celebrate the impact of our shared ministry, we are also mindful that this work is sustained not only by generosity—but by leadership.

The Horizon Texas Conference Board of Global Ministries is seeking volunteers to serve as district representatives. These leaders help connect local churches to the broader work of mission by sharing opportunities, encouraging engagement, and serving as a bridge between the conference and congregations.

This role is an opportunity to:

- Deepen your connection to global mission
- Encourage and equip churches in your district
- Help shape the future of our conference's missional impact

If you have a heart for mission and a desire to help others engage in meaningful, connectional ministry, we invite you to prayerfully consider serving.

Invitation to Engage

As we continue to grow in our connection to global mission, there are meaningful ways for every church to participate more deeply.

One such opportunity is to host a missionary when they are traveling through our conference. These visits offer a powerful chance to:

- Hear firsthand stories of transformation and hope
- Build personal connections with those serving around the world

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- Inspire your congregation's engagement in mission

Whether through a Sunday morning presentation, small group gathering, or informal meal, hosting a missionary brings the global church into your local context in a tangible and life-giving way.

If your church would be interested in hosting a missionary, we would love to help make that connection. Please contact Rev. Molly Hayes at mhayes@firstumcarlington.org

Each gift from the Horizon Texas Conference extends the hands and feet of Christ to communities around the world. From clean water initiatives in Central Congo to leadership development in Honduras, from healthcare access in remote regions to education for children and young adults—these ministries are tangible expressions of God's love in action.

This is more than charity. It is connectional ministry at its best—an embodiment of our shared calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and your continued commitment to mission. As we look ahead, may we remain faithful to Christ's call—serving boldly, loving deeply, and trusting the Spirit to bring transformation in every place we are sent.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY AND PEACE WITH JUSTICE REPORT

REV. PHIL DIEKE

This year, the HTC Church and Society Board was intentionally recruited with a focus on broad representation and engagement across the Horizon Texas Annual Conference. As a result, the board includes active participation from six of the ten districts, strengthening our connection to local congregations and fostering collaboration across diverse contexts and communities.

Through the Peace with Justice ministry, the board issued grants to three ministries actively engaged in justice work: Sachse Interfaith Group (submitted by Rev. Holly Bandel), The Julian Way (submitted by Rev. Justin Hancock), and Cloud Covered Streets Ministry (submitted by Rev. Molly Hayes). These grants support ministries that embody the Church's commitment to peace, equity, and advocacy alongside vulnerable neighbors. We are currently accepting additional applications from local churches and partner agencies for remaining Peace with Justice grant funds. Looking ahead, one of our primary goals is to encourage increased participation from Horizon Texas congregations in Peace with Justice Sunday. Funds collected through congregational participation directly support these grants and expand the capacity of local, grassroots justice ministries across our Conference.

In addition to Conference-level work, Rev. Phil Dieke, Chair of Church and Society and Peace with Justice Coordinator, serves as one of two General Board of Church and Society jurisdictional advisors for the South Central Jurisdiction. In partnership with Andrea Paret of the Great Plains Annual Conference, members of the HTC Church and Society Board, and the South Central Jurisdiction Mission Council, a jurisdictional Justice and Peace Gathering was hosted at SMU in May. This gathering brought together clergy and lay leaders from across the jurisdiction for learning, networking, and collaboration. The event featured keynote speaker Rev. William H. Lamar IV, Senior Pastor of Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, D.C., along with presenters addressing environmental justice, immigration justice, and the challenges of Christian Nationalism.

The Church and Society Board continues to work closely with partner organizations, including Texas Impact and Church and Society boards from the Texas and Rio Texas Annual Conferences, to build broader coalitions and amplify faithful advocacy across Texas and the region. We are especially committed to coming alongside local churches and community leaders already engaged in justice work, offering connection, resources, and support rather than duplication. If your congregation is seeking to engage, or to deepen its engagement, in justice ministries within your church or community, we invite

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you to reach out. Rev. Phil Dieke (phildieke@gmail.com) is available to discuss how the Church and Society Board can collaborate with and support the faithful work already taking place in your context.

CARETAKER OF GOD'S CREATION COORDINATOR REV. MEL CARAWAY

This has been a busy first year of activity in my role as Caretaker of God's Creation Coordinator for the Horizon Texas Annual Conference. It began at the 2025 AC with the introduction and passage of five pieces of legislation on the topics of church land use, clean energy, green teams, net zero, and solar. All five were approved without debate.

On July 27 I made a presentation to the combined Sunday School at Holy Covenant UMC on eco-theology. Attendance was seventy-five people. During the month of August, I met with Prosper UMC to see their solar installation and with Stonebridge UMC to consult with them on establishing a green team. In September I represented the conference and the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement on the seventh at First UMC Richardson's Creation Care Fair. On the 24th I met with a group from First UMC Keller to help them resource a Green Team. And, on the 27th I trained with ecoAmerica to become a climate ambassador for the United Methodist Church. On October I met with Bishop Saenz and the extended cabinet to help them understand my role in the conference and solicit the cooperation of the district superintendents, the communications office, and the operations team in helping me connect with people throughout the conference as well as fulfilling my role as outlined in the *Book of Discipline*.

In November I met with Dean Bryan Stone of Perkins School of Theology on the fifth to bring him up to date on what we are doing in the arena of creation care in the conference and to ask him to consider creating a concentration in Creation theology at the seminary. On the 9th I presented my program on Eco-Theology to a combined Sunday School class at First UMC Richardson with over sixty persons attending. From the 10th-21st I was part of a delegation of six caretakers from throughout the church who represented the UMC as virtual observers to COP30, the UN climate talks. This was facilitated by the General Board of Church and Society and Texas Impact. In December I met with First UMC Waxahachie to discuss with them their expansion plans and how they might include solar in their planning. In January I visited Cultivat8 in Paris on the 14th to gain an understanding of their work and how they intend to utilize their EarthKeeper training in their ministry. On the 15th I met with Stonebridge UMC to help them in the planning for their green team. And, on the 25th-27th I participated in the United Women in Faith/Texas Impact Legislative Event.

On March 3 I had a Zoom consultation with First UMC Georgetown on establishing and expanding their Green Team. And on the 11th, I participated in a training climate ambassadors on plug-in solar. We are currently working on a grant proposal to enable us to bring this technology to small membership rural churches and small ethnic churches to help them reduce their electricity costs. This will be dependent on the Texas Legislature passing enabling legislation in 2027. On the 29th I presented a webinar for the Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston on "A Faithful and Hopeful Response to Willful Climate Denial Policies." Attendance was from across the nation.

Beginning on Wednesday April 29 and continuing weekly throughout May, I will be leading a Zoom study of "Changing by Choice," a study from Texas Impact of the intersection of faith and the climate crisis based on video and interviews from COP30 in November 2025. Additionally, I have been very active with the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement as a member of their steering committee, advocacy team, solar team, and as co-facilitator of the South Central Jurisdiction cohort. I also participate in a cohort with other annual conference Caretakers of God's Creation Coordinators.

PURSUE AND EMBRACE DIVERSITY TEAM

REV. ANDREW FISER, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

The work of pursuing and embracing diversity, like that of all the HTC priorities, is shared by all teams and energized and resourced by efforts of the staff and team members. Over the last year the Diversity and Cultural Engagement department has engaged with HTC staff and historically under-represented constituent groups, providing guidance and resources for inclusionary practices and policies. We deeply appreciate the wisdom and experience of Dr. Major Boglin, who served as our initial director. And at the time of this writing, we are anticipating the hiring of a new director soon. A major training event called E.N.O.U.G.H. with diversity expert Amervis Lopez Cobb was planned for February 7th. The diversity council and speaker discerned we should postpone the event until after the new director is on the ground. The postponed event is envisioned as a venue for these underrepresented groups to gather in solidarity and begin producing a collective voice of resilience and resistance. A second goal is to allow our guest speaker, Amervis Lopez-Cobb, to inspire and equip all to increase confidence, resiliency, and self-expression for better outcomes.

Diversity Council Development

In 2025 a diversity council was convened consisting of stakeholders representing groups that have been historically underrepresented and allies with experience in leading the church into diversity and inclusion. Though it was early in its development, the council provided essential feedback and guidance about navigating the leadership transition. The council is also providing participants in the interview team for the hiring process for the new director. And the council will assist with the transition and welcome of the new director.

Intercultural Development Inventory

In 2025, the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) was introduced across conference districts, staff, and teams as a tool for increasing intercultural competency. The IDI is a proven tool for assessing how individuals and groups approach differences that make a difference. We committed to rolling out the assessment and debriefing with a qualified assessor in several districts and, with the help of several assessors, we are honoring that commitment. In addition, the new director will have their own wisdom to share about the usefulness of the IDI assessment tool for our future work, including how best to help individuals use their very useful report to maximize their learning and development.

TELL OUR STORY TEAM

REV. BETH STUYCK, CHAIR, TELL OUR STORY TEAM

PAMELA HUGHES, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Over the past year, the Tell Our Story department has grown from building a foundation to putting it to work. This has been a year of connecting and equipping — amplifying the remarkable stories emerging from our local churches and investing in the capacity of pastors and church communicators to tell their own. From a child's compassion sparking a new ministry in Amarillo to college students gathering for fellowship in Georgetown, the stories across our connection reflect a conference alive with mission. Our work has been to find those stories, share them widely and give our churches the tools to do the same.

Newsletters and Email Communications

Our email communications continue to be one of the most effective ways we reach the HTC connection. We now engage 3,821 subscribers across four newsletters, and our open rate of 42.6% for the period of July 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, continues to exceed industry averages for religious and nonprofit organizations.

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New this year, we launched Children & Youth News, a monthly newsletter for church staff and volunteers leading children and youth programming. This addition reflects our commitment to championing children and youth, as well as serving the audiences that matter most to the future of our church.

Our four newsletters now include:

- **Notes for a New Day** — a daily devotional series nurturing spiritual life across the connection
- **On the Horizon** — a weekly snapshot of news, events, and opportunities from across the HTC
- **District Digest** — a monthly collection of stories, updates, and upcoming events from each district, consistently earning open rates above 50% and serving as a vital point of connection
- **Children & Youth News** — a monthly newsletter serving those who lead children and youth ministries in our local churches (new in 2025–2026)

Lunch & Learns: Equipping Church Communicators

This year, the Tell Our Story department launched a monthly virtual Lunch & Learn seminar series for pastors and church communicators. Designed to deliver practical, actionable training in an accessible format, the series equips those on the front lines of local church communication, including the many pastors wearing that hat alongside all their other responsibilities.

Four sessions have been held to date, covering:

- Canva for Churches
- Digital Media Presence
- Social Media Strategy
- Accessible Translation

The series' fifth session is scheduled for April 16, featuring the team from Shift Worship in a conversation about powerful visuals that add to worship. We look forward to continuing this series as a consistent resource for the connection.

Storytelling Across the Connection

Our hybrid approach to storytelling — combining travel across our geography with a growing network of "local reporters" in local churches — continues to surface stories that reflect the depth and diversity of ministry in the Horizon Texas Conference. This year, stories have reached us through district superintendents, pastor submissions, and our own field visits.

A sampling of stories we are proud to have told this year include:

- "Open Table" Brings College Students Together in Georgetown — a story that began with an offhand comment to a district superintendent and became a window into meaningful intergenerational and campus community
- Child's Heart for the Unhoused Sparks New Ministry at Amarillo UMC — submitted directly by a pastor, this story serves as a testament to the Spirit at work in our youngest members
- Wiggle Church: Worship Designed for Families — featuring two HTC churches and their creative approach to intentionally including the youngest congregants in worship
- Belonging Begins at LPI, Grows at McMurry — a video story produced on location at McMurry University in Abilene, highlighting Lydia Patterson Institute graduates and the bridge between these two vital United Methodist institutions

POD Strangely Warmed Podcast

The POD Strangely Warmed podcast continues to grow as a distinct voice for the Horizon Texas Conference. The podcast garnered 8,652 views and downloads this year, a more than 40% increase over 2024-25. This year, the show also welcomed Rev. Kristin Warthen of St. Andrew's UMC in Arlington as a new co-host, expanding the diversity and energy of the hosting team with additional room to grow.

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Standout episodes from this year include:

- An interview with author Josh Harris, conducted in connection with the Holy Hurt event hosted at Oak Lawn UMC
- In-depth conversations with pastors from CLEAR DFW and Grace Avenue UMC around immigration and how United Methodists can love their increasingly diverse neighbors
- A series of Multiplication conversations focused on hospitality practices in our local churches

Social Media and Digital Channels

Our social media channels continue to grow across all platforms. The HTC Facebook page remains our largest channel with more than 2,100 followers. A heightened focus on Instagram and Facebook Reels, as well as YouTube Shorts, has significantly expanded the conference's reach beyond our existing subscriber base, connecting HTC content with new audiences across the conference and beyond.

Looking ahead to 2026-27, the Communications department is partnering with a handful of HTC personalities to bring a fresh, strategic approach to our TikTok channel — an effort designed to reach younger audiences, reflect the full vitality of our connection and speak into the questions that TikTok users are bringing to the platform.

Equipped to Reach: Partnership with the Center for Multiplication

In partnership with the HTC Center for Multiplication, the Communications department contributed to the development of Equipped to Reach — an education initiative designed to equip laity with the tools and confidence to launch something new, whether in their local church or in the broader community.

Our team produced video content for the initiative and helped populate the new Portico e-learning platform, which hosts the curriculum. This work reflects our department's commitment to equipping not only communicators, but the full body of the connection for ministry.

As we look ahead, we are grateful for the trust of our bishop, district superintendents, clergy, and all the laity who continue to share their stories with us. It is truly our privilege to tell them.

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

CALVIN SCOTT, ARCHIVIST

This year marks my first time managing three separate conference archives: Horizon Texas Conference, Central Texas Conference, and North Texas Conference. The experience has been both challenging and rewarding as I adapt to the increased workload and the unique needs of each archive.

One of the most significant changes I have observed is the substantial rise in processing research requests. The number of requests has more than doubled compared to previous years. Despite this increase, the nature of most requests remains consistent, with most inquiries focused on locating baptism records.

I am actively working toward establishing a shared database to streamline access and management across all three archives. The plan involves utilizing ArchivesSpace as the central platform. This includes migrating the Central Texas Conference (CTC) database to ArchivesSpace and creating new databases for both Horizon Texas Conference (HTC) and North Texas Conference (NTC).

On the North Texas Conference front, we are in the process of transferring records from the conference office to the conference archives located at Southern Methodist University (SMU). Additionally, we are redacting select North Texas journals so they can be made available online, increasing accessibility for researchers and the public.

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For the Central Texas Conference, I am continuing to work through records from churches that have disaffiliated. This ongoing project requires careful attention to detail and organization to ensure that all records are properly processed and preserved.

The Horizon Texas Conference has recently received its first records resulting from church closures. These materials are being cataloged and integrated into the archive, marking an important step in the conference's archival history.

Although we are still in a phase of reorganizing the archives, progress is being made on multiple fronts. These initiatives are part of our broader goals to maintain and enhance the archives, ensuring their continued functionality and accessibility for research and historical preservation.

CONNECTIONAL RESOURCES TEAMS (STEWARDSHIP AND OPERATIONS)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

REV. ANDY LEWIS, CHAIR

The Unification Plan for the structure of the Horizon Texas Conference included a personnel committee. The purpose of the personnel committee is as follows:

In partnership with the bishop and chief of staff and with resourcing from GCFA human resources, provide policies, guidance, support, and accountability that creates an environment where conference staff (lay and appointed clergy) can thrive.

Following annual conference in June 2025, the personnel committee gathered on July 9th to share staff changes effective July 1st. The committee also reviewed and considered revisions to the remote work and telecommuting policy in the HTC Employee Policy Manual considering the annual conference's decision to sell the Plano office and ultimately settle in a new yet-to-be-determined location in 2027. The goal was to adopt a policy that allows staff to be effective, supports continuity of staff, and provides flexibility for staff. Then, the committee reviewed a draft end-of-year performance review process and form to be used in December 2025 that aligns with conference staff culture and key objectives. Finally, the committee initiated a project to develop a job satisfaction survey to establish a baseline for the experience of conference staff.

On September 24, 2025, the committee met to review a draft job satisfaction survey with the goal of administering the survey in Q1 2026. The committee affirmed a remote work policy and asked Rev. Andy Lewis, chief of staff, to pilot the policy among conference staff. The committee discussed and perfected its approach to providing support and encouragement to conference staff.

On February 24, 2026, the committee met to discuss the job satisfaction survey results and agreed to offer the survey again in Q1 2027. Then the committee unanimously approved two recommendations to the CF&A for the 2027 budget: 1) funding a 2.5% COLA increase for all conference staff, and 2) establishing a \$40,000 budget line for merit increases based on end-of-year reviews. Next, the committee approved a revision to the continuing education policy. Finally, the committee reviewed a draft personal electronic device policy and made some high-level decisions to guide further development of the policy.

On March 23, 2026, the committee finalized the personal electronic device policy and later officially approved it via email vote.

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

KATHI EDWARDS, CHAIR

Over the course of the past year, members of the Committee on Episcopacy of the Horizon Texas Conference have sought to support Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr. in his oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Church and to be available to the bishop for counsel. In August of 2025, our committee engaged in a process of conversational review with the bishop to appraise the balance of his relationship and responsibilities to the conference, the jurisdiction, and the general church. We feel that Bishop Saenz is doing an outstanding job of leading the Horizon Texas Conference. He is very involved in every aspect of leading the conference from local church support, clergy and lay leadership development, as well as staff empowerment. His spiritual leadership is having a significant impact across the conference and beyond through his devotional submissions to “Notes for a New Day,” his recorded teaching podcasts and videos, his ecumenical relationships, his presence at youth retreats and camps, and his many preaching engagements. His vision in combining the three legacy conferences into one and his caring leadership have been an inspiration to us all. He brings spiritual depth and a realistic, but stretching, vision that empowers both clergy and laity to make a difference in our communities. The committee members support Bishop Saenz by bringing any worthy concerns to him, by lifting him and his family in prayer, and by backing his leadership.

Paragraph 403 of the *Book of Discipline* outlines the disciplines through which a bishop leads and each of these are evident in Bishop Saenz’ life:

- a) A vital and renewing spirit
- b) An enquiring mind and a commitment to the teaching office
- c) A vision for the Church
- d) A prophetic commitment for the transformation of the Church and the world
- e) A passion for the unity of the church
- f) The ministry of administration

As Bishop Saenz stated in his year-end report, “2025 Episcopal Reflection and 2026 Vision” which was given to our committee in January of 2026, “I have been given responsibility for resources – human, financial, relational, spiritual – that do not belong to me. My deepest calling is deploying those resources in service of Christ’s mission. [We must ask] hard questions: Are we moving toward the future God is calling us toward? Are we making progress or staying busy? Are we aligning words and desires with resource allocations? This is not metrics-driven leadership divorced from spiritual discernment. Rather, it is contemplative accountability. I bring metrics to prayer. I ask the Holy Spirit to interrupt our plans if they stray from genuine missional growth, impact, and purposes. This process creates space for serious collective discernment about whether we are advancing God’s mission or perpetuating institutional patterns.”

We are honored that in addition to being Bishop of the Horizon Texas Conference and Resident Bishop of the Honduras Mission Initiative, Bishop Saenz will serve as President of the United Methodist Council of Bishops from May 1, 2026, through May 1, 2028. This incredibly sacred calling will require extraordinary focus and high trust and collaboration from those of us on the Episcopacy Committee, as well as from every member of the Horizon Texas Conference. As Bishop Saenz’ home conference, we must not neglect to be gracious and thankful that God has called this man with such a servant’s heart to shepherd not only those of us in the Horizon Texas Conference, but also “other sheep who are not of this fold.” (John 10:16) We ask every member of the Horizon Texas Conference to keep Bishop Saenz, his wife, Maye, and their family in your prayers in the days ahead, bearing in mind the words of Paul’s powerful prayer for the church in Ephesus: “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all that we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20)

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TREASURER'S REPORT

REV. JEFFREY PEHL

In the Horizon Texas Conference's inaugural year, the Treasurer and the Stewardship Team worked on the following items:

- Changed legal names and moved assets to the new corporation,
- Continued identifying, researching, and combining restricted and designated funds for the new Conference,
- Opening bank and investment accounts at First Financial Bank for HTC, after a proposal process to identify the appropriate banking institution for HTC,
- Finalized the charts of accounts for HTC,
- Verified the net asset balances for newly combined HTC accounting records.
- Transferred funds from the Legacy Conferences to HTC,
- Updated the billing process for apportionments, and
- Preparing for final audits of the three legacy conferences

WESPATH ACCOUNTS

The following Wespath accounts have been identified, researched, and, when possible, consolidated from the legacy conferences. The ongoing responsibility for each account is included.

PENSION PAYMENT ACCOUNT

Formerly known as Deposit Account. The basic "draft" account at Wespath is where pension (non-Pre-82 or CRSP) or benefits obligation funds are accumulated. Wespath then drafts from this account to pay obligations as they become due. Any remaining balance is unrestricted.

	<u>Amount</u>
Balance 1/1/25	\$ 7,017,308.92
Net deposits/transfers	13,151,391.33
Settlements and contributions	(15,611,693.79)
Market Gain/(Loss)	<u>384,165.23</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 4,941,171.69

These accounts were transferred to HTC and combined into a single account ("01"). HTC has moved the unrestricted balance to HTC's operating reserves. **Ongoing Responsibility: CF&A**

PRE-82 ACCOUNT

The Pre-82 account was established to accumulate funds to satisfy claims from the pension plan in place prior to 1982. The Pre-82 account funds and earnings are invested in the Multiple Asset Fund (MAF) and are permanently restricted by Wespath for Pre-82 pension liabilities.

	<u>Amount</u>
Balance 1/1/25	\$ 37,909,488.08
Deposits	1,187,552.55
Net payments to claimants	(4,582,682.24)
Net other costs	(1,630,681.04)
Market Gain/(Loss)	<u>4,399,911.93</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 37,283,589.28

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These accounts were transferred to HTC and combined into a single Pre-82 account ("81"), and HTC has confirmed with Wespath the pension obligation requirements for the Pre-82 Plan.

Ongoing Responsibility: Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

Ongoing Responsibility: None

CRSP DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

This is the designated account to accumulate funds for the defined benefit component of the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). On the last business day of each year, the required dollar amount to fund this component is transferred into the CRSP administered by Wespath. Any remaining balances after the CRSP DB transfer are unrestricted. The CRSP plan contributions ended on December 31, 2025.

	<u>Amount</u>
Balance 1/1/25	\$ 6,763,882.01
Deposits and Adjustments	
Monthly Settlement	
Market Gain/(Loss)	<u>659,364.17</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 7,423,246.18

After the transfer on December 31, 2025, the remaining funds, which are unrestricted, will be transferred to HTC's operating reserves.

Ongoing Responsibility: Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

HEALTH BENEFITS PAYMENT ACCOUNT

Formerly known as Health Benefits Account. This account was CTC's basic "draft" account at Wespath, where budgeted monies and benefit payment invoice receipts for the HealthFlex active plan were deposited, and transfers from the Retiree Health Benefits account paid the obligations as they came due. Any amounts not needed for payment invoice receipts were unrestricted.

	<u>Amount</u>
Balance 1/1/25	\$ 2,952,536.70
Deposits	
HealthFlex Payments	
Market Gain/(Loss)	<u>383,665.13</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 3,336,201.83

This account was transferred to HTC ("05"), and the current unrestricted funds in this account moved to operational reserves, less the basic balance required by CF&A to maintain within the account. Amounts for HealthFlex and the Retiree Medical payments will be transferred into this account (from operational reserves and the Retiree Medical account) to pay obligations as they come due.

Ongoing Responsibility: CF&A

RETIREE MEDICAL ACCOUNT

These funds are reserved to fund retiree medical obligations, as estimated by actuarial valuations. Earnings on these funds and excess funds are unrestricted.

	<u>Amount</u>
Balance 1/1/25	\$ 48,039,051.02
(Withdrawals)	
Market Gain/(Loss)	<u>6,874,616.46</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 54,913,667.48

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The HTC commissioned an actuarial valuation report from Willis Towers Watson, which was received in February 2026. HTC's Expected Post-Retirement Benefit Obligations (EPBO) are estimated to be \$14,946,695 as of December 31, 2025. **[After reviewing the Willis Towers Watson report, earnings from the funds in excess of the Threshold Earning Amount (approximately \$21,000,000) will be available for HTC's operational reserves. for fiscal years 2027-2029, inclusive. See also Item 2026-08: De-Designating the Earnings from the Overfunded Portion of the Retiree Medical Account for Unrestricted Use by the Conference and to Fund Family Health Subsidy.]**

Ongoing Responsibility: Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

SUPERANNUATE FUND

The principal amount of these funds, as set forth below, was the result of the 1939 merger of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church, and is permanently restricted. All past and future earnings are unrestricted.

	<u>Amount</u>
Balance 1/1/25	\$ 3,007,691.06
Market Gain/(Loss)	<u>431,208.53</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 3,438,899.59

	<u>Amount</u>
Restricted Balance	\$ 208,159.80
Unrestricted Balance	<u>3,230,739.79</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 3,438,899.59

The restricted balances will remain in the Superannuate Account, while unrestricted balances and ongoing earnings will be removed from this account and moved to HTC operating reserves.

Ongoing Responsibility: Board of Pensions and Health Benefits

EPISCOPAL FUND

These funds are designated to support the cost of the Conference-owned episcopal residence. Proper use of these funds includes ongoing maintenance and repairs, and capital replacements.

	<u>Amount</u>
Balance 1/1/25	\$ 502,491.76
Market Gain/(Loss)	<u>61,549.65</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 571,533.30

This account was transferred to HTC "09." The funds will remain designated for episcopal residence needs.

Ongoing Responsibility: Board of Trustees

BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

E. PHILIP BUSH, CHAIR

The Horizon Texas Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (the "Board") is charged, under the Book of Discipline "*with the interests and work of providing for, and contributing to, the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of the clergy and their families, other church workers, and lay employees of the United Methodist Church, its institutions, organizations, and agencies within the Annual Conference,*

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except as otherwise provided for by Wespath. The Board works closely with Wespath, which offers excellent interpretation and guidance regarding pension, health insurance, and other benefits provided by the Annual Conference.” See, Book of Discipline, ¶ 638 Conference Board of Pensions.

During the 2025 Annual Conference, *Item 2025-59: Resolution on Clergy Health Insurance* was presented and passed, directing the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to form a subcommittee to address the increasing cost of healthcare coverage for smaller congregations, younger clergy, and their families.

The subcommittee met to discuss the issues and potential solutions. Ultimately, the subcommittee recommended to the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits that a pool of \$250,000 be earmarked from the earnings of the Retiree Medical Reserve held at Wespath. The earmarked amount would be used to provide financial assistance to clergy families when the clergyperson’s compensation is below 125% of the minimum base salary. The funding is for two types of subsidies: 1) approximately \$300 per month for *clergy-participant plus one* coverage, and 2) approximately \$600 per month for *clergy-participant plus family*, for the cost of insured healthcare through the Conference-sponsored health insurance program.

The health care subsidy initially will be in place for calendar years 2027-2029, inclusive. The Board will continue to monitor the affordability of Conference-sponsored health coverage and make adjustments and recommendations to the subsidy program for future years. The Board believes this proposal is responsive, prudent, and sustainable. Based on the results of the subsidy usage and future information, the Board will look to continue the Family Health Subsidy beyond 2029.

The proposed legislation is Item 2026-XX: Clergy Family Assistance for Healthcare Coverage. The Board recommends passage of this legislation.

REPORT NO. 2 SUMMARY OF PENSION AND BENEFIT ACCOUNTS

The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits maintains oversight of all pension and benefit reserves and funds:

PRE-82 ACCOUNT

The Pre-82 account was established to accumulate funds to satisfy claims from the pension plan in place prior to 1982. The Pre-82 account funds and earnings are invested in the Multiple Asset Fund (MAF) and are permanently restricted by Wespath for Pre-82 pension liabilities.

	Amount
Balance 1/1/25	\$ 37,909,488.08
Deposits	1,187,552.55
Net payments to claimants	(4,582,682.24)
Net other costs	(1,630,681.04)
Market Gain/(Loss)	<u>4,399,911.93</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 37,283,589.28

This account includes the amounts transferred to the Horizon Texas Conference (HTC) from the legacy conferences into a single Pre-82 account (#81). HTC has confirmed with Wespath the pension obligation requirements for the Pre-82 Plan.

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The Unifying Conference passed legislation establishing the Pre-82 Past Service Rate (PSR) for the three legacy conferences, equalizing it at \$875, effective January 1, 2026. The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits voted to increase the PSR by the recommended 1%, bringing the amount to \$884.

CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

This is the designated account to accumulate funds for the defined benefit component of the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). On the last business day of each year, the required dollar amount to fund this component is transferred into the CRSP administered by Wespeth. Any remaining balances after the CRSP DB transfer are unrestricted. The CRSP plan contributions ended on December 31, 2025.

	<u>Amount</u>
Balance 1/1/25	\$ 6,763,882.01
Deposits and Adjustments	
Monthly Settlement	
Market Gain/(Loss)	<u>659,364.17</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 7,423,246.18

After December 31, 2025, the remaining funds, which are unrestricted, will be transferred to HTC's operating reserves.

RETIREE MEDICAL ACCOUNT

These funds are reserved to fund retiree medical obligations, as estimated by actuarial valuations. Earnings on these funds and excess funds are unrestricted.

	<u>Amount</u>
Balance 1/1/25	\$ 48,039,051.02
(Withdrawals)	
Market Gain/(Loss)	<u>6,874,616.46</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 54,913,667.48

The HTC commissioned an actuarial valuation report from Willis Towers Watson, which was received in February 2026. HTC's Expected Post-Retirement Benefit Obligations (EPBO) are estimated to be \$14,946,695 as of December 31, 2025. After reviewing the Willis Towers Watson report, earnings from the funds in excess of \$21,000,000 will be available for HTC's operational reserves.

The Unifying Conference passed legislation that the post-retirement medical benefit shall be subsidized at \$50 per year of denominational service, up to a maximum of 30 years (\$1,500 maximum). Eligible clergy who retire before reaching age 65 and their spouses will not receive the supplement until enrolling in Medicare. Those who have already retired before age 65 will continue to be covered under their existing arrangements.

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SUPERANNUATE FUND

As set forth below, the principal amount of these funds resulted from the 1939 merger of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church and is permanently restricted. All past and future earnings are unrestricted.

	<u>Amount</u>
Balance 1/1/25	\$ 3,007,691.06
Market Gain/(Loss)	<u>431,208.53</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 3,438,899.59

	<u>Amount</u>
Restricted Balance	\$ 208,159.80
Unrestricted Balance	<u>3,230,739.79</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/25	\$ 3,438,899.59

The restricted balances will remain in the Superannuate Account, while unrestricted balances and ongoing earnings will be moved to HTC operating reserves.

2025 COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN

The *2020/2024 Book of Discipline* ¶ 1506 requires each annual conference to develop, adopt, and implement a formal, comprehensive funding plan for its benefit obligations. The funding plan shall be submitted annually to Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath) for review and approved annually by the annual conference, following the receipt and inclusion of a favorable written opinion from Wespath.

REPORT NO. 3

OVERVIEW OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS

This report provides an overview of the current Horizon Texas Conference Pension and Health Benefit Plans.

COMPASS RETIREMENT PLAN

Program Overview: In May 2024, the General Conference voted to create a new mandatory account-based retirement plan for U.S. clergy called Compass, which began January 1, 2026, that replaced the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). Clergy appointed at least ½ time are eligible to participate in Compass. Those appointed ¼ time are ineligible for Compass but can make personal contributions to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP). With Compass, the church is required to contribute an annual flat contribution based on appointment percentage (Full-time = \$1,800, ¾ time = \$1,350, ½ time = \$900, ¼ time = N/A) and a non-matching annual contribution of 3% of PPC (Pension Plan Compensation). In addition, the church will match personal clergy contributions to Compass up to 4% of PPC. By making personal contributions of at least 4% of PPC, a clergyperson receives the local church's full matching contribution of 4%. So, by making a 4% contribution, clergy will see 8% of their PPC added to their account (clergy contribution 4% + matching church contribution of 4% = 8%). This matching contribution is in addition to the flat dollar amount and the 3% of PPC clergy receive from the church. If clergy contribute less than 4% of PPC to Compass, they will receive only a match of their percentage contributed. If there is no personal contribution, there will be no match. Clergy who do not make a personal contribution election will be enrolled at the default level of 4%. The plan's generosity is intended to make the full 4% available. Regardless of the clergyperson's personal contributions, the

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church will be billed the full matching annual contribution of 4% of PPC. Surplus matching contributions will be held in a general HTC pension account at Wespath.

Per the provisions of the new Compass Retirement Plan, clergy personal contributions that are salary reductions now stay within the Compass plan. While their UMPIP account still exists, they will no longer be contributing to it, and it will no longer be billed by Wespath. A clergyperson's individual contributions are now billed by the conference as Compass Personal Contributions.

CLERGY RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM (CRSP) DEFINED BENEFIT (DB) and DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (DC)

Program Overview: The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), effective January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2025, is an Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b) retirement program that provides lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The program is designed to provide participants with a portion of their retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007, which had previously replaced the Pre-82 Plan for service rendered prior to January 1, 1982.

CRSP consists of a defined benefit (DB) plan, which provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to The United Methodist Church, and a defined contribution (DC) plan, which provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences.

CRSP is the pension program for all eligible United Methodist Clergy.

CRSP offers a two (2) component benefit design:

- 1) **Core Defined Contribution (DC)** – provides a defined amount deposited into an active clergyperson's account with monthly deposits. This benefit distributed at retirement is the accumulated amount plus earnings (losses) in the individual's account.
- 2) **Core Defined Benefit (DB)** – provides a specific dollar amount at retirement regardless of market conditions or investment performance. The amount is calculated using a formula that determines a monthly retirement benefit to eligible clergy for the remainder of their lives.

Plan provisions effective January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2025:

- Clergy appointed $\frac{1}{4}$ time are not eligible to earn CRSP benefits.
- Provides a monthly retirement benefit using 1.25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) at retirement, multiplied by years of service from January 1, 2007, to December 31, 2013. The multiplier is reduced to 1% for years of service beginning January 1, 2014.
- The defined contribution (DC) component of CRSP is 2% of compensation with a match for participant contributions to the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) – up to 1% of compensation. Therefore, if a participant contributes at least 1% of compensation to UMPIP, their CRSP DC contributions will be 3%.
- The initial dollar amount of the benefit paid to a married participant is reduced to offset the value of spousal benefits. Please note: This change only applies to benefits based on service on or after January 1, 2014. Benefits earned under CRSP prior to January 1, 2014, are not affected. Participants may designate a disabled adult child as a secondary contingent annuitant. After the participant and their spouse die, the disabled adult child would continue to receive DB benefits for life. The initial participant benefit would be reduced to pay for this extra benefit.

MINISTERIAL PENSION PLAN (MPP)

Plan Overview: Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP), provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The

United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. MPP requires that exactly 65% of the account balance be annuitized when the funds are distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan, an IRA, or paid in a lump sum.

PRE-82 PLAN

Plan Overview: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provided clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergy person retires within the conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors:

- 1) Years of service with pension credit approved by each conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits in accordance with plan provisions and The Book of Discipline.
- 2) The conference pension rate (past service rate) is the dollar amount chosen by the conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit (may change from year to year).

The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the pension rate, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-82 Plan. When a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life-based benefit, and, at that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated, but the DBSM-based benefit does not change.

For information about the Past Service Rate recommendations for the new conference, see the Pension and Health Benefits section of the Unification Plan report.

ACTIVE HEALTH BENEFIT PROGRAM

The Horizon Texas Conference offers the following active health benefit to its active eligible participants: Self-Funded – HealthFlex.

POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL BENEFIT PROGRAM (PRM)

The Horizon Texas Conference offers eligible clergy a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) for Post-Retirement Medical coverage.

COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION PLAN (CPP)

The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability, and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. CPP is billed to the salary-paying unit of eligible clergy at 3% of plan compensation.

UNITED METHODIST PERSONAL INVESTMENT PLAN (UMPIP) FOR LAY AND CLERGY

The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of the United Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Participants may make before-tax, Roth, and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions, and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

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HORIZON TEXAS CONFERENCE 2025 PENSION AND BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN RATIOS SUMMARY

<u>Plan</u>	<u>Funded Ratio</u>
Pre-82	119%
Ministerial Pension (MPP)	107%
Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP DB)	89%
Post-Retiree Medical (PRM)	100%

REPORT No. 4 PENSION AND BENEFIT ARREARAGE REPORT

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits recommends that it continue actively pursuing the issue of pension and benefits in arrears, utilizing a very fair but stringent examination of each situation to determine what steps are needed to ensure the integrity of the affected minister's pension and health benefits. Throughout the year, the Conference Benefits Officer and Benefits Administrator work with churches to bring past due amounts current. This information is shared with the affected church's District Superintendent and District Administrator. Each January, we will review a report of the accounts showing the arrearage for the past year.

Each church that fails to meet its obligation must report this fact to its charge conference and provide an explanation. The district superintendent will keep a record of this action.

The local churches are reminded that pension benefits are, in reality, deferred ministerial compensation and should carry the same urgency of payment as the monthly salary. Failure to pay this pension could result in reduced pension benefits. The board strongly believes that if a local church cannot pay the pension amount due in a timely manner, there is a serious question as to whether that church remains a financially viable congregation. We consider it irresponsible for a congregation to "use" a pastor but be unwilling to assure his or her retirement receipts. ¶638.4 of the *2020/2024 Book of Discipline* requires the conference board to keep a permanent record of defaults of the churches in the conference in paying their benefit amounts in full.

According to our Conference Treasurer and Benefits Administrator, the following churches were in default by more than 60 days at the end of 2025:

<u>District</u>	<u>Bill To</u>	<u>Total</u>
METE	Axe Memorial	\$ 11,482.77
METE	Chapel Hill	\$ 10,182.90
METE	First Lancaster	\$ 15,160.37
METE	Immanuel Korean Mission	\$ 2,937.50
METE	Kirkwood	\$ 1,350.00
METE	Oak Haven	\$ 8,811.36
METE	St Philip's Garland	\$ 14,441.00
METN	Community Krum	\$ 5,655.48
METW	St Andrew's Fort Worth	\$ 16,021.46
NWEST	San Pablo Hereford	\$ 7,275.12
SOUTH	St James Temple	\$ 4,293.40
SOUTH	Woori	\$ 6,161.49
		\$ 103,772.85

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Death Benefit Amounts for the Plan Year 2026/2027

The following generally describes the death benefit amounts payable under the CPP's terms and conditions to eligible participants and their beneficiaries. If you are unsure of your eligibility to receive these benefits, please call Wespath at 800-851-2201. If there is a discrepancy between the information in this Journal and the CPP Plan Document, the CPP Plan Document always governs.

	2026	2027
Denominational Average Compensation (DAC)	\$81,603	\$83,235
Active Participant Death Benefits:	\$50,000	\$50,000
Spouse Death Benefit:		
Active Participant or Retired prior to 01/01/13 (20% of DAC)	\$16,320	\$16,647
Participant retired on or after 01/01/13	\$16,300	\$16,300
Surviving Spouse Death Benefit:		
Active Participant or Retired prior to 01/01/13 (15% of DAC)	\$12,240	\$12,485
Participant retired on or after 01/01/13	\$12,200	\$12,200
Surviving Child Annual Benefit:		
Younger than 18 years old: (10% of DAC)	\$8,160	\$8,324
18-24 years old (1/2 applied as education benefit): (20% of DAC)	\$16,320	\$16,647
Child Death Benefit:		
Active Participant or Retired prior to 01/01/13 (10% of DAC)	\$8,160	\$8,324
Participant retired on or after 01/01/13	\$8,650	\$8,650
Retired Participant Death Benefits:		
Prior to 01/01/13 (30% of DAC)	\$24,481	\$24,971
	\$24,450	\$24,450

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits recommends that every person update their designation of beneficiary form at least every five years, upon a change of appointment for active clergypersons, or any life-changing event (marriage, death of a spouse, divorce, etc.). This can be done online through Wespath's Benefits Access for Participants.

REPORT NO. 6 INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURRENT HORIZON TEXAS CONFERENCE ACTIVE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Horizon Texas Conference continues to utilize Wespath's HealthFlex Exchange from each of the three legacy conferences. HealthFlex Exchange, a private exchange, gave participants greater choice across more HealthFlex plans with varying designs and premium costs. When combined with comprehensive online and telephonic support resources, HealthFlex Exchange provides flexibility to choose coverage that best fits the participant's health needs, financial needs, and financial situation. HealthFlex Exchange encourages greater participant accountability for health care costs and utilization, while retaining the valued HealthFlex benefits and wellness opportunities that participants have come to expect.

The Horizon Texas Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits designated a non-taxable Premium Contribution (PC)—a fixed dollar amount for each HealthFlex participant. Participants used the allocated PC amount to “shop” for a health plan and pay for some or all premiums for the HealthFlex plan of their choice. The PC appeared as a “credit toward purchase” when choosing a HealthFlex plan from all available HealthFlex plan designs. Participants who chose plans costing *less than* their Premium Contribution amount are “banking” the overage. The unspent PC balance is credited by HealthFlex to the participant's health reimbursement account (HRA) or health savings account (HSA), depending on

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the selected health plan. The annual overage amount (i.e., unspent PC balance) is not credited in a lump sum; rather, it is available on a *prorated, monthly basis* over the plan year. Internal Revenue Code (IRC) limits for annual HSA contributions apply. Participants who chose plans costing *more than* the Premium Contribution amount are seeing a monthly cost, which may commit them to paycheck deductions from their salary-paying unit (SPU) to cover the cost difference between the PC amount they receive and their higher actual cost for monthly premiums (i.e., the participant's share of the premium cost).

ACTIVE HEALTH PLAN ELIGIBILITY

Our health insurance plan will continue to be a mandatory program administered in accordance with the HealthFlex rules for mandatory conference programs.

2026 Eligibility

Those clergy for whom the program is mandatory are:

- Elders, provisional elders, and associate members appointed full-time to conference responsible agencies.
- Full-time local pastors appointed to conference responsible agencies.
- Full-time student local pastors appointed to conference responsible agencies.
- Deacons and provisional deacons appointed full-time to conference responsible agencies.
- Those in the above categories for whom the conference is the plan sponsor for the pension program, such as district superintendents, conference staff appointees, and campus ministers.

Clergy not included in the plan (and thus not allowed insurance through the Conference):

- Elders, provisional elders, deacons, provisional deacons, and associate members appointed less than full-time.
- Those appointed to extension ministries other than those named above.
- Part-time local pastors.
- Part-time student local pastors.

Medical Reimbursement Accounts (MRA), Dependent Care Reimbursement Accounts (DCA), and Health Savings Accounts (HSA) are offered through HealthFlex. Only those enrolled in the HealthFlex health plans may participate.

2026 VOLUNTARY AND INVOLUNTARY LEAVE

Those clergy on Voluntary Leave have the option to remain covered under the active health plan for one year. Then, upon termination, they may elect to remain on the Continuation Plan for eighteen additional months. Those on Involuntary Leave lose eligibility for coverage immediately but may elect to remain in the Continuation Plan for 18 months. Both leave categories will be billed directly to the participant at the full premium rate, and payment will be made to the conference by automatic bank draft from the participant's personal account.

2026 LAY EMPLOYEES

Lay employees normally scheduled to work 30 hours or more per week may be eligible for coverage at the Salary-Paying Unit (local church) level under a Sub-Adoption Agreement if risk pool requirements are met. The risk pool rules apply to lay employees on an employer-by-employer basis. Surviving spouses and dependents of covered lay employees may be eligible for coverage as long as they are covered participants at the time of death. They will be responsible for the entire premium. A new spouse acquired by a surviving spouse, lay or clergy, is not eligible for benefits through the conference.

The 2026 and 2027 Health Plan Rates and Defined Contribution amounts are found in the following charts.

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2026 HEALTHFLEX EXCHANGE HORIZON TEXAS CONFERENCE

2026 HealthFlex Rates - Horizon Texas Conference
Effective January 1, 2026

Medical Plans (Monthly Premium Amounts)

Plan Feature	B1000	C2000 "Gold"	C3000 "Silver"	H2000 "Gold"	H2500 "Silver"	H5000 "Bronze"
Participant	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 1,224.00	\$ 1,066.00	\$ 1,193.00	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 962.00
Participant + 1	\$ 2,423.00	\$ 2,326.00	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 2,267.00	\$ 1,947.00	\$ 1,827.00
Participant + Family	\$ 3,315.00	\$ 3,182.00	\$ 2,771.00	\$ 3,103.00	\$ 2,665.00	\$ 2,500.00

Dental Plans (Monthly Premium Amounts)

Plan Feature	Dental HMO	Dental PPO	Passive PPO 2000
Participant	\$ 18.00	\$ 52.00	\$ 63.00
Participant + 1	\$ 32.00	\$ 104.00	\$ 126.00
Participant + Family	\$ 56.00	\$ 156.00	\$ 189.00

Vision Plans (Monthly Premium Amounts)

Plan Feature	Core	Full Service	Premier
Participant	No Cost	\$ 9.00	\$ 15.00
Participant + 1	No Cost	\$ 14.00	\$ 25.00
Participant + Family	No Cost	\$ 22.00	\$ 40.00

2026 Premium Contribution (PC) Amount - No increase from 2025

Category	Monthly	Yearly
Active Clergy	\$ 1,075.00	\$ 12,900.00
Active Lay	\$ 1,075.00	\$ 12,900.00
Pre-65 Retiree Clergy & Spouses *	N/A	N/A

*No longer eligible for premium contribution. Those retired prior to 01/01/2025 will continue under their existing arrangement.

2026 Default Plans (For participants who do not make an initial election upon new enrollment only.)

Medical: H2500

Dental: None

Vision: None

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2027 HEALTHFLEX EXCHANGE HORIZON TEXAS CONFERENCE

2027 HealthFlex Rates - Horizon Texas Conference Effective January 1, 2027

Medical Plans (Monthly Premium Amounts)

Plan Feature	B1000	C2000	H2000	H5000
Participant	\$ 1,433.00	\$ 1,333.00	\$ 1,290.00	\$ 1,081.00
Participant + 1	\$ 2,723.00	\$ 2,532.00	\$ 2,450.00	\$ 2,054.00
Participant + Family	\$ 3,726.00	\$ 3,465.00	\$ 3,353.00	\$ 2,810.00

C3000 & H2500 discontinued in 2027

Dental Plans (Monthly Premium Amounts)

Plan Feature	Dental HMO	Dental PPO	Passive PPO 2000
Participant	\$ 18.00	\$ 52.00	\$ 63.00
Participant + 1	\$ 32.00	\$ 104.00	\$ 126.00
Participant + Family	\$ 56.00	\$ 156.00	\$ 189.00

Vision Plans (Monthly Premium Amounts)

Plan Feature	Core	Full Service	Premier
Participant	No Cost	\$ 9.00	\$ 15.00
Participant + 1	No Cost	\$ 14.00	\$ 25.00
Participant + Family	No Cost	\$ 22.00	\$ 40.00

2027 Premium Contribution (PC) Amount

Category	Monthly	Yearly
Active Clergy	\$ 1,204.00	\$ 14,448.00
Active Lay	\$ 1,204.00	\$ 14,448.00

2027 Default Plans (Participants who do not make an initial election upon new enrollment only.)

Medical: H2500

Dental: None

Vision: None

2026 HEALTHFLEX WELL-BEING PROGRAMS

HealthFlex offers your full suite of top-notch well-being programs through Personify Health® (formerly Virgin Pulse®)—giving participants access to everything, all in one place. With one sign-on, take your Health Check, schedule your Blueprint for Wellness, engage with health coaching, accumulate Wellness Credits, and track activity and healthy habits to earn daily points toward Rewards Cash® rewards. Also, experience Personify Health® Journeys—tailored experiences to help you meet personal well-being goals. Earn up to \$410 in incentives. This “Rewards Cash” is delivered straight to your Personify Health® account and can be transferred to your checking account or redeemed for gift cards, merchandise, or charitable donations.

Programs include:

Assessing Health Status and Risks:



Blueprint for Wellness® (BFW), a biometric screening that involves a blood draw followed by lab analysis. The screening tests for common health risks. Receive \$100 Rewards Cash after you complete it.



Health Check, a digital health assessment with an incentive reward of avoiding a higher HealthFlex deductible.

Support to Improve or Maintain Well-Being:



Chronic Disease Prevention/Diabetes Management Programs can help you reduce your risk for developing type 2 diabetes or heart disease; or help you with optimal diabetes management if diagnosed with type 1 or type 2 diabetes.



Health Coaching through Personify Health offers you guidance from qualified, certified professionals to meet your well-being goals.



Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides a variety of confidential support services around emotional well-being, including eight free counseling sessions per issue per family or household member per year.



MDLIVE® Behavioral Health allows you to video chat with a licensed therapist or board-certified psychiatrist and reduces wait times.



WeightWatchers® is a nationwide program that supports goals to lose weight and develop healthy habits. Receive 50% off membership fees.



Personify Health gives you the opportunity to earn up to \$40 Rewards Cash quarterly (up to \$160 annually) by tracking activity, healthy habits, utilizing the sleep and nutrition guides and more



Wellness Credits through Personify Health. Receive \$150 Rewards Cash for earning 150 Credits for activities that improve your well-being in all dimensions.

REPORT NO. 7

2026 RETIREE AND MEDICARE ELIGIBLE HEALTH BENEFITS

The Conference shares the funding of the Retiree Health Benefit Program for eligible retired participants with the retired clergy and their spouses. The Conference Retiree Health Benefit Program assumes participation in Medicare Parts A and B and is designed to extend certain benefits beyond what Medicare pays.

Wespath, through Willis Tower Watson (Via Benefits), coordinates the post-retirement medical benefit. There will not be any changes in the post-retirement medical benefits for retirees who retired on or before December 31, 2024, and their spouses/surviving spouses. All changes will be prospective and only apply to those who retire from the Horizon Texas Annual Conference on or after January 1, 2025.

2026 SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR CLERGY RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS

The conference will provide access to coverage to the clergy retiree and his/her eligible spouse if the following service requirements have been met.

At the time of retirement, the clergyperson must:

- Have been working in a full-time appointment as a full member or as a full-time local pastor eligible for retirement per the *Discipline* and the rules of the annual conference.
- Be a member of the Horizon Texas Conference, serving in a local church or one of its conference responsible agencies.
- Have at least five (5) years of ministerial service in one of the three legacy conferences and ten (10) years of service in the United Methodist Church. A waiver of the five (5) year requirement for service may be considered by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits upon recommendation of the cabinet.
- Be participating in the conference-sponsored health plan (HealthFlex) at the time of retirement.

Surviving spouses of deceased and retired clergy are eligible as long as they are a covered participant at the time of death. A new spouse acquired by a retiree or surviving spouse after retirement is not eligible for retiree benefits through the conference.

2026 RETIREE/MEDICARE ELIGIBLE HEALTH PLAN

The Horizon Texas Conference and Wespath partner with Via Benefits to provide plan advice and enrollment assistance in choosing Medicare supplemental health coverage and prescription drug plans in the open market. Through this arrangement, the participant is responsible for paying premiums, but eligible participants are assisted with premiums and out-of-pocket expenses by the Horizon Texas Annual Conference through a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) funded specifically for the participant. Retirees and spouses must be enrolled in the Conference health plan at retirement to continue receiving conference health benefits after retirement. PLEASE NOTE: Participants must enroll in and remain enrolled in a supplemental health plan through Via Benefits to have access to the HRA. **Enrolling directly with a health plan provider, outside of Via Benefits, will result in the loss of HRA eligibility.**

RETIREE/MEDICARE ELIGIBLE HEALTH PLAN FUNDING 2026

For those eligible clergypersons who retire on or after January 1, 2025, and their eligible spouses, who enroll in their Medicare supplemental coverage through Via Benefits, the conference will fund a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) in the amount of \$50 per year of denominational service, up to a maximum of 30 years (\$1,500 maximum). Eligible clergy who retire before reaching age 65 and their spouses will not receive any funding until they reach age 65 and enroll with Via Benefits. Those who have already retired prior to January 1, 2025, will continue to be covered under their existing arrangements.

Surviving spouses of deceased clergy are eligible for the HRA as long as they are a covered participant at the time of death. A new spouse acquired by a retiree or surviving spouse after retirement is not eligible for retiree benefits through the conference.

2026 PRE-65 RETIREE FUNDING

For those eligible clergypersons who retire on or after January 1, 2025, who at the time of early or full retirement, or their spouse, is less than 65 years of age and has been covered under HealthFlex for the five consecutive years just prior to retirement, they are eligible to remain on the active plan with the full premium direct billed to the retiree who will make payment to the conference by automatic bank draft from their personal account. Those who have already retired prior to January 1, 2025, will continue to be covered under their existing arrangements.

A new spouse acquired by a retiree or surviving spouse after retirement is not eligible for retiree benefits through the conference.

2026 OPTING OUT AT RETIREMENT

If, at the time of retirement, a retiree has other employer-sponsored group health coverage (e.g., through a spouse's employer), he/she may decline retiree coverage and retain the ability to receive retiree health benefits at a future date. If the retiree loses his or her coverage, it is the retiree's responsibility to notify the conference within thirty-one calendar days of loss of other coverage. If this 31-day requirement is not met, the retiree will forfeit the ability to receive retiree health benefits through the conference at a future date. If an eligible retiree without other employer-sponsored group health coverage declines coverage at retirement, the retiree will forfeit the ability to receive retiree health benefits through the conference at a future date.

2026 LAY RETIREE/MEDICARE ELIGIBLE COVERAGE

Lay employees whose active service has ended and who have completed a minimum of five years of continuous and uninterrupted coverage in HealthFlex immediately preceding the date of retirement, and who are less than 65 years of age at the time of retirement, may continue on the active plan. This will also apply to any eligible family members covered at the time of retirement. The lay employee will be responsible for the entire premium, which will be billed directly to the lay retiree who will make payment to the conference by automatic bank draft from their personal account.

Surviving spouses of retired, deceased lay employees are eligible for coverage as long as they are a covered participant at the time of death and are responsible for the entire premium. A new spouse acquired by a retiree or surviving spouse after retirement is not eligible for benefits through the conference.

Lay retirees/spouses who are 65 years of age or older will have access to Via Benefits to assist with moving into the open market, but they will be responsible for their entire premium. Lay retirees are not eligible for an HRA.

OPTING OUT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

We continue to have concerns for clergy who may have opted out of the Social Security system. It is imperative that those persons be Medicare-eligible when they turn sixty-five, or they likely will not be able to obtain any medical insurance. Some who have opted out may retain this eligibility through a spouse or sufficient prior employment. However, it should also be noted that eligibility for Social Security disability payments differs from the requirements for retirement and Medicare benefits. If a pastor is considering this course, they should investigate these matters very carefully.

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RETIREE AND MEDICARE ELIGIBLE HEALTH PLAN WELLNESS PROGRAM

HealthFlex uses incentives as part of its strategy to promote engagement in healthy behaviors and wellness programs. By tracking activity, health habits, and more, continue to earn Personify Health® Rewards up to \$40 per calendar quarter.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

KELLY WADE, CHAIR

General Discussion

The work of property and policy management continued this year with the review of the funds transferred from the legacy conferences. The Board of Trustees' recommendations are included in the workbook for you viewing. We appreciate the local churches that have reviewed their documents and provided them to the district superintendents and ask in earnest that the rest of you utilize any resources that may be available to you through the district offices to get your documents updated as the annual conference referenced in your existing documents has changed.

Highlights from the Past Year:

- Receiving and providing guidance to the Treasurer and HTC officers regarding bequests to the Legacy Conferences and HTC and endowments/grants to HTC
- Working with HTC officers to further define the policy and procedures for listing and selling real property of the Legacy Conferences and HTC, including use of funds received from sale of closed churches and Legacy Conference property
- Working with legal counsel and HTC officers to review Legacy Conference information to confirm the Legacy Conferences' restricted net assets and designated net assets of HTC for use within the HTC budgets
- Working with Multiplication and HTC officers to assist with formation of new churches and plans for the accelerated church expansion (ACE) program, and approving easements and rights of way for real property within the ACE program, including property acquisition for new programs within Multiplication
- Working with legal counsel to work through the process of closing churches under ¶ 2549 of The Discipline
- Working with consultants and HTC officers and members of the Conference Office Location Team to further define the requirements of the new conference center for HTC

Insurance and Annual Conference Offices Update

As requested at last year's meeting of the annual conference, we have reviewed the Disciplinary requirements and talked to several other conferences about how they are managing the cost increases in the local church insurance marketplace. I am sure that each of you are also seeing these increases in your home and auto insurance budgets. We have not found any magic beans or answers for this terrible time for renewals. WE can hope that the underwriters will lower the premiums with a couple of years with fewer claims. Our office sub-committee has determined that we need to rent our next office space for a term of five to seven years to best utilize the funds and get the best handle on ultimate space utilization and needs.

Property Report as of April 22, 2026

Administrative Properties to Hold

Name	Address	County	Description
Mid-South District Parsonage	Woodway	McLennan	Parsonage

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Metro East District Parsonage	Richardson	Collin	Parsonage
Episcopal Residence	Arlington	Tarrant	Parsonage

New Church Start / Strategic Partnership Properties to Hold

Name	Address	County	Description
Aldersgate Campus	2201 E. Park Row	Tarrant	Active Church (Wesley) & Archives
Anna Land		Collin	ACE Project
Grace Chapel UMC	1998 FM 1385	Denton	ACE Project
Melissa UMC	3851 McKinney St	Collin	ACE Project
Rosedale Lots	3301, 3305, 3309, & 3315 E. Rosedale & 3300, 3306, 3310, & 3314 Ave E	Tarrant	Lots
South Plains Wesley	201 Magnolia	Hockley	Campus Ministry
UCF Navarro	3301 W 7th Ave	Navarro	Campus Ministry
Wichita Falls Wesley	3501 Taft Blvd	Wichita	Land
Woori UMC	4710 E Rancier Ave	Bell	Active Church

Properties Listed for Sale

Name	Address	County	Description
Cumby	102 E Main St	Hopkins	Closed Church
Plano Conference Office	500 Maplelawn	Collin	Office
Lubbock Conference Office	1401 Avenue M	Lubbock	Office
Aley	1215 W Cedar Creek Pkwy	Henderson	Closed Church

Properties Sold/Transferred

Name	Address	County	Description	Date
Brownwood, Central	1501 2nd St	Brown	Closed Church	5/9/25
Oak Grove Land	Oak Grove Ln	Denton	Vacant Land	5/27/25
Corsicana, St. Andrews	2201 E 10th St	Navarro	Closed Church	8/13/25
Dublin, Laurel St.	504 Laurel St	Erath	Closed Church	2/27/26
Mesquite, St. Marks	3117 Motley Drive	Dallas	Closed Church	4/22/26

Local Church Insurance Requirements

The Book of Discipline requires local church trustees to annually review and report on the adequacy of local church property and liability insurance coverage “to ensure that the church, its properties, and its personnel are properly protected against risks.” Since 1797, the Book of Discipline has provided that the property and assets of local churches are held in trust for the benefit of the denomination. Inadequate insurance puts local church property and assets at risk, including the denomination’s trust interest therein. Therefore, the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church, in representing the denomination’s trust interest, the following minimum insurance requirements are adopted for local churches:

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY and LIABILITY PACKAGE POLICY, to include the following minimum limits:

PROPERTY

- Buildings, Organs, and Contents Insured to Replacement Value, “Special Risk” Coverage
- All Church buildings should have an updated replacement cost valuation every five (5) years.
- The replacement cost valuation must be dated within 180 days if additional square footage is added.
- A Church building may be insured on an actual cash value basis where replacement cost valuation is not an option available to the Church. The Church should understand that it is being insured on an actual cash value basis and use its best efforts to complete the necessary upgrades and renovations required to qualify for replacement cost valuation coverage.
- A church building may be insured on a functional replacement valuation basis where it is a desired option on the part of the church or conference. The church should understand it may only do so with the written approval of the conference.

LIABILITY

- | | | | | |
|--|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| • Commercial General Liability | Occurrence | \$1,000,000 | Aggregate | \$3,000,000 |
| • Pastoral Counseling Liability | Occurrence | \$1,000,000 | Aggregate | \$3,000,000 |
| • Hired and Non-Owned Auto Liability | Occurrence | \$1,000,000 | Aggregate | \$3,000,000 |
| • Employee Benefits Liability (EBL) | Occurrence | \$1,000,000 | Aggregate | \$1,000,000 |
| • Medical Payments | | \$10,000 | | |
| • Sexual Misconduct Liability ⁵ | | | | |
| ○ Church Membership > 500+ | Occurrence | \$1,000,000 | Aggregate | \$1,000,000 |
| ○ Church Membership < 500 | Occurrence | \$250,000 | Aggregate | \$500,000 |
| • Crime / Employee Dishonesty | Occurrence | \$25,000 | | |

DIRECTORS and OFFICERS / EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY, to include the following minimum limits:

- Directors' & Officers \$1,000,000
- Employment Practices Liability – Option 1 \$1,000,000 (including Sexual Harassment)
 - Required for churches with 500 or more members or any church with a preschool, school, or camp.
- Employment Practices Liability – Option 2 \$250,000 (including Sexual Harassment)
 - For churches with fewer than 500 members that do not have a preschool, school, or camp

UMBRELLA / EXCESS LIABILITY – An Umbrella / Excess Liability policy is suggested for all churches and required for those with a membership of five hundred (500) or more.

If applicable, this excess policy must extend over Commercial General Liability, Pastoral Counseling, Employee Benefits Liability, Owned Auto, Hired and Non-Owned Auto and Workers Compensation. A higher per occurrence limit may be appropriate based on specific risk characteristics such as church size and/or scope of operations and ministries.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION / EMPLOYERS LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY, as required by state law:

- Bodily Injury by Accident Each accident \$1,000,000
- Bodily Injury by Disease Policy limit \$1,000,000
- Bodily Injury by Disease Each Employee \$1,000,000

⁵ A lower limit of liability may be selected if a state or other jurisdiction places a legally binding limit on the damage awards for sexual misconduct that is lower than the above referenced per occurrence limit. The limit selected may not be lower than the maximum damage award set by the state or other applicable jurisdiction.

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COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY, applicable only if the church owns an automobile; to include the following minimum limits:

- Limit of Liability \$1,000,000

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR CONGREGATIONS WITH FEWER THAN 250 MEMBERS

Employee Benefits Liability

This coverage may not be required if any of the following are true:

- The church does not administer any health, life, and accident benefits, or
- The church uses a third party to administer its benefits.

Directors and Officers

Lower limits of coverage may be purchased if the combined value of the church's property value and its annual revenues do not exceed \$1,000,000. The limits can be decreased to (\$100,000 per occurrence and \$300,000 aggregate).

Employment Practices Liability

Lower limits of coverage (\$100,000 per occurrence and \$300,000 aggregate) may be purchased if:

- The church has fewer than three volunteers or employees,
- Has not terminated an employee in the past year, and
- Has no plans to terminate an employee in the next year.

Conference Electric Program

Electric utilities in areas of Texas were deregulated effective January 1, 2002. Deregulation offered the opportunity for churches to join together to purchase electricity. Both the legacy CTC and legacy NTC established groups to which all churches were invited to participate. The HTC has inherited both groups, and they will continue until the expiration of the previously accepted terms.

	Contract End	Rate per KWH
Central Texas Conference	June 30, 2027	\$0.0389
North Texas Conference	June 30, 2027	West Zone: \$0.0380 North Zone: \$0.0392

Remember there are **two factors** that determine your monthly billing:

- 1) **Energy Charges.** This charge is the deregulated part of your bill and was negotiated through a competitive bid process. This charge is noted on your bill as "ENERGY" and is calculated by multiplying your kWh usage for a particular month times the Conference contract rate.
- 2) **Transmission, Distribution, Utility (TDU) charges.** These charges are the regulated part of your bill. These are set by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) and are non-negotiable. These charges are referred to as "pass through" charges and are the same no matter the name of your Retail Electric Provider (REP). The conference REP is Reliant Energy. However, they have no control over these regulated charges. Reliant simply passes along the bill that is sent to them by ONCOR who is the TDU company.

There are many components that make up this TDU part of your bill. However, the one that is by far the largest is the "**DEMAND**" charge. Demand is defined as the total number of watts that hit your meter at any point in time. So, for instance, on Sunday morning to turn on all your lights and air or electric heat at the same time that will be for most the highest demand. This could affect your bill for the next 12 months. Each month you will be billed the higher of your current month's Demand reading or 80% of your highest demand reading over the past 12 months. For example, if you hit 150KW on the hottest Sunday in August and that was the highest Demand reading over the past 12 months then

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you will be billed \$5.00 times 150 = \$750.00. Now suppose that in Jan, Feb, Mar, and Apr you hit between 50 and 75 KW demand each month. For each of those months you will be billed 80% of the last twelve months' peak, which in our example would be $150 \times 80\% = 120$. $120 \times \$5.00 = \600.00 . As you can see if you reduce your peak Demand permanently you can reduce your demand charges for all the remaining months.

The HTC will plan to negotiate a new energy contract before the current groups expire, including whether we can secure energy exclusively from renewable sources. Until then, churches are welcome to join the existing groups. Legacy NWTC churches are welcome to join the existing legacy groups, too, if they are in a service area eligible for the program. If you would like to do so, please email kevinwalters@htcumc.org.

Legislative Items from the Board of Trustees

- Item 2026-02: Office Location and Property
- Item 2026-21: Proceeds from Mineral Properties

Connectional Reports

AMARILLO WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

AMERICA ADAME, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Amarillo Wesley Community Center (AWCC), located in Amarillo, Texas, has faithfully served the community since 1951 as a ministry rooted in the mission of the United Methodist Church and supported by United Women in Faith. Grounded in Christian values and the call of Matthew 25, AWCC is dedicated to serving children, families, youth, and seniors by providing programs that nurture dignity, stability, and opportunity for all.

Over the past year, AWCC has continued to respond to the growing needs of vulnerable and underserved populations in the Amarillo area. A major accomplishment over the past year has been the expansion of our childcare facilities to meet the increasing demand for quality, affordable care. We successfully expanded two existing classrooms and added a new classroom, allowing us to serve more children and support additional working families in our community. These improvements strengthen our ability to provide a safe, nurturing environment where children can grow academically, socially, and spiritually.

We have also recently broken ground on a new community garden, an exciting addition to our programming. This space will provide opportunities for children, families, and seniors to engage in hands-on learning, promote healthy living, and build community connections. The garden will be incorporated into our educational and enrichment programs, helping participants develop life skills while fostering a sense of stewardship and shared purpose.

In addition, AWCC continues to offer senior adult programs that reduce isolation and promote wellness, as well as provide support for individuals and families facing financial hardship. Through direct assistance and community partnerships, we help ensure access to essential needs such as utilities and other critical resources, promoting housing stability and overall well-being.

We invite churches and individuals across the conference to join us through prayer, volunteering, and financial support as we continue to uplift and serve our neighbors.

DALLAS BETHLEHEM CENTER

ANNETTE CULLORS

It is a joy to say that Dallas Bethlehem Center (DBC) continues to be a strong support filled with love for the families we serve in South Dallas. I have worked for DBC for four and a half years, and as of November 2025 I became Interim Executive Director. Jami Russell set a high standard, and I learned so much from her example. Over the years, I've gained a deeper understanding of both the organization and the community we serve. One thing that has consistently stood out is DBC being the hands and feet on the ground in South Dallas, and the unwavering commitment of UWFaith, UMC, and our volunteers.

DBC's weekly food distribution and family dinner program distributed a monthly average of 30,846+ lbs. of fruits, vegetables, proteins, and grains for over 3,636+ families to prepare nutritious meals.

DBC, in partnership with members of UWFaith units throughout the North Texas Conference, provided hundreds of pounds of non-perishables for DBC families for their throughout the year.

Trenesa is a devoted mother caring for her two sons. Her oldest, nineteen is battling brain cancer, and youngest, 16, lives with a rare nerve condition and fully depending on his parents. She shares how DBC

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has helped provide meals and allow them to save money for urgent needs. Despite her challenges she greets us with a radiant smile. I ask about her son's emotional state knowing how difficult it must be for a teenager who cannot spend time with friends. Moments like these remind us how easily we take life for granted and overlook the burdens others carry quietly.

New adventures for this year:

- Walls Project has reimagined what is possible for South Dallas through resident-centered initiatives that prioritize health & wellness, education, and technology.
- Three-week kids summer camp (three days a week, four hours a day) and engaging in Reading Camp. The children's program is a dynamic kids initiative that will help empower children to dream boldly, to explore life, and celebrate progress and other skills.
- A monthly Grief Session for families dealing with the pain of losing a child.
- Classes where students learn how to make jam, jelly, and pickled foods with Pastor Stan Copeland, now in its third year.
- Host our third Culinary Kids Competition.

About a year and a half three young men—Bryan, Camden, and Faison began visiting the food pantry. Thursdays were our most challenging days with unloading supplies from Crossroad and client-choice shopping. We asked the three gentlemen to help unload the truck and they've faithfully served since.

Marlon joined as a volunteer, He said, "I saw that y'all were doing what the Lord ask us to do." Inspired to support the mission he also purchased a 26-foot truck with a lift to help us pick up supplies.

What began as a visit to receive food for the three men's families and Marlon has turned into a powerful example of service and community. In return, DBC gained faithful, committed volunteers. Blessings are flowing through Dallas Bethlehem Center.

JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

BETHANY E. BRAGG

First, I would like to thank the Horizon Texas Conference for your continued support of JFON. In 2025 you gifted us with \$20,000, and we have used that to continue our mission of welcoming the stranger. In 2025 our Board updated our mission and created our vision and values. That follows:

MISSION

Justice for Our Neighbors of North Central Texas is passionately engaged in serving immigrants in the Dallas-Fort Worth area as they seek legal status in the United States by providing free or low-cost expert legal counsel, advocacy, and support services. We pursue justice for those we serve, while offering a sense of safety, trust and belonging.

VISION

A nation where every immigrant has access to justice in an anti-racist immigration system that honors the dignity of all people.

Our Values

- Justice
- Equity
- Professional Excellence
- Courage

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Our attorneys provided legal services to 158 adult and family clients as well as 143 Unaccompanied Minors. These youngsters were either in Long Term Foster Care or had been released from custody of The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

We held three free clinics per month at churches in the DFW area. Arapaho UMC, New Riverside UMC, and Genesis UMC. At these clinics individuals and families consult with an immigration attorney about their potential case. We are very grateful to the churches that allow us to use their space at no cost.

We were also invited to several community locations and churches to provide Know Your Rights Trainings and KYR/What to do if approached by ICE.

Our attorneys represented clients from the following countries: Afghanistan, Brazil, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, and Venezuela.

We were served by fifteen program volunteers, two technology volunteers, and eleven volunteer members of our Board of Directors.

We at Justice for Our Neighbors North Central Texas are very appreciative of all the support from the church communities and the Horizon Texas Conference.

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

TREY OAKLEY, PRESIDENT

Greetings from Methodist Children's Home (MCH) and the thousands of children, youth, and families we serve each year. As an independent 501(c)(3) organization, your continued voluntary support of our vision to empower all we serve to experience life to the fullest is as important as ever. I invite each of you to visit our website at MCH.org to learn more about how to refer a child for placement or ways to join our ministry.

Your support provides the resources needed to offer the care, programs, and talented individuals necessary to positively impact the lives of those we serve through residential care on the Waco campus and Boys Ranch and through MCH Family Outreach offices across Texas and New Mexico, including Abilene, the Permian Basin, Lubbock, DFW, Waco, and Killeen.

We are now in our 136th year of ministry. Here are some highlights of the past year:

We are now in the third year of our five-year strategic plan, Imagine 2028, which continues to guide MCH's growth, innovation, and commitment to excellence in serving children and families.

The MCH Boys Ranch has expanded its capacity to serve young men with higher and more complex needs. The opening of the Marek Home and the Knight Home marks a significant step forward in our ability to provide specialized residential care in a structured, therapeutic environment. These homes allow us to extend Christ-centered care to youth who require a higher level of support and supervision.

Our foster care program continues to grow and now includes kinship care services, providing additional support for children being raised by relatives or close family friends. This expansion strengthens families, preserves important connections, and broadens the continuum of care available through MCH. Foster and Kinship Care is offered through our Abilene, DFW, Waco and Tyler MCH Family Outreach locations.

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The counseling program at MCH experienced continued growth this year, increasing access to trauma-informed mental health services for children, youth, and families across our service areas. As the need for high-quality counseling services rises, MCH remains committed to meeting that need with excellence and compassion.

For youth on the Waco campus, we increased career training opportunities through the Embry Vocational Building, where students learn skills in woodworking, machinery operation, and other skilled trades that prepare them for meaningful employment.

MCH once again achieved a Charity Navigator Four-Star Rating and Candid Platinum Status, reflecting our continued commitment to financial transparency and stewardship.

Our commitment to community collaboration remains strong. As a Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Ambassador Organization, MCH staff continues to train other like-minded organizations across the nation in TBRI, equipping professionals with trauma-informed care practices.

In October, MCH revived the historic Willson-Johnson Lecture Series, welcoming Dr. Robert Anda, co-principal investigator of the landmark Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, as part of hosting the 2025 CORE National Conference, creating a meaningful opportunity to share expertise and advance best practices in trauma-informed care with professionals from across the country.

Leadership and staff continued to sharpen professional skills and share expertise at key industry conferences, ensuring MCH remains a leader in providing high-quality care for children, youth, and families.

Our achievements in the past and those yet to come are directly related to the many individuals and congregations throughout our service area, including the Horizon Texas Annual Conference, who support our work and ministry through financial gifts, prayers, advocacy, and service on the Board of Directors. We look forward to continued partnership with you for many years to come.

Thank you for supporting our vision to empower all we serve to experience life to the fullest.

SEEDS (SERVING EDUCATING EVANGELIZING DEAF SEEKERS)

REV. TOM HUDSPETH, PRESIDENT & PASTOR

On July 1, 2025, SEEDS (Serving Educating Evangelizing Deaf Seekers), a 501c3 Impact Ministry of Lovers Lane UMC, began as a new ministry and new appointment for Rev. Tom Hudspeth, who had served Lovers Lane UMC for the previous 24 years. In 2008 SEEDS was known as Serving and Educating Exceptional Deaf Students, a Deaf school based at Lovers Lane. When the school closed in 2016, SEEDS continued as a ministry of scholarship for Deaf students, including Collins Prempeh, the first Deaf theology student at Africa University, Zimbabwe (2019-2023). In May 2025, the Lovers Lane charge conference voted to graft the Deaf Ministry of Lovers Lane into SEEDS, changing its name and beginning a Deaf Mission Church. On July 6, 2026, 75 people came to celebrate the start of the only UMC related Deaf Mission Church west of Maryland.

Today, SEEDS serves on behalf of the Horizon Texas Conference, living Christ's love in the diverse Deaf community in Dallas and in twenty-four surrounding communities, and in other states and countries, such as Tanzania and Zambia, through its live stream worship services. Currently, SEEDS averages forty-one participants in person and online worship. In the past 11 months, the Deaf Mission Church has received fifteen new members, of which six have been baptized. In 2025 we had 193 unique participants

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and in the first three months of 2026, we had 113 unique participants. According to estimates from other denominations, Deaf churches tend to range in membership from 4 to 40 Deaf people.

Only 2% of Deaf people claim a relationship with Jesus Christ. To meet the challenge of creating ministry that is with, by, for and of the Deaf, SEEDS has aggressively trained lay Deaf people for ministry. In September 2025, SEEDS sent six people to Baltimore, Maryland for an advanced CLS class led by Rev. Dr. Leo Yates, Jr and Alma Andrews, a Deacon and lay member, respectively, of the Baltimore-Washington Conference and of Magothy Church of the Deaf UMC, Maryland. After completion of the class, the two leaders graciously offered to return to Dallas to complete the first half of the CLS training, which was held March 27-28, 2026, at the former Walnut Hill UMC site. The class was attended by fourteen members of the SEEDS Board and Deaf Mission Church, and greeted by Sharon Spratt, representing the Certified Lay Ministries of the Horizon Texas Conference. Nine Deaf and two hearing people completed the class.

Through SEEDS, Deaf and Hard of Hearing people have received training in accessibility and self-advocacy in the Americans with Disabilities Act; provided support to Deaf families in emergencies, schools, counseling, or seeking effective communication in medical settings.

SEEDS is YOUR Deaf ministry for HTC. We are a self-funded ministry and receives critical matching grant support from the HTC Ministry of Multiplication, grants from foundations, the Texas Methodist Foundation, and other donors.

For more information about partnering with SEEDS/Deaf Mission Church UMC, please contact Rev. Hudspeth at 469 708 5593 or videophone 469 522 2974. Thudspeth@seedsdeaf.org.

TEXAS METHODIST FOUNDATION

REV. LISA GREENWOOD, PRESIDENT AND CEO

We at Texas Methodist Foundation give thanks for you — for the ways you are loving boldly and bearing witness to the loving, free, and just world God imagines. We are grateful for the privilege of walking alongside you as partners — trusting that together, through the Spirit's leading, new expressions of hope and belonging are taking root for the sake of the world.

At Texas Methodist Foundation, our calling is to help congregations and ministries align all their resources — including financial resources, property assets, leadership giftedness, generosity, and even their yet-to-be-realized potential — with God's mission.

Through nationally recognized Learning and Innovation initiatives, combined with expertise in investing, lending, and charitable giving, we seek to strengthen the financial and spiritual foundations that allow the church to flourish. Together, we are tending what is rooted in tradition while courageously making space for new expressions of leadership and ministry — so that congregations thrive and communities are transformed by God's love.

At the close of 2025:

- TMF's loans to churches in the Horizon Texas Annual Conference totaled \$82.9 million.
- Churches and agencies in the Conference invested \$48.2 million in Impact Certificates.
- Over the past 5 years, TMF has distributed \$29.5 million in charitable services and grants and invested \$14.9 million in learning and innovation initiatives into churches and nonprofits across Texas and New Mexico.

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These numbers represent sanctuaries renovated and community spaces reimaged. They represent leaders empowered and ministries strengthened. They represent new possibilities taking root.

Our work supports a Spirit-led cycle of generosity. When individuals, congregations, and conferences open investment accounts with TMF, not only do they receive competitive returns, but their investments become a blessing to other churches and ministries through affordable loans and ministry support. We then invest all our net revenue in learning and innovation initiatives, grants, and charitable services that help strengthen the future church.

We know that each congregation's context is unique. That is why we strive to offer flexibility, affordability, and expertise tailored to churches' needs. We are here to listen, to discern alongside you, and to help you steward your resources with clarity and confidence.

Every leader we engage, every project we finance, and every investment we steward reflects a shared trust in God's future for the church. It is an honor to serve beside you.

The Horizon Texas Annual Conference's Team at Texas Methodist Foundation

The Texas Methodist Foundation team is honored to work with churches, nonprofits, and leaders across the Horizon Texas Annual Conference, providing services and support that are vital to thriving ministries and communities across Texas. Please contact any one of us at any time.

Impact Certificate Investments • Variable and fixed-rate Impact Certificates • Clergy Appreciation Rate +0.50% Sara Beltran Assistant Vice President Investor Services sbeltran@texasmethodistfoundation.org (512) 583-1920	Market-based Investments for Churches and Nonprofits • Equity and Bond Funds • Multiple Asset Funds Derek Casteel, CFA Director of Investment Services dcasteel@texasmethodistfoundation.org (512) 515-1431
Philanthropy • Gift planning • Donor-Advised Funds • Life Income Gifts • Endowments Justin Gould Chief Philanthropy Officer jgould@texasmethodistfoundation.org (512) 583-1944	Loans • Debt refinancing • Property acquisition • Construction and improvement • Flexible terms Chris Miller Chief Lending Officer cmiller@texasmethodistfoundation.org (512) 583-1931

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Learning and Innovation • Courageous Congregations Collaborative (C3) • <i>Igniting Imagination</i>® podcast Rev. Dr. Blair Thompson Chief Learning and Innovation Officer bthompson@texasmethodistfoundation.org (512) 583-1962	Grants • For churches and nonprofits • Providing evangelism with social impact • Improving the conditions of those living in poverty Wendolyn Abel Vice President of Grants Ministry wabel@texasmethodistfoundation.org (512) 583-1934
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TEXAS UNITED METHODIST COLLEGE MINISTRY FUND

REV. ERIC DOUGLAS

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Texas United Methodist College Ministry Fund. The fund was established in 2025 with the goal of building a meaningful path towards sustainable funding of United Methodist campus ministries in the state of Texas. We endeavor to achieve this with as little impact on the current operational funding of our partner annual conferences.

In 2025, each of the three annual conferences in Texas generously helped fund the fund's initial corpus with individual contributions of \$50,000 per conference. Following the initial round of funding, the Horizon Texas Conference approved a change to its dispensation policy that would allow 5% of the net total of unrestricted, non-urban-area closed-church assets to be given to the fund. While discussions are ongoing with the other partner conferences regarding their dispensation policies, the Texas Annual Conference will consider a resolution in the 2026 conference season to offer a matching grant for donations from their conference up to \$500,000 over the next 5 years. We're excited to see how each partner's annual conference is stepping up in its own way to help create sustainable funding for campus ministry in the future.

Beyond United Methodist institutional giving, representatives of both the Fund Trustees and Development Team met with senior leaders of the Texas Methodist Foundation this last fall to develop plans for a coordinated fundraising campaign. This would focus beyond our institution partners and lean on the generosity of individuals passionate about helping not just one campus ministry but all of them. We further began the formal development of our communications structures with the launch of a new website, the creation of social media accounts, and the ongoing training of campus ministry leaders to speak to local churches about the fund.

Finally, I want to close by thanking our original launch team, who have been working tirelessly on the fund's development since 2023, and our new Trustees and Development Team for carrying on the fund's work. The original launch team members include:

Rev. Mariane Brown-Trigg, Denton Wesley Foundation
Rev. Corey Moses, Tarleton Wesley Foundation
Rev. David McMinn, Texas Wesley Foundation
Rev. Dr. Todd Salmi, United Campus Ministry of Texas State
Rev. Eric Douglas, Rockbridge Church

Trustees:

Rev. Mariane Brown-Trigg, Denton Wesley Foundation
Rev. Dr. Todd Salmi, United Campus Ministry of Texas State

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Rev. Tom Teekell, Stephen F. Austin Wesley Foundation

Development Team:

Rev. Eric Douglas, Rockbridge Church

Rev. Todd Jones, United Methodist Campus Ministry of the Rio Grande Valley

Rev. David McMinn, Texas Wesley Foundation

If you would like to help support the ongoing efforts to fund not just today's college students, but those who come after them, please stop by our table in the exhibition hall. You can also contribute directly to the fund by texting txcampus to 50155 or by giving to the Texas Methodist Foundation, account #5043.

UNITED COMMUNITY CENTERS

CELIA ESPARZA, PRESIDENT AND CEO

Mission: Guided by Christian Principals, we empower and strengthen those in need.

United Community Centers, Inc. has its roots in Fort Worth, dating back to 1909. A courageous group of women from the First Methodist Church downtown crossed the railroad tracks, stepping into the unknown with faith in their hands and love in their hearts. Little did they realize that what began as a prayer and hope would evolve into a beacon of hope for thousands of families who have walked through our doors.

Today, we proudly operate three community centers: Bethlehem at 951 Evans Avenue, Polytechnic Center at 3100 Avenue I, and Wesley Center at 3600 N. Crump. In the fall of 2026, we will celebrate the opening of our fourth site, the Maren Grove Center, dedicated exclusively to an academic program for 3- and 4-year-olds. Our administration office is located within Meadowbrook-Poly United Methodist Church.

For over 116 years, we have made a profound impact on underserved communities through our vibrant, diverse year-round programs. Our offerings include a well-stocked food pantry that addresses hunger, a clothing room that supplies essential attire, and an afternoon Education Literacy Program designed to empower individuals with vital reading and writing skills.

Our agency has not only transformed families but has uplifted entire communities. We work closely with the Fort Worth Police Department on crime prevention, hosting evening programs that engage young adults in enriching activities. We also partner with the City of Fort Worth and the Fort Worth ISD. Additionally, we offer specialized programs for senior citizens to help them stay active and connected.

We are excited about the many collaborations we've built to enhance our communities. These partnerships include local libraries, a mobile food pantry, Tarrant County College's mobile computer labs, and Texas Health Resources, which provides essential health services, including mobile units for women's health, men's prostate screening, and childhood immunizations. Together, these initiatives foster a holistic approach to community well-being and development.

We invite volunteers to join us at any time, creating abundant opportunities for individuals to engage and make a meaningful impact. Join us in our mission to serve and uplift our community. Visit our website's volunteer section, sign up for opportunities, and join the journey to transform lives.

WESLEY-RANKIN COMMUNITY CENTER

SHELLIE ROSS, CEO

In collaboration with our neighbors, Wesley-Rankin Community Center expands access to resources and designs tailored pathways for all ages to achieve educational success, unlock economic opportunity, and to thrive. This 124-year-old nonprofit has a menu of services addressing needs as learning difference remediation, youth college and career training, older adult socialization and nutrition, and adult financial literacy and property tax support. Wesley-Rankin's impressive data collecting and innovation process has documented impact year over year for residents in West Dallas. In 2025, Wesley-Rankin served 965 individuals through eleven programs. 97% of Afterschool students increased in reading with an average of thirty-four points on DIBELS assessments. 100% of graduates in the youth college & career program report earning a higher living wage. 73% of adults in the financial literacy courses report a reduction of debt. Through exemption filings over \$182,000 has been returned to homeowners in the form of tax savings and refunds.

Wesley-Rankin depends on donors and volunteers to fuel its mission and impact. An array of volunteer experiences, from one-time to ongoing, are available. Please see our website at www.wesleyrankin.org for volunteer and donation details. In addition, in-kind donations such as Afterschool snacks and older adult food donations provide additional support for participants. For more details, please contact the Volunteer and Advancement Manager, Becky Stegmann, at becky@wesleyrankin.org.

COLLEGES & SEMINARIES

AFRICA UNIVERSITY JAMES H. SALLEY, PRESIDENT

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you to the congregations of the Horizon Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church for your steady support of Africa University. In 2025, Horizon Texas Conference congregations generously invested in the Africa University Fund at 73.27 percent. The ongoing faithfulness of the Horizon Texas United Methodists makes a real difference in forming disciples who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously across Africa and around the world.

2025 was a year of strong growth and momentum for Africa University (AU). In June, AU graduated its largest class ever—622 students from 20 African countries. In August, the university welcomed its most diverse incoming class, with students from thirty nations. They study in four colleges, a law school, and two institutes on a modern, fully debt-free campus built for learning and community.

2025 highlights:

- A self-funded solar power plant now supplies 100 percent of AU campus electricity, easing pressure on Zimbabwe’s national grid and benefiting nearby communities.
- A new collaboration with the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health advances research in food security, sustainable agriculture, and environmental resilience. Faculty and graduate researchers are developing evidence-based responses to climate stress, water insecurity, and agricultural vulnerability—equipping communities to adapt and thrive.
- An expanded partnership supporting applied research with The United Methodist Church’s Global Ministries agency focuses on at-risk agriculture and malaria prevention, strengthening rural communities.
- In partnership with United Methodist Communications, AU is training African church communicators in digital engagement and media strategy—strengthening the Church’s witness across diverse contexts.
- AU’s School of Law moot court team earned the honor of representing Africa at the World Round of the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition in the United Kingdom in 2026.

Africa University’s impact is directly connected to your generosity. As this quadrennium continues, Africa University urges every congregation in the Horizon Texas Conference to maintain AUF support at the 2016 budget level and to continue striving to achieve 100 percent funding each year. AU also encourages churches to consider becoming a “Keystone Congregation” by committing \$7,000 annually in scholarship support for one undergraduate student—and walking alongside that student with prayer and encouragement throughout their degree journey.

Africa University remains a living expression of our worldwide connection. Because you give, research advances. Because you pray, leaders are called and formed. Because you believe in Africa University, hope expands across nations.

Thank you for standing with AU in 2025. Together, we are shaping a generation equipped to lead Africa—and the Church—into a resilient and faithful future.

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SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY GEORGETOWN, TEXAS LAURA E. SKANDERA TROMBLEY, PRESIDENT

Throughout 2025, Southwestern University continued to shine as a leader among the nation's top liberal arts institutions. We earned our second-highest ranking in over a decade in *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best National Liberal Arts Colleges" list, #2 in Texas and #84 nationally. Additionally, Southwestern's award-winning Center for Career and Professional Development once again earned national recognition, ranking #19 on The Princeton Review's "Best Career Services" list — the only university in Texas to be included.

Southwestern posted one of the most selective classes in our 186-year history with nearly 5,900 applications, resulting in a 43% acceptance rate. A total of 368 first-year students and thirty-eight transfer students joined Southwestern in the Fall, bringing total enrollment to 1,434. For the sixth year in a row, over 25% of incoming students identified as Hispanic. Almost 24% identified as first-generation students.

The impact of Southwestern's world-class faculty was felt far beyond the confines of our Georgetown campus. Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Maha Zewail-Foote authored a landmark publication detailing a breakthrough in cancer research. Assistant Professor of Education Alicia Moore received a federal appointment to the Board of Visitors for the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Most recently, Professor of Spanish Katy Ross had her second book, *Narrating Infertility in Spain*, published on December 9.

Southwestern students also displayed their talents on the biggest stages in 2025. A team of eight students participated in the National Collegiate Digital Marketing Championships. Another team of eight students represented Southwestern at the 2025 HSI Battle of the Brains, a premier national competition. Three computer science majors earned first place at the Consortium for Computer Sciences in Colleges: South Central Region Conference.

Southwestern student-athletes continued to make history in 2025. The men's soccer, women's soccer, and volleyball teams all earned spots in their respective Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) tournaments. Volleyball was also ranked in the top twenty-five nationally. Men's soccer rose as high as #18 nationally, the first time in school history for the program to be ranked in the top twenty-five. Men's lacrosse made the Southern Athletic Association (SAA) semifinals for the first time in program history. In total, Pirates combined for sixty-six conference honors for the 2024-2025 season.

As part of Southwestern's commitment to advancing the liberal arts in the 21st century, the University announced new certificate programs and affiliation agreements. SU launched certificate programs in Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and 3D Printing, Legal Studies, and Spanish for Healthcare Professions. Southwestern also partnered with several peer universities across Texas to provide accelerated pathways for baccalaureate and master's degrees.

Our ambitious fundraising campaign, *Thrive*, reached completion and raised over \$160 million. The *Thrive* campaign transformed Southwestern both in the classroom and on campus. A new welcome center and two new residence halls opened, and renovations to the historic Mood-Bridwell Hall and A. Frank Smith, Jr. Library Center were completed. Work recently began on a new multi-purpose sports complex that will bring football back to Southwestern's campus for the first time since 1950.

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Ratification of Trustees

As stated in the University By-Laws, “Conference trustees are nominated by the University’s board of trustees, upon recommendation from the board’s Trusteeship Committee, and elected by their respective conferences.”

The following names are submitted to the Horizon Texas Conference for election or re-election:

- Dr. Claire Peel, nominated by the Board of Trustees for election to a three-year term concluding 2029.

Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you to visit Southwestern and experience, in person, our vibrant intellectual community.

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
DALLAS, TEXAS
JAY C. HARTZELL, PRESIDENT

Southern Methodist University (SMU) has served as a nonsectarian institution of higher learning since its founding in 1911. Guided by a mission to expand knowledge through research and teaching, SMU educates students with ambition and integrity, advances discovery that matters, and serves as a catalyst for positive impact in Dallas, Texas, and beyond.

With continued Methodist representation on the Board of Trustees and a longstanding commitment to welcoming students of all faiths, SMU honors its Wesleyan heritage while advancing as a nationally recognized private research university. Consistent with this heritage and tradition, SMU submits this report to the Horizon Texas Annual Conference.

Institutional momentum and leadership transition

I was honored to begin my service as President of SMU on June 1, 2025. My first months have focused on listening, learning, and building relationships with students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and civic and community partners.

Even after a few short months, I can clearly see the distinctive qualities that define SMU: academic excellence, a vibrant campus culture, deeply engaged alumni, and an attractive position as a private research university rooted in one of the nation’s most dynamic metropolitan regions.

During this period, we welcomed new academic leadership. Rachel Davis Mersey joined as Executive Vice President and Provost. Bryan P. Stone was appointed Leighton K. Farrell Dean of Perkins School of Theology. Additional leaders include Janan Jayawickramarajah, dean of the Dedman School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Todd Milbourn, dean of the Cox School of Business; Michael Harris, interim dean of the Simmons School of Education and Human Development; and Damon Evans, director of Athletics.

Strategic planning and institutional priorities

This fall, we launched a university-wide strategic planning process to guide SMU through its next phase of growth, drawing input from nearly 9,000 community members. The plan will strengthen academic distinction and student success, expand interdisciplinary research, and prepare principled leaders. Completion is expected in Spring 2026.

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Students, faculty, and staff

SMU continues to attract diverse students. For the 2024–25 academic year, the University enrolled approximately 12,500 undergraduate and graduate students representing all fifty states and more than ninety countries. A majority of undergraduates come from outside Texas.

Faculty and students are advancing research addressing complex challenges in energy, health, education, public policy, and the arts, often in collaboration with industry, government, and nonprofit partners.

Research, philanthropy, and national standing

The University completed its SMU Ignited campaign three years ahead of schedule, raising \$1.64 billion in private support to strengthen academic programs, research, and facilities.

In 2025, SMU was designated a Research One (R1) institution by the Carnegie Classification, reflecting growth in research activity, faculty scholarship, and external funding.

Perkins School of Theology

Perkins School of Theology remains central to SMU's mission. Perkins formalized a partnership with Methodist Theological University in Seoul, launched an accelerated program with McMurry University, and established a teach-out agreement with Memphis Theological Seminary to support students.

We remain grateful for Perkins School of Theology's contributions to theological education and the life of the Church. As we move forward, we do so with gratitude for the past and confidence in the future.

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY – DALLAS, TEXAS
BRYAN P. STONE, LEIGHTON K. FARRELL ENDOWED DEAN

Perkins School of Theology celebrates its vital connection with the Horizon Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Through theological education, ministerial formation, and vocational discernment, Perkins supports leaders called to faithful service in a changing church and society.

Twenty-nine (29) students affiliated with the Horizon Texas Annual Conference are enrolled at Perkins across multiple degree programs. During 2025–2026, twenty-five (25) students received PACE funding, averaging \$3,982, and seven (7) students are participating in internships.

Enrollment Update

Enrollment totals 274 students, including seventy-three incoming students, forty-four of whom are in the hybrid/online program representing twenty-seven states, reflecting continued growth in accessible theological education.

Institutional Highlights

In October 2025, Dr. Bryan P. Stone was installed as the Leighton K. Farrell Endowed Dean. An elder in the New England Annual Conference, Dean Stone strengthens Perkins' connection to the United Methodist Church.

Faculty leadership updates include Rev. Dr. Pamela White as Director of the Intern Program and Assistant Dean for Contextual Education; Rev. Dr. Emily Nelms Chastain as assistant professor of Christian History and Methodist Studies; Dr. James K. Lee as Professor of Early Christianity; Dr. Marcell Silva Steuernagel as Associate Professor of Church Music; and Dr. Ashley Boggan as Affiliate Assistant

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Research Professor of Methodist Studies. Rev. Dr. Kate Hanch was appointed Director of the Baptist House of Studies, and Dr. Rebekah Miles to the Albert C. Outler Chair of Wesley Studies.

In 2025, faculty received major recognition. At the American Theological Society, Dr. Frederick Aquino was elected to membership, Dr. Karen Baker-Fletcher presented research, and Dr. Ruben L. F. Habito delivered the Presidential Address. Rev. Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles received a Louisville Institute Grant, Dr. Jack Levison received a Humboldt Foundation renewal grant, and Rev. Dr. Alyce McKenzie received a Lifetime Achievement Award. Dean Bryan P. Stone contributed to national media, and Rev. Dr. Harold Recinos was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry.

Perkins expanded partnerships with Methodist Theological University in Seoul, McMurry University, and Memphis Theological Seminary. The Fall Convocation and Youth and Children's Ministry event continued leadership development, and the Perkins Summit for Faith and Learning was held March 20–21, 2026.

Renovations to Kirby Commons enhanced shared space. The Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation awarded \$1.8 million to the Baptist House of Studies. Gifts totaling \$3 million from the Permanent Endowment Fund of Galveston Moody Memorial UMC and the Houston Methodist Hospital and Foundation established the Reverend Charles R. Millikan, DMin. Endowed Chair in Spiritual Care.

In 2026, Perkins will celebrate the retirements of Dr. Bruce Marshall, Rev. Dr. Alyce McKenzie, Christopher S. Anderson, Pam Goolsby, and Dr. John Martin.

Perkins remains grateful for its partnership with the Horizon Texas Annual Conference and for the shared work of forming leaders who serve with faith, wisdom, and love.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS G. SUJIN PAK, DEAN

Your partnership, prayers, and support are a cherished gift as BUSTH seeks to serve the church and the world! In a year like 2025, BUSTH's commitments to equip transformational leaders for peace and justice are more necessary and significant. We are hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

NEWS:

- **Students:** The academic year 2025-26 entering class was among our most diverse, with 106 new students, 40% of whom are international students from seventeen different countries.
- **Faculty:** In July, Rebecca Copeland and Luis Menéndez-Antuña were promoted to Associate Professor. In September, Nicolette Manglos-Weber became Associate Dean of Students & Community Life, and Rady Roldán-Figueroa ('05) started as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Timothy Adkins-Jones ('09,'21) joined as Assistant Professor of Homiletics.
- **Expanding Online/Hybrid Programming:** BUSTH launched a fully Online Master of Divinity (OMDiv) program in November and the first cohort is planned for Fall 2026. Learn more at bu.edu/sth/omdiv. In May, the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program graduated its largest class ever, 18.
- **Faculty Research:** Professor Steven Sandage is a co-principal investigator for "Training and Treatment Integration Research for Virtue and Flourishing in Mental Healthcare: A Team Science Project," which received a \$5.2 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation to address a growing need among therapists for training on how to integrate relational virtues and human flourishing in clinical practice. Faculty published more than 130 books, scholarly articles, op-eds, presentations, and book reviews during 2025. Many were interviewed by media publications or featured on podcasts for their scholarship in topics such as trauma-informed care, humility among religious leaders, and biblical agriculture. Selected stories: bu.edu/sth/research/faculty-research/.

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- **Scholarships:** BUSTH continues to benefit from nearly 125 scholarships overall, donated to by school alumni, other BU alumni, and friends of BU including more than twenty named scholarships from living alumni and/or their family members.
- **Contextual Education:** Funded by the Lilly Endowment, Director of Contextual Education Anastasia Kidd and Director of Enrollment Chad Moore will lead “The New Wineskins Network” \$1 million initiative to build sustainable, collaborative infrastructure for student and clergy formation across the Boston region.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include “Digital Ministry as Contemplative Practice.” Learn more at bu.edu/sth/oll.
- **Development:** Recent accomplishments include a generous pledge to endow a Praise & Worship Fund as well as some new operating funds including the Manoog C. Peters Chaplaincy Fund to further support the school’s chaplaincy curriculum, and the Center for Global Christianity and Mission Film Project Fund to promote the Center’s ministry.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:

- BUSTH’s inaugural Fr. Vincent Machozi (’15) Colloquium will be held in February to honor the life’s work of our alumnus, martyred in the DRC for his work advocating for civilian victims of political violence. “Ecologies of Peacemaking” will bring together scholars in the areas of social conflict, economic inequalities, and environmental degradation. Register at bu.edu/sth/machozi-colloquium.
- Our Fall 2025 Lowell Lecture presented the work of Rev. Dr. Micah L. McCreary, whose topic “Leading Through and Beyond our Wounds” focused on becoming trauma-responsive leaders.
- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing as written in our 2030 Strategic Plan. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU.

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY ATLANTA, GEORGIA

As **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** continues in its second century of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries throughout the world, we are heartened by the work and witness of The United Methodist Church and look forward to our enduring partnership as the denomination moves into its next chapter with a vision to **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously**.

An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler has a strong Methodist presence among our students, faculty, and staff, while holding true to the Wesleyan value of ecumenical openness. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 507 from eleven countries, forty-two states, forty-five denominations, 34 UM annual conferences, and 50% persons of color. We see this diversity as a blessing, enriching our life together and providing the perfect context for training for relevant ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ’s love in and among us.

Last fall Candler welcomed its largest incoming class in over a decade. This strong enrollment reflects years of intentional work to reimagine programs, continue to invest in faculty excellence, and offer robust scholarship support through the generosity of alumni and friends. And even more importantly, it reflects that God is still calling people to join the holy work of transforming the world in Jesus’ name.

Candler offers six degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online formats. Nearly a quarter of MDiv students participate in Candler’s Teaching Parish program, earning course credit by serving as student pastors in local churches. And our proven DMin program—with a remarkably high 94% completion rate—is 90% online. These flexible options along with Candler’s recognized academic

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excellence and hands-on learning opportunities are opening possibilities for more people to follow God's call to ministry.

Reducing financial barriers to high-quality theological education remains a top priority at Candler. This year, we are on track to award nearly \$8.5 million in scholarship support across degree programs. All MDiv students receive scholarships, with those who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receiving full tuition.

When we talk to Candler alumni and students about their call, one thing becomes clear: The specifics may be different, shaped by their unique gifts, contexts, and life experiences, but their drive to join God's work of transforming lives and the world is a constant. We recently launched a series called "Candler Changemakers" highlighting the range of fascinating ways our alumni are leading change as they fulfill their call. Follow along on our website (candler.emory.edu) and social media to see how God is working through them. You'll be inspired!

DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

MADISON, NEW JERSEY

REV. EDWIN DAVID APONTE, DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF RELIGION & CULTURE

Drew University Theological School is a global seminary with a global student population serving the worldwide church. Drew Theological School educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents for ministry and service in the church, society, and the wider world. Building upon its Wesleyan and Methodist foundations, Drew Theological School is diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities of its faculty, students, and staff. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with prior ministry experience, reflecting an ongoing trend among theological schools in the United States and Canada. In providing theological education to the world, Drew holds in-person classes in Madison, New Jersey, classes that meet exclusively online, while others meet in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person, as well as in-person Doctor of Ministry program in South Korea. Regular chapel services are offered in a hybrid way on Tuesdays and Thursdays with people participating from Seminary Hall as well as online. Chapel worship is live streamed so that students, alumni, and friends around the world can participate.

In Fall 2025 Drew Theological School welcomed eighty-eight new students in all degree programs, with total student enrollment (by headcount) in Fall 2025 semester being 365. Enrollment of international students at Drew is very strong at 140 students in Fall 2025. This number includes students who are studying full-time in the U.S.A. on a student Visa, students who are studying online from their home country, and students in the South Korean Cohort of the Doctor of Ministry program.

Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs provide real-world apprenticeships, promote adaptive leadership skills, and encourage innovation through team-taught core courses as well as a variety of electives that integrate theological disciplines and faith practices. The Drew faculty's shared values are infused across in the teaching, learning, and the formation of students. These values are: 1) a commitment to anti-racism; 2) gender and sexual-identity equality; 3) eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and 4) interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew Theological School continues to experience an increase in United Methodist students, including United Methodist Global Fellows pursuing further education for ministry. UMC graduates are serving in conferences of The United Methodist Church across the United States, and especially within nearby regional episcopal areas of Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Susquehanna, Upper New York, New York, and New England.

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DUKE UNIVERSITY DIVINITY SCHOOL DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA EDGARDO COLÓN-EMERIC, DEAN

English:

Duke Divinity School celebrated its 99th Opening Convocation in August 2025 with a sermon from Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric to begin the Nicene Creed Preaching Series at Duke Divinity School. He emphasized that the Nicene Creed is both a Pentecost profession and a peace proclamation:

Perhaps this is the season for untangling the Nicene Creed from state theology and church theology. Perhaps this is a task for a divinity school whose mission claims to 'engage in spiritually disciplined and academically rigorous education, in service and witness to the Triune God in the midst of the church, the academy, and the world.' ... Christ did not preach peace looking for recognition or awards. His life is a single extended sermon on peace. Peace is believing that our lowest point does not limit our highest hope, because we acknowledge the power of baptism, the possibility of repentance, and the forgiveness of sin. We believe. We believe. This is a Pentecost profession, a peace proclamation, and also a praise pronouncement.

This year we have joined with Christians around the world to commemorate the 17th centennial of the Council of Nicaea and the Nicene Creed. Duke Divinity scholars and ministry leaders published the book *Trinitarian Matters: 1700 Years of Shaping Christian Identity and Practice*. The school hosted two events to explore and learn from Nicaea: Convocation & Pastors' School, focused for those in church and vocational ministry; and "Visible and Invisible: Surprising Encounters in Theology and the Arts," with musical performances, poetry, and artistic expressions informed by the richness of the Nicene Creed.

Through God's sustaining grace, we continue to welcome students from across the nation and around the world to be trained for faithful ministries serving God. In 2025, we were joined by 219 students. The Master of Divinity program gained 120 new students in residential and hybrid programs, a 10 percent growth over last year. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled six new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 34; Master of Theology, seven; Master of Theological Studies, 32; the Doctor of Theology five; the Certificate in Theology and Health Care 14.

Duke Divinity is committed to facilitating clear and supportive pathways into theological education. We confirmed an MOU with Huntingdon College, reaffirming our mutual dedication to nurturing vocations, strengthening the United Methodist tradition, and investing in the next generation of Christian leaders.

We welcomed four new faculty this year: Jonathan Tran, professor of theological ethics; Natalie Carnes, professor of theology; Matthew Whelan, associate research professor of theology; and Nina Balmaceda, Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of the Practice of Reconciliation and director of the Center for Reconciliation.

Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist Church and partnership with this annual conference. We look forward to our work with you as we join in the task of preparing people for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Español:

La Escuela de Divinidad de Duke celebró su nonagésima novena Convocatoria de Apertura en agosto de 2025 con un sermón del decano Edgardo Colón-Emeric, dando así inicio a la Serie de Predicación del Credo Niceno. Colón-Emeric enfatizó que el Credo Niceno es tanto una profesión de Pentecostés como una proclamación de paz:

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Quizás esta sea la temporada para desenredar el Credo Niceno de la teología estatal y eclesiástica. Quizás esta sea una tarea para una escuela de teología cuya misión afirma 'participar en una educación espiritualmente disciplinada y académicamente rigurosa, en servicio y testimonio del Dios Trino en medio de la iglesia, la academia y el mundo'. ... Cristo no predicó la paz buscando reconocimiento ni premios. Su vida es un extenso sermón sobre la paz. La paz es creer que nuestro punto más bajo no limita nuestra mayor esperanza, porque reconocemos el poder del bautismo, la posibilidad del arrepentimiento y el perdón de los pecados. Creemos. Creemos. Esta es una profesión de Pentecostés, una proclamación de paz y también un pronunciamiento de alabanza.

Este año nos hemos unido a cristianos de todo el mundo para conmemorar el decimo séptimo centenario del Concilio de Nicea y el Credo Niceno. Los académicos y líderes ministeriales de la Escuela de Divinidad de Duke publicaron el libro "Asuntos Trinitarios: 1700 años moldeando la identidad y la práctica cristiana". La escuela organizó dos conferencias para explorar y aprender de Nicea: la Convocatoria y Escuela de Pastores, dirigida a quienes trabajan en la iglesia y en el ministerio vocacional; y "Visible e Invisible: Encuentros Sorprendentes en la Teología y las Artes", con presentaciones musicales, poesía y expresiones artísticas informadas por la riqueza del Credo Niceno.

Gracias a la gracia sustentadora de Dios, seguimos recibiendo estudiantes de todo el país y del mundo para capacitarles en ministerios fieles al servicio de Dios. En 2025, se nos unieron 219 estudiantes. El programa de Maestría en Divinidad incorporó a 120 nuevos estudiantes, tanto en el programa residencial como en el híbrido, lo que representa un crecimiento del 10 % respecto al año anterior. La Maestría en Artes en Práctica Cristiana inscribió a seis nuevos estudiantes; el Doctorado en Ministerio, a 34; la Maestría en Teología, a siete; la Maestría en Estudios Teológicos, a 32; el Doctorado en Teología a cinco; y el Certificado en Teología y Salud a 14.

La Escuela de Divinidad de Duke se compromete a facilitar caminos claros y de apoyo hacia la educación teológica. Confirmamos un memorando de entendimiento con Huntingdon College, reafirmando nuestra dedicación mutua a fomentar vocaciones, fortalecer la tradición metodista unida e invertir en la próxima generación de líderes cristianos.

Este año dimos la bienvenida a cuatro nuevos profesores: Jonathan Tran, profesor de ética teológica; Natalie Carnes, profesora de teología; Matthew Whelan, profesor asociado de investigación en teología; y Nina Balmaceda, profesora asociada de la práctica de la reconciliación y directora del Centro para la Reconciliación.

La Escuela de Divinidad de Duke continúa agradecida por su participación constante en la Iglesia Metodista Unida y por su colaboración con esta conferencia anual. Esperamos con ansias continuar trabajando con ustedes en la tarea de preparar personas para el ministerio cristiano. Para obtener más información sobre la Escuela de Divinidad de Duke, visite nuestro sitio web: www.divinity.duke.edu.

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY EVANSTON, ILLINOIS JAVIER A. VIERA, PRESIDENT

Garrett Seminary continues to embody a trajectory of growth, innovation, and deepening partnership across the connection. Rooted in its Wesleyan heritage and animated by its mission to form courageous leaders in the way of Jesus, the seminary looks toward the future with confidence and hope.

For the fifth consecutive year, Garrett welcomed an entering class that reflects sustained enrollment growth. This steady expansion signals renewed confidence in our approach to theological education and

in Garrett's distinctive role within The United Methodist Church and the global Christian community. The newest students represent geographic and cultural breadth, coming from across the United States and more than twenty countries throughout the worldwide connection. They prepare for ministry in congregations, chaplaincy settings, nonprofit leadership, academia, and mission contexts, reflecting the increasingly diverse and global nature of the Church's leadership needs.

In response to the evolving realities of ministry and lifelong learning, Garrett launched The Garrett Collective, a comprehensive digital platform offering theological resources, courses, learning experiences, and stackable microcredentials. Designed to serve laity and clergy alike, The Garrett Collective expands access to high-quality theological education in multiple languages and modalities. Content is curated and developed in partnership with annual conferences, congregations, and mission-driven organizations to address expressed needs across the connection. This initiative strengthens ongoing professional development for clergy, equips lay leaders for faithful witness, and extends Garrett's reach to communities that may not otherwise have access to formal theological study. The Garrett Collective represents a significant step toward greater accessibility, affordability, and contextual responsiveness in theological education.

The seminary also announced a historic agreement with its long-standing campus partner, Northwestern University. Through this agreement, Garrett will relocate to newly designed, state-of-the-art facilities on the southern end of campus. These buildings will support the seminary's increasingly multi-modal student body—those studying on campus, in hybrid formats, and in fully immersive online programs from across the nation and around the world. The new facilities will allow Garrett to invest more fully in vibrant residential theological formation while simultaneously expanding global access through digital and hybrid degree offerings. This agreement reflects a deep and mutual commitment between the seminary and the university, positioning both institutions for a strong and collaborative future. Most importantly, it enables Garrett to remain focused on mission-driven initiatives for generations to come.

Garrett Seminary remains deeply committed to the vitality of The United Methodist Church. Through enrollment growth, digital innovation, historic institutional partnerships, and expanding grant-supported initiatives, the seminary is strengthening its capacity to serve the Church in a season of significant transition and opportunity. Guided by the conviction that God continues to call and equip leaders for this moment, Garrett looks forward to continued partnership with annual conferences, congregations, and ministries across the connection.

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

LEAWOOD, KANSAS & OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

JAY K. SIMMONS, PRESIDENT

What does God require of us? To act justly, love mercifully, and walk humbly with God. At Saint Paul School of Theology, this call from Micah 6:8 shapes everything we do—from preparing pastors to serve rural communities to fostering a beloved community where all belong. Centered in Christ and rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, we are committed to forming innovative leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

A Year of Growth and Vitality

2025 has been marked by remarkable momentum. Our Course of Study School educated 248 students—a 6% increase—with 628 course registrations, representing a 14% growth. These servant leaders are making a tangible difference: 42% serve rural communities with populations under 2,500, and twenty-two students serve as pastors of three or more churches. We celebrated twenty-one students completing the 20-course program, equipping them for licensed ministry.

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Seminary enrollment grew by 9%, with a 33% increase in new students for Fall 2025. Our commitment to diversity is bearing fruit, with 29% racial diversity among students and almost even gender distribution. Students from thirty-one states and 220 cities connect with us through flexible online and hybrid learning options, while sixteen graduates of the Course of Study School have transitioned into our degree programs.

Living Our Strategic Vision

Our Board of Trustees has recently endorsed a strategic plan that reflects our values and responds to the changing contexts of the church and the world. We are striving to become a beloved community that embodies belonging, justice, equity, and inclusion. Our new Doctor of Ministry track in Spirituality, Innovation, and Adaptive Leadership exemplifies this vision, developing change agents grounded in contemplative spirituality and equipped with emotional intelligence and intercultural competence. These same principles permeate our Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Ministry programs.

Saint Paul remains financially healthy, operating with a balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment ten times our annual expenses. This sustainability, rooted in community donations, enables us to invest in scholarships, technology, and evolving academic programs that serve our students and the church.

Looking Ahead

In 2026, we are strengthening our foundation and expanding our horizons by cultivating a vibrant alum network—a lifelong professional and spiritual home. Through mentorship, resource sharing, and collaborative ministry, we are building a dynamic ecosystem that empowers graduates from their first day of classes through retirement and beyond.

Saint Paul School of Theology invites you to join us in this journey of formation, innovation, and transformation. Together, we are preparing leaders who embody justice, mercy, and humility as they serve Christ and His church.

UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

DAYTON, OHIO

KENT MILLARD, PRESIDENT

Since 1871, United Theological Seminary has prepared faithful and fruitful Christian leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the seminary served 642 graduate students, 275 doctoral and 375 masters,* reflecting approximately 30 percent enrollment growth since 2021 and placing United among the largest United Methodist seminaries in the United States.

A diverse community of many denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from thirty-eight states, twenty-four nations, and fifty-four denominations, with United Methodists representing the largest denominational group within the student body.

Academics

United's academic programs remain grounded in the historic Christian faith, scriptural holiness, and a commitment to the renewal of the church, preparing graduates to serve with wisdom, integrity, and hope.

United introduced a Doctor of Theology in 2024 to support pastor-scholars called to ministry at the intersection of the church and academy. The new degree program welcomed thirteen students in its first year.

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The seminary's Doctor of Ministry program continues to attract experienced ministry leaders seeking advanced professional education focused on faithful leadership. In the 2024-25 school year, 262 students participated in the mentor-led program.

Master's programs include eight houses of study, serving nearly 200 students in the United States and around the world, with programs offered in English, Spanish and Korean. In July 2025, 11 students attended the first Contextual Ministry Retreat for the African House of Study, held at the Kenya Methodist Conference Center in Nairobi. The Hispanic House of Study will celebrate its first class of graduates in May 2026, with candidates from across the United States, Mexico, Colombia, and Peru.

Through rigorous scholarship, intentional mentoring, worship, and community life, as well as practical engagement with the church's needs, academic life at United advances the seminary's vision of Spirit-led leaders, a Christ-like Church, and a transformed world.

Finances

United continues to focus on reducing the educational debt of its students. The Fresh Wind Campaign to raise \$10 million for the endowment is expanding scholarship opportunities for current and future students. The campaign has raised more than \$9 million toward this goal, by the grace of God and through the generosity of alumni/ae, churches, and friends of the seminary.

Looking Ahead

United enters the coming years with gratitude for God's faithfulness and confidence in God's future. Several senior leaders have answered new calls, and President Dr. Kent Millard has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2026, concluding ten years of service marked by encouragement, vision, and stability. A Presidential Search Committee is at work to identify United's next president, who will begin service on July 1, 2026.

Trusting God's promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "I am about to do a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19), United remains committed to preparing Christian leaders who boldly proclaim the gospel and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

WASHINGTON, DC

REV. DR. DAVID MCALLISTER-WILSON, PRESIDENT

Wesley Theological Seminary (Wesley DC) remains steadfast in its mission to equip persons for Christian ministry and leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a prophetic voice in the public square. In a season marked by institutional change, civic uncertainty, and renewed hope for the United Methodist Church, Wesley DC actively forms leaders who are spiritually grounded, intellectually rigorous, and engaged with the world God loves through the following programs.

Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Theological Studies Degrees: Wesley DC offers Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Master of Theological Studies degrees through residential, hybrid, and fully online formats. Our programs serve a diverse student body representing a wide range of denominations, cultural contexts, and vocational callings. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/study/>

Doctor of Ministry Degree: Wesley DC remains one of the largest Doctor of Ministry programs in the United States and serves experienced ministerial leaders from across the world. In May 2025, ten chaplains from southern Africa graduated through a landmark partnership with Africa University, reflecting Wesley DC's growing global reach. New tracks in Church Leadership Excellence, Soul Care,

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Global Church Leadership, and others begin in 2027. Learn more about how you can grow in wisdom and leadership at: <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/program/>.

Ministry Certificates and Lifelong Learning: Wesley Pathways for Ministry offers online courses and certificates to help you discover your passion for ministry and strengthen your leadership skills, whether you are a layperson or a pastor. Courses and certificates help people gain ministry and leadership skills for church, community, and specialized ministry settings. <https://www.wesleypathways.com/>

The Hub for (Re)imagining Ministry: Is your church ready to engage new generations or journey toward thriving in new ways? The Hub is currently accepting applications for its Engaging Young Adults nationwide, virtual cohort for congregations beginning August 2026, and will be recruiting new cohorts of congregations for Bringing Church Home (helping churches better accompany and support parents/caregivers in sharing their faith) and Children of Faith (helping churches center children in worship and formation) in fall 2026. The Hub is also entering into partnerships with UMC districts and annual conferences, equipping leaders to experiment, learn, and adapt faithfully in their local contexts. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/>

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership: The Lewis Center welcomed Rev. Dr. Jonathan Page as its new Director in 2025. Dr. Page brings deep experience in leadership development across ecclesial and secular contexts and is guiding the Center into its next chapter of service to the Church. Through its widely read Leading Ideas newsletter and the Leading Ideas Talks podcast, the Lewis Center reaches thousands of leaders across the denomination. <https://www.churchleadership.com/>

Wesley Theological Seminary remains deeply committed to the United Methodist Church and to the formation of leaders who serve with humility, imagination, and courage. As the Church continues to discern its future, Wesley stands ready—faithful to its mission, responsive to the moment, and hopeful in God’s ongoing work. For the Church. For the world. For such a time as this.

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Statistical Reports

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP JAN 1, 2025	178,825
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Members Received:

Professions of Faith	985
Professions of Faith Other Confirm.	1461
Affirmation	193
Correct Previous Year	513
Transfer from another UMC	1342
Transfer from non-UMC	1126
Received from closed UMC	32

Total Members Received 2025	5652
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Members removed:

Charge Conference	2049
Withdrawn	730
Correct Previous Year	3115
Transfer to another UMC	1058
Transfer to non-UMC	448
Death	1768

Total Members Removed 2025	9168
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TOTAL MEMBERSHIP DEC 31, 2025	174,382
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Ethnic breakdown

Asian	1558
Black	9975
Hispanic	4171
Native American	156
Pacific Islander	403
White	149,488
Multi-Racial	7395

Attendance at Weekly Worship

In-Person Worship	43,202
Online Worship	43,175
Total Worship Attendance	86,377

Church School Average Attendance	18,912
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Forms

Most forms for annual conference can be filled out either electronically or printed and filled out by hand.

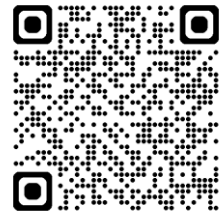
Request to Remove Item from Consent Calendar

Online Version: <https://htcumc.jotform.com/260563833359969>



Amendment -- Correction – Motion

Online Version: <https://htcumc.jotform.com/251883782354972>



Greetings or Sympathy from the Annual Conference

Online Version: <https://htcumc.jotform.com/261104931316953>



Clergy Request for Excused Absence

Online Version: <https://htcumc.jotform.com/260545079625058>



Texas Hotel Occupancy Tax Exemption Certificate

Online Version: https://ctc-email.brtaapp.com/files/annual_conference/htc+texas+hotel+occupancy+tax+exemption+certificate.pdf



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REQUEST TO REMOVE ITEM FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

To remove one specific item from the consent calendar, the request must meet the following criteria:

1. A completed [request form](#) affirmed by five (5) voting members of the annual conference proposing the specific item be removed, and;
2. The request must be submitted to the conference secretary **by noon on Mon, June 1, 2026**.

Date:	Time:	Preliminary Workbook Page #:
Item Requested to be Removed:		
Explanation (optional):		
Member 1 Name (printed and signed):		
Member 1 Church Name and City:		
Member 2 Name (printed and signed):		
Member 2 Church Name and City:		
Member 3 Name (printed and signed):		
Member 3 Church Name and City:		
Member 4 Name (printed and signed):		
Member 4 Church Name and City:		
Member 5 Name (printed and signed):		
Member 5 Church Name and City:		

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AMENDMENT -- CORRECTION -- MOTION

Please circle the appropriate use of the form above, or [submit the electronic version](#).

HORIZON TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Submit this copy to the conference secretary)

Date	Time	Preliminary Workbook Page No.
Report Being Addressed:		
Wording:		
Member's Signature:		
Church:		
Address:		
City, Zip:		

GREETINGS OR SYMPATHY FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

To send a message of greeting or sympathy from The Horizon Texas Conference, please fill out this form and submit to the Conference Secretary ([electronic version](#)).

Person(s) to receive the message:

Recipient's address

Please enter the address where the recipient can receive the message. If in a hospital or care facility, please provide the name and address.

Reason for the Message:

Check one of the options below.

- ☐ Get Well
- ☐ Sympathy for death of: _____
- ☐ Congratulations for: _____
- ☐ Absence from HTC AC due to: _____
- ☐ Other, please explain: _____

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CLERGY REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

HORIZON TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2020-24 Book of Discipline ¶602.8 “It is the duty of every member and all provisional members and local pastors of the annual conference to attend its sessions and furnish such reports in such form as the Discipline may require. Any such person unable to attend shall report by letter to the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence. Should any ordained minister in active service be absent from the session of the annual conference without a satisfactory reason for the absence, the matter shall be referred by the conference secretary to the Board of Ordained Ministry.”

Name _____ Conference Relationship _____

Current Email Address _____

Current District _____ Current Appointment _____

I will be absent: _____ Entire Annual conference *or*

Day(s) _____ Date _____ Time _____

Place and telephone number where I may be reached during times of absence:

(Telephone)

(Place)

Reason for absence:

Date _____ Signature _____

Mail to: Conference Secretary, PO Box 50517, Fort Worth, TX 76105
or sign, scan, and email to kevinwalters@htcumc.org and andylewis@htcumc.org

FOR CONFERENCE SECRETARY'S USE ONLY

Date
Received _____ Time _____

Presiding
Signature _____ Bishop's

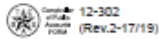
Conference
Signature _____ Secretary's

_____ Satisfactory _____ Referred to the Board of Ordained Ministry ¶

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HOTEL TAX EXEMPTION FORM

Hotel reservations are to be made by each individual member to the annual conference. The following form is a "[Hotel Tax Exemption Form](#)" for use in reducing the tax paid or hotel occupancy during annual conference. Fill out the form and submit it to the hotel when you check in.



Texas Hotel Occupancy Tax Exemption Certificate

Provide completed certificate to hotel to claim exemption from hotel tax. Hotel operators should request a photo ID, business card or other document to verify a guest's affiliation with the exempt entity. Employees of exempt entities traveling on official business can pay in any manner. For non-employees to be exempt, the exempt entity must provide a completed certificate and pay the hotel with its funds (e.g., exempt entity check, credit card or direct billing). This certificate does not need a number to be valid.

Name of exempt entity Horizon Texas Annual Conference or the United Methodist Ch	Exempt entity status (Religious, charitable, educational, governmental) RELIGIOUS
Address of exempt organization (Street and number) PO BOX 866128	
City, State, ZIP code PLANO, TX 75086	

Guest certification: I declare that I am an occupant of this hotel on official business sanctioned by the exempt organization named above and that all information shown on this document is true and correct. I further understand that it is a criminal offense to issue an exemption certificate to a hotel that I know will be used in a manner that does not qualify for the exemptions found in the hotel occupancy tax and other laws. The offense may range from a Class C misdemeanor to a felony of the second degree.

Guest name (Type or print)	Hotel name	
Guest signature 	Date	

Exemption claimed

Check the box for the exemption claimed. See Rule 3.161: Definitions, Exemptions, and Exemption Certificate.

- ☐ **United States Federal Agencies or Foreign Diplomats.** Details of this exemption category are on back of form. This category is exempt from state and local hotel tax.
- ☐ **Texas State Government Officials and Employees.** (An individual must present a Hotel Tax Exemption Photo ID Card). Details of this exemption category are on back of form. This limited category is exempt from state and local hotel tax. Note: State agencies and city, county or other local government entities and officials or employees are not exempt from state or local hotel tax, even when traveling on official business.
- ☐ **Charitable Entities.** (Comptroller-issued letter of exemption required.) Details of this exemption category are on back of form. This category is exempt from state hotel tax, but not local hotel tax.
- ☐ **Educational Entities.** Details of this exemption category are on back of form. This category is exempt from state hotel tax, but not local hotel tax.
- ☒ **Religious Entities.** (Comptroller-issued letter of exemption required.) Details of this exemption category are on back of form. This category is exempt from state hotel tax, but not local hotel tax.
- ☐ **Exempt by Other Federal or State Law.** Details of this exemption category are on back of form. This category is exempt from state and local hotel tax.

Permanent Resident Exemption (30 consecutive days): An exemption certificate is not required for the permanent resident exemption. A permanent resident is exempt the day the guest has given written notice or reserves a room for at least 30 consecutive days and the guest stays for 30 consecutive days, beginning on the reservation date. Otherwise, a permanent resident is exempt on the 31st consecutive day of the stay and is not entitled to a tax refund on the first 30 days. Any interruption in the resident's right to occupy a room voids the exemption. A permanent resident is exempt from state and local hotel tax.

Hotels should keep all records, including completed exemption certificates, for four years.

Do NOT send this form to the Comptroller of Public Accounts.