South Central Jurisdictional Conference
The United Methodist Church
Wichita, Kansas  □  July 13–16, 2016

The Christian Advocate
Volume XI, No. 1
THE CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE is published and mailed to delegates, reserves, Bishops, Judicial Council members and Mission Council members prior to the Jurisdictional Conference.

Please bring this copy of the Christian Advocate to the Jurisdictional Conference.
A limited supply of additional copies will be available at a cost of $20 each.
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To: Bishops, Delegates, Observers and Friends of the South Central Jurisdiction

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On behalf of the Great Plains Conference, welcome to Wichita! We are pleased to be hosting this important gathering where we will prayerfully confer about the future of The United Methodist Movement in our eight states.

In forming a new annual conference, our three predecessors thought carefully about what it means to be a connection of vital congregations. We decided to focus on four priorities: 1) enhancing the ministry of local churches through Christ centered excellence in youth ministry, preaching and worship, engaging the community, and transforming service, 2) starting new churches, 3) leadership development and 4) global mission partnerships.

We are a diverse conference with many different ethnic groups represented. We have over 1,000 congregations including some of the smallest and some of the largest churches in the UMC. Our states are known for raising corn, wheat and cattle, but we also build airplanes, GPS systems and other high-tech products.

We pray that our Jurisdictional Conference is a Spirit-filled time of discernment, fellowship and worship. We seek to do all that we can to help make it so.

Grace and peace,

Scott J. Jones
Dear Friends in Christ,

As Chair of the Host Committee, let me be among the first to welcome you to the 2016 South Central Jurisdictional Conference in Wichita, Kansas. This is the first jurisdictional conference hosted by the Great Plains Annual Conference, which was formed in 2014, and we want to do all that we can to make your experience memorable.

Our theme for this conference is “Rejoice in the Harvest.” The choice of theme not only reflects some of the agricultural heritage of Kansas and Nebraska, but also serves as a reminder of the mission field in which we all serve. The decisions which will be made here have immeasurable impact on the work that we do in our communities, which are, in biblical language, “ripe for the harvest.” All around our jurisdiction we can point to those places where God is helping us to produce more fruit than we ever imagined. It is that spirit of both deep need and great possibility that I pray will guide your work together.

Our talented and dedicated Host Committee has been working hard, especially the past year, to make your visit a pleasant one. Please seek one of the Hosts out at any time we can offer assistance or answer questions. Or, if we can assist you before you arrive, don’t hesitate to contact me at the Wichita number listed below.

Many blessings,

Rev. Evelyn Fisher
Director of Congregational Excellence
Great Plains Annual Conference
efisher@greatplainsumc.org
July 2016

South Central Jurisdictional Conference of the
United Methodist Church, Wichita, Kansas

It is a pleasure to welcome the attendees of the South Central Jurisdictional Conference to our great city. On behalf of the 383,000 citizens of Wichita and the Wichita City Council, I extend warm greetings to all of you!

As you gather for this conference, I want to especially acknowledge the advice that the author of Hebrews gave in 10: 24 – 25 (NIV): And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The countless hours of preparing for, and traveling to, this conference will harvest great rewards. Wichita is a city full of good people that will help you feel at home as we take much pride in our hospitality. We also have great shopping, wonderful museums, and other points of interest within a mile radius of the Hyatt Regency. If you're feeling adventurous, you can easily access Highway 54, or what we call Kellogg, and be in other areas of our city within 5 - 15 minutes.

Remember that July in Kansas can easily heat up, so take care, drink lots of our great tasting water, and enjoy the fellowship of your conference.

Respectfully,

Jeff Longwell,
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

City Hall • 1st Floor • 455 N. Main • Wichita, Kansas 67202-1698
T 316.268.4331 • F 316.858-7743
July 2016

South Central Jurisdictional Conference of the
United Methodist Church, Wichita, Kansas

What a delight it is to warmly welcome you to First United Methodist Church in the heart of downtown Wichita, Kansas. The staff and congregation are excited to offer hospitality to all the attendees of the 2016 South Central Jurisdictional Conference.

It is a privilege to serve as the location for both the service of Holy Communion and Memorial service on Wednesday, July 13 and the Service of Consecration on Saturday, July 16. First United Methodist Church is honored to provide our facilities as sacred space for these holy moments of the Conference. We are grateful to be located near the Hyatt Regency Hotel for your convenience.

Also, one of our outreach ministries is Mead’s Corner located at the corner of Douglas and Emporia, which serves a great cup of coffee and some pretty tasty gelato. Please feel free to drop by and experience this ministry’s hospitality.

The prayers of our congregation will be lifting you up during your time in Wichita as you engage in holy conferencing and elect our new Episcopal leadership.

Graced to Serve,

Reverend Cindy Watson, senior pastor
Section I—General Information

History of the South Central Jurisdiction

The South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church was created by the Uniting Conference of 1939, meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. This Conference re-united the three divisions of Methodism that had existed for almost a hundred years.

In 1968 the Uniting Conference created from the Methodist and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, met in Dallas, Texas to form The United Methodist Church.

There are ten Annual Conferences in eight States—Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. By action of the General Conference in 1968 the SCJ area also includes a small strip of Northeastern Arizona that encompasses the Navajo Indian Nation.

There are 108 Lay and 108 clergy for a total of 216 elected voting delegates to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference, and 62 Reserve. This is forty elected delegates less than in 2012.

Total Male = 63%  Female = 37% (in 2012 it was 60/40)
Reserves—Male = 55%  Female = 45%
Clergy delegates—Male = 70%  Female = 30%
33% are new as Jurisdictional delegates, or were not in delegation in 2012

Secretaries/Directors of the Mission Council and its predecessors:

1944–1961  Dr. Paul D. Womeldorf  Central Kansas
1961–1972  Dr. Virgil D. Morris  Louisiana
1972–1985  Dr. S. Duane Bruce  N W Texas
1992–1998  Dr. Ray L. Branton  Louisiana
1998–2004  Dr. Thalia F. Matherson  North Texas
2005–2016  Dr. David L. Severe  Oklahoma
2016—  Rev. Brian Bakeman  Oklahoma

The South Central Jurisdiction owns three institutions:

- Southern Methodist University & Perkins School of Theology—Dallas, Texas
- Lydia Patterson Institute—El Paso, Texas
- Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center—Fayetteville, Arkansas
AGENDA

(All meetings will be in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, unless otherwise noted.)

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. College of Bishops  
12:00 Noon Host Committee Luncheon  
3:00 p.m. Nominations Committee—Bishop Robert Schnase  
4:00 p.m. Secretarial Training—Bishop Robert Hayes  
6:30 p.m. Episcopal Family Dinner

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Episcopacy Committee  
8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Nominations Committee  
9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Bishops’ Spouses Activity

10:00 a.m. Registration opens

- Committee on Journal—Bishop Gary Mueller  
- Training of Tellers—Bishop Scott Jones

1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Jurisdictional Committee Meetings:

*Courtesies and Privileges—Bishop Janice Huie
*Conference Boundaries—Bishop Mike Lowry
*Petitions and Resolutions—Bishop Earl Bledsoe

3:30 p.m. Orientation and practice using voting devices

4:00 p.m. Press Briefing—Bishop Michael McKee

5:30 p.m. Rehearsal for Holy Communion & Memorial Service

7:00 p.m. Holy Communion and Memorial Service

Thursday, July 14, 2016

8:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
8:30–9:30 a.m. Reception honoring Episcopal families

10:00 a.m. Conference Session

- Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, presiding
- Bishop Mike Lowry
- Bishop Scott Jones

10:15 a.m. Recess (30 minutes)

10:30 a.m. Conference Session

- Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, presiding
- Bishop Mike Lowry
- Bishop Scott Jones

Noon Lunch (Laity Luncheon in the Riverview Ballroom)
2:00 p.m. Conference Session Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr., presiding
SMU Report and Election of Trustees Dr. Gerald Turner
Jurisdiction Youth Ministry (JYMO)
  Ballot # 5 and recess
  Ballot # 6 and recess
  Ballot # 7 and recess
  Ballot # 8 and no recess
3:00 p.m. Break (30 minutes)
3:30 p.m. Lydia Patterson Institute Report Socorro de Anda
Finance and Administration Report # 1 Bill Junk and Jada Hodgson
Report from the Mission Council Jim Welch
Report of the Jurisdictional Treasurer and vouchers Bill Junk
Executive Director’s Report David Severe
Introduction of New Executive Director, Rev. Brian Bakeman
  Ballot # 9 and recess
  Ballot # 10 and recess
  Ballot # 11 and no recess
4:45 Order of the day Celebration of Disciple Bible Courses
5:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Conference Session Bishop Robert Schnase, presiding
Volunteers in Mission Report Larry Norman and Audrey Phelps
Finance and Administration Report # 2—Budget Bill Junk and Jada Hodgson
  Ballot # 12 and recess
  Ballot # 13 and recess
  Ballot # 14 and recess
United Methodist Women Edna Hickman
United Methodist Men Kenneth Tielke
Courtesies and Privileges Report
9:30 p.m. Evening adjournment

Friday, July 15, 2016
8:00 a.m. Morning Worship Rev. Junius Dotson Plenary Ballroom
Conference Session Bishop Scott Jones, presiding
Journal Report # 1
  Ballot # 15 and recess
  Ballot # 16 and recess
  Ballot # 17 and recess
Korean Ministry Rev. Chung Kim
Special Report on Mission 21 Study Bishop Mike Lowry
Committee on Conference Boundaries
Committee on Nominations Report
Presentation of Ecumenical Representatives Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey
9:40 a.m. Break (20 minutes) (Committees on Investigation and Appeals organize.)
10:00 a.m. Order of the day—Service Honoring Retiring Bishops Bishop Gary Mueller, presiding
11:00 a.m. Conference Session Bishop Earl Bledsoe, presiding
Presentation of Bishops’ spouses Don House
Greetings from the Council of Bishops Bishop Robert Fannin, SEJ
Committee on Petitions and Resolutions
  Ballot # 18 and recess
  Ballot # 19 and recess
  Ballot # 20 and no recess
Noon Lunch (Old and new Mission Council luncheon) Osage Room
2:00 p.m. Conference Session Bishop Mike Lowry, presiding
  Ballot # 21 and recess
  Ballot # 22 and recess

2016 Christian Advocate, South Central Jurisdiction
5:00 p.m. Recess
5:30 p.m. Dinner for Bishops and Delegates Red Bud A B C
6:30–8:00 p.m. **Order of the Day** Area Host Celebration  **Century II Center**
8:30 p.m. Conference Session Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, presiding

(As soon as last Episcopal election is completed, we will be in recess until the Episcopacy Committee is ready to make their final report.)

Episcopacy Committee Report Assignment of Bishops Don House
Courtesies and privileges Report
Adjournment of 2016 Jurisdictional Conference business

**Saturday, July 16, 2016**

7:00 a.m. Area Breakfasts (Each delegation to make their own arrangements.)
8:30 Rehearsal for Consecration Service First United Methodist
College of Bishops formal photo session
10:00 a.m. Buses load for First United Methodist Church
**10:30 a.m. Service of Consecration of new Bishops** First United Methodist
Presiding: Bishop Michael McKee
Preaching: Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr.
Reception for new Bishops Meredith Hall
Noon Adjourn

(Buses will load for the Hyatt 20 minutes after adjournment.)
# Schedule of Meetings, Rooms and Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Meeting Room</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, July 12, 2016</strong></td>
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<td>9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>College of Bishops</td>
<td>Board Room</td>
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<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Host Committee Luncheon</td>
<td>Osage Room</td>
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<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Nominations Committee—Bishop Schnase</td>
<td>Maple Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Secretarial Training—Bishop Hayes</td>
<td>Willow Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Episcopal Family Dinner</td>
<td>Bishop Jones’ Home</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, July 13, 2016</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Episcopacy Committee</td>
<td>Board Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nominations Committee</td>
<td>Maple Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bishops’ Spouses Activity</td>
<td>Off site</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration opens</td>
<td>Next to Ballroom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bishops’ Lounge open</td>
<td>Birch Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Committee on Journal—Bishop Mueller</td>
<td>Birch Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Training of Tellers—Bishop Jones</td>
<td>Osage Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Jurisdictional Committees Meet</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Courtesies and Privileges—Bishop Huie</td>
<td>Cypress A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Annual Conference Boundaries—Bishop Lowry</td>
<td>Cypress B</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Petitions and Resolutions—Bishop Bledsoe</td>
<td>Redbud A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Practice using voting devices*</td>
<td>Plenary Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Press Briefing—Bishop McKee</td>
<td>Eagle F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Coach Buses load for First UMC</td>
<td>Drive in front of Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, July 14, 2016</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Laity Luncheon</td>
<td>Riverview Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Celebration of Disciple Bible Study</td>
<td>Hall in front of Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, July 15, 2016</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 a.m. Break</td>
<td>Committee on Investigation organizes in front of Section A—Ballroom</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Committee on Appeals organizes in front of Section B—Ballroom</td>
<td>Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Old and New Mission Council Luncheon</td>
<td>Osage Room</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The voting devices we will use are different from those we had in 2012.*
ORGANIZING MOTIONS OF THE SECRETARY

1. I move that the portion of the Grand Eagle Ballroom designated by the seated delegates in Section A, B and C, including the platform, be the Bar of the Conference.

2. I move that the Chair of each delegation verify attendance of the delegates of their Conference and send information regarding substitutions on the provided form to the Secretary of the Conference.

3. I move the printed agenda and errata changes be the official agenda of The Conference and that the presiding Bishop be authorized to make such changes as may be necessary to complete the business of the Conference.

4. I move that the Committees of The Conference, including the Tellers, be duly elected as listed in The Christian Advocate and errata, with such changes in membership as reported to the convening bishop or committee chair.

5. I move the election of Dr. David L. Severe as Secretary of the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference and the assistant secretaries, Gary Brooks, Cathy Cole, Deanna Holland, Penney Schwab and Bette Trumble.

6. I move that LUMI INSIGHT TECHNOLOGIES of Minneapolis, MN, be utilized for the electronic taking, counting and reporting the results of Episcopal election ballots to the secretary and presiding officer.

7. I move that GNTV of Macon, GA, be utilized for video and sound services for this conference.

8. I move that the reports be presented to The Conference by the individuals and groups so named in The Christian Advocate.

9. I move that all reports duly included in The Christian Advocate and Errata go to record at the conclusion of the Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

David Severe,
Secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference
Alphabetical List of Delegates and Reserves

-A-
Aderholt, Robert  Great Plains
Aguila, Pete  Louisiana
Ahischwede, Stephanie  Great Plains
Alfred, Darlene  Central Texas
Allen, Maxine  Arkansas
Allen, Sterling  Texas
Alston, Ellen  Louisiana
Anderson, Zach  Great Plains
Avitia, Edgar  Rio Texas

-B-
Baccus, Steve  Great Plains
Bakeman, Brian  Oklahoma
Bandel, Holly  North Texas
Bass, Jim  Texas
Bates, Brandon  Arkansas
Beard, Herschel  Oklahoma
Bennett, D.A.  Oklahoma
Biggerstaff, Randy  Missouri
Bonner, Byrd  Rio Texas
Bousson, Eduardo  Great Plains
Breon, Steve  Missouri
Brewster, Dixie  Great Plains
Briggs, Margie  Missouri
Brin, Jay  Missouri
Briones, Minerva  Oklahoma
Broadbent, Lesly  Oklahoma
Brown, Bill  Texas
Brown, Marianne  Central Texas
Brumbaugh, Susan  New Mexico

-Bruster, Tim
Bryan, Andy  Missouri
Burgess, Sue  Ok Indian Missionary
Burris, Todd  Arkansas
Bush, David  Arkansas
Bynum, Jonathan  Texas

-C-
Calcote, Tammy  Missouri
Calderon, Chelsea  New Mexico
Campbell, Kylie  Central Texas
Carpenter, Kelly  North Texas
Carr, Louis  Central Texas
Clark, Timmy  North Texas
Cleaver, III, Emanuel  Missouri
Clemens, Reggie
Coleman, Justin  Texas
Collier, Cody  Texas
Conner, Jim  Missouri
Cosby, Stan  Central Texas

-Crawford, Ray  Oklahoma
Crouch, Tim  North Texas
Crump, Debra  Central Texas

-D-
Davis, Debra  Oklahoma
Davis, Jan  North Texas
Dawson, Ahnawake  Oklahoma
Day, Pat  Louisiana
Debus, Gretchen Toler  North Texas
Deere, Josephine  Ok Indian Missionary
Deupree, Darcy  Central Texas
Deville, Terrel  Louisiana
Deviney, Aislinn  Rio Texas
Deviney, Thomas  Rio Texas
Dotson, Junius  Great Plains

-Dove, Carolyn
Dowling, Jim  Louisiana
Dunn, Katye  Missouri

-E-
Eckert, Serena  North Texas
Edwards, Richard  Northwest Texas
Embrey, John  Arkansas
Enns, Ron  Northwest Texas
Erwin, Eddie  Texas
Escamilla, Paul  Rio Texas
Estes, Jr., Clarence  Texas
Estes, Pam  Arkansas
Ezell, Kathy  Central Texas

-F-
Fagan, Larry  Missouri
Fairly, Jr., Rob  Louisiana
Farr, Bob  Missouri
Feagins, Raquel Cajiri  Rio Texas
Feltz, Amy  Northwest Texas
Fink, Elizabeth  Arkansas
Fisher, Jeff  Northwest Texas
Fowler, Courtney  Great Plains
Frederick, Austin  Rio Texas
Fulton, Kent  Oklahoma

-G-
Garza, Oscar  Texas
Gately, Wesley  Great Plains
Gatobu, Anne  Great Plains
Gilbert, Janice  Texas
Gilts, Kip  Texas
Goff, Andrew  Louisiana
Green, Oliver  Great Plains
Greenwood, Lisa  North Texas
Gregory, Ethan  Central Texas
Gregory, Kevin  Central Texas

–H–

Hamilton, Adam  Great Plains
Hammons, Brian  Missouri
Haney, Mary Bell  New Mexico
Hanke, Gil  Texas
Harker, Linda  Oklahoma
Harker, Tom  Central Texas
Harris, Joe  Oklahoma
Harris, Vincent  Texas
Harrison, Larry  Rio Texas
Harrison, Ricky  North Texas
Harrison, Tom  Oklahoma
Hawkins, Stacy  Texas
Hay, Esther  Great Plains
Hayden, Karen  Missouri
Hayes, Chris  Central Texas
Hayes, Terrence  Rio Texas
Harkrider, Tom  North Texas
Harker, Linda  Oklahoma
Harkrider, Tom  Central Texas

–K–

Keese, Teresa  Rio Texas
Kim, Don  Oklahoma
Kim, Kibum  Great Plains
King, Donel  Texas
Kotan, Kay  Missouri
Kreutziger, Sarah  Louisiana

–L–

La Grone, Jessica  Texas
Lee, Ouida  North Texas
Leeper, Karelle  Great Plains
Lessner, Henry  North Texas
Levingston, Kenneth  Texas
Lippoldt, Amy  Great Plains
Livingston, David  Great Plains
Loeb, Carol  Rio Texas
Long, Bob  Oklahoma
Lopez, Robert  Rio Texas

–M–

Malloy, Tish  Oklahoma
Malone, Jr., T. Lynn  Louisiana
Mann, Karon  Arkansas
Mantooth, Rick  Rio Texas
Matthis, Morris  Texas
Maupin, Lisa  Great Plains
Mclver, Steve  Central Texas
Mckellar, John  Central Texas
Meister, Shannon  Missouri
Merrill, Laura  Rio Texas
Miles, John  Arkansas
Miles, Rebekah  Arkansas
Millar, Karen  Arkansas
Miller, Russell  Rio Texas
Miofsky, Matt  Missouri
Mitchell, Earl  Oklahoma
Mitchell, James  Louisiana
Morrison, Tim  North Texas
Murray, Murphy  Northwest Texas

–N–

Nichols, Sarah  Oklahoma
Nicholson, Trista Soendker  Missouri
Nicklas, Cara  Oklahoma
Nord, Carl  Great Plains
Norman, Mark  Arkansas
Nunn, Jimmy  Northwest Texas

–O–

Oliphant, Clayton  North Texas
Olive, Jeff  Texas
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olsen, Keith</td>
<td>Great Plains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ortegon, Letty</td>
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<td>Central Texas</td>
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<td>Ok Indian Missionary</td>
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2016 Christian Advocate, South Central Jurisdiction 23
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Layloni Drake Al Lindsey Jim Welch Becky Hensley
Sue Burgess Phillis McCarty Daniel Garcia

Class of 2020
John Crawford Rick Just Galen Wray Ron Enns
Ouida Lee Daniel Tijerina Rosalie Bonner

By Office
Bishop Cynthia Harvey Bishop Gary Mueller Leah Taylor
Frances Long Kelly Carpenter Kwang Ba Park
Kathie Mann

Note: Because of the reduction of Annual Conferences, the 2020–2024 Mission Council will have fewer members. Galen Wray and Rick Just are both in the Great Plains Conference. Galen has graciously resigned. Rosalie Bonner no longer is a member of the Annual Conference from which she was nominated. The Nominations Committee will sort this out and present a slate during our Conference.

HOST COMMITTEE

Bishop Scott Jones Evelyn Fisher, Chair Linda Louderback
Dan Flanagan Kent Rogers Mary Lou Reece
Dana Reinhardt Eduardo Bousson Martin Rude
Kristie Garnes Connie Green Cindy Kelly
Todd Siefert Bette Trumble Keith Fink
Kim Dickerson-Oard Mike Marion Loyd Hamrick
Dirk Hutchinson Barb Campbell Nancy Lambert
Jim Welch David Severe Paula Severe

JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Dr. William Lawrence
## Committee on the Journal

One person per Area, named by the College of Bishops

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<th>Representative</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Central Texas</td>
<td>Kathy Ezell</td>
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<td>Ashlee Barlow-Thompson</td>
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<td>Ellen Alston</td>
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<td>Andy Stoker</td>
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<td>Mary Bell Harvey</td>
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<td>Austin Frederick, Jr.</td>
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## Nominations Committee—2016 Jurisdictional Conference

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<th>LAITY</th>
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<td>Steve McIver</td>
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<td>Texas</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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## COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

Named by the College of Bishops

### Seven Clergy in full Connection

- Steve Breon
- Bernadine Johnson
- Dede Roberts
- Robert Lopez
- Justin Coleman
- Holly Bandel
- Junius Dotson

### Five Clergy Alternates in full Connection

- Eduardo Rivera
- D.A. Bennett
- Burt Palmer
- Phillip Rhodes
- Bill Foote

### Two Lay Observers

- David Holmes
- Josephine Deere

### One Lay Observer

- Leah Taylor
COMMITTEE ON APPEALS

Named by the College of Bishops

Four Clergy
Owen Ross NT
Dee Willamston GP
Victor McCullough OK
Lyn Dyke MO

Four Clergy Alternates
Lyn Malone LA
Kyland Dobbins CT
Trista Soendker Nicholson MO
John Embrey AR

One Diaconal
Dawn Gillard CT

One Diaconal Alternate
(To be named)

One Full Time Local Pastor
Jeff Baker MO

One Full Time Local Pastor Alternate
Arturo Cadar TX

Three Laity
Reggie Clemons TX
Aislinn Deviney RT
Jeff Fisher NWTX

Three Laity Alternates
Richard Hearne NT
Reece Player OK
Keith Olsen GP

Episcopacy Committee 2012–2016

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Arkansas
Central Texas
Kansas East
Kansas West
Louisiana
Missouri
Nebraska
New Mexico
North Texas
Northwest Texas
Oklahoma
OIMC
Rio Grande
SW Texas
Texas

LAY
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Tom Harkrider
Oliver Green
Penney Schwab
Sara Kreutziger
Brian Hammons
Tom Watson
Donna TeBrink
Tim Crouch
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Sue Burgess
Cindy Johnson
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Mark Conard
Ellen Alston
Cody Collier
David Lux
Jeff Lust
Don Underwood
Jimmy Nunn
Linda Harker
David Wilson
Edgar Avitia
Laura Merrill
Elijah Stansell, Jr.

Episcopacy Committee 2016–2020

AREA
Arkansas
Central Texas
Great Plains
Louisiana
Missouri
New Mexico
North Texas
Northwest Texas
Oklahoma
OIMC
Rio Texas
Texas

LAY
Karon Mann
Tom Harkrider
Courtney Fowler
Carolyn Dove
Brian Hammons
Sid Strebeck
Tim Crouch
Ron Enns
Don Kim
Josephine Deere
Abel Vega
Reggie Clemons

CLERGY
Mark Norman
Tim Bruster
Amy Lippoldt
Sarah Kreutziger
Cody Collier
Eduardo Rivera
Clayton Oliphint
Jimmy Nunn
Linda Harper
David Wilson
Laura Merrill
Chap Temple
COURTESIES AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

Arkansas
Central Texas
Great Plains
Louisiana
Missouri
New Mexico
North Texas
Northwest Texas
Oklahoma
OIMC
Rio Texas
Texas

Lay
Lisa Maupin

Clergy
Eduardo Bouson

Scott Sharp

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Conference
Arkansas
Central Texas
Great Plains
Louisiana
Missouri
New Mexico
North Texas
Northwest Texas
OIMC
Oklahoma
Rio Texas
Texas

Clergy
Brittany Watson
Jim Conner
Zach Anderson
Jim Conner
Emmanuel Cleaver III
Todd Salzwedel
Lisa Greenwood
Stan Cosby
Aaron Tiger
Tom Deviney
Morris Matthis

Lay
Elizabeth Fink
Darcy Deupree
Shayla Jordan
Walter Weiss
Jill Wondel
Marybell Haney
Kelly Carpenter
Murray Murphy
Janey Wilson
Larry Harrison
Eddie Erwin

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

Conferences
Arkansas
Central Texas
Great Plains
Louisiana
Missouri
New Mexico
North Texas
Northwest Texas
OIMC
Oklahoma
Rio Texas
Texas

Lay
John Embry
Chris Hayes
Mark Holland
Lynn Malone
Lynn Dyke
Jane Vaughan
Ouida Lee
Burt Palmer
Anita Phillips
Joe Harris
Teresa Welborn
Lacey Warner

Clergy
Miller Wilbourn
Darlene Alfred
Oliver Green
Olivia Pruett
Margie Briggs
Chelsea Calderon
Daniel Soliz
Leia Williams
Sue Burgess
Herschel Beard
Byrd Bonner
Andy Hernandez

TELLERS (One per Episcopal Area)

Arkansas
Central Texas
Great Plains
Louisiana
Missouri
New Mexico

North Texas
NW Texas
Oklahoma
Rio Texas
Texas

Brittany Watson
Kevin Gregory
Nathan Stanton
Juan Carlos Huertas
Kay Kotan
Chelsea Calderon

Ouida Lee
Burt Palmer
Matt Judkins
Cindy Johnson
Silverio Sanchez
ARKANSAS CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Arkansas.

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE shall include the counties of: Bell, Bosque, Brown, Coleman, Comanche, Coryell, Eastland, Ellis (except for God’s Kingdom in Ferris), Erath, Hamilton, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Limestone, McLennan, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Runnels (except for Mize), Somervell, Stephens, Tarrant, Williamson, (except for the area west of US Highway 183, Research Blvd—Bell Blvd) which shall be in the Rio Texas Conference, excluding Rockbridge UMC which is in the Central Texas Conference) and Young. Town sites include: Cross Plains in Callahan County, Mullin in Mills County, Mooseville, Perry, and Rosebud in Falls County, Wortham, Kirvin, Streetman and Lakeside in Freestone County.

GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Kansas plus Towner in Kiowa County, Colorado, and all of the State of Nebraska.

LOUISIANA CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Louisiana.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Missouri.

NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE shall include the entire State of New Mexico and the following: Counties: Brewster, Crane, Culberson, Ector, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos (except the community of Iraan), Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, Ward and Winkler. Town sites: Farwell in Parmer County. Also a fifty mile wide strip of land in the northeast corner of Arizona-New Mexico state border, on the west by a line fifty miles west of the Arizona-New Mexico State border and parallel to it, and on the south by the south border of the Navajo Indian Reservation.

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE shall include the following: Counties: Archer, Clay, Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Franklin, Hopkins, Hunt, Jack, Kaufman, Lamar, Montague, Red River, Rockwall, Wichita, and Wise. Town sites: Talco in Titus County, Aley in Henderson County, Winnsboro, First UMC, Tinney Chapel, Forest Grove and Shady Grove in Wood County, and God’s Kingdom in Ferris, Ellis County.


OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Oklahoma exclusive of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Churches.

OKLAHOMA INDIAN MISSIONARY CONFERENCE shall include all distinctively Indian pastoral charges in the States of Oklahoma and Texas.

RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE shall include the following counties: Aransas, Atascosa, Bandara, Bastrop, except Paige, Bee, Bexar, Blanco, Brooks, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Coke, Colorado, Comal, Concho, Crockett, DeWitt, Dimmitt, Duval, Edwards, Fayette, Frio, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hayes, Hidalgo, Irion, Jackson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Kleberg, LaSalle, Lampasas, Lavaca, Live Oak, Llano, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Mills except Mullin, Nueces, Real, Reagan, Refugio, San Patricio, San Saba, Schleicher, Starr, Sterling, Sutton, Tom Green, Travis, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde,
Victoria, Webb, Willacy, Williamson (the area west of US Highway 183 [Research Blvd-Bell Blvd] excluding Rockbridge UMC which is in the Central Texas Conference.) Wilson, Zavala, Zapata. Town sites: Palacios and Midfield in Matagorda County, Miles in Runnels County, El Campo and Louise in Wharton County and Industry in Austin County. Rio Texas shall also include the Spanish language work in the States of Texas and New Mexico.

TEXAS CONFERENCE shall include the counties of: Anderson, Angelina, Austin (except Industry), Bowie, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Camp, Cass, Chambers, Cherokee, Falls (except Mooreville, Barclay, Rosebud and Perry), Ft. Bend, Freestone (except Wortham, Kirvin and Streetman), Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Henderson (except Aley), Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Marion, Matagorda, (except the communities of Palacios and Midfield), Milam (except Buckholtz), Montgomery, Morris, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Rains, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Smith, Titus (except Talco), Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wharton (except the communities of El Campo, Louise and Oakman), Wood (except Winnsboro First, Forest Grove, Tinney Chapel and Shady Grove), Kosse in Limestone County and the community of Paige in Bastrop County.
### Section II—The Episcopacy

#### Active Bishops in order of election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Episcopal Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Janice Riggle Huie</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Texas, Rio Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Hayes</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Oklahoma/OIMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Schnase</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Missouri, Rio Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Jones</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Great Plains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Earl Bledsoe</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>New Mexico/NW Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Lowry</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Central Texas, Rio Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Harvey</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Mueller</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike McKee</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>North Texas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Retired Bishops in order of election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Episcopal Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Hicks</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Joe Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Wesley Hardt</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Ann B. Sherer-Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Russell</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Albert F. (Fritz) Mutti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Woodrow Hearn</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Joel N. Martinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard B. Wilke</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>William Hutchinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William B. Oden</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>D. Max Whitfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce P. Blake</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Ben Chamness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan E. Solomon</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Charles N. Crutchfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfred L. Norris</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Resigned

James Dorff was elected in 2008 and resigned the office of bishop in 2015.

#### Surviving Spouses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State ZIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Ruth Handy (W. T.)</td>
<td>525 Madeira</td>
<td>Franklin, TN 37064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jewell Moncure (Rhymes)</td>
<td>3527 Maple Hill Rd.</td>
<td>Lithonia, GA 30038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Ina Schowengerdt (Louis)</td>
<td>803 South 39th</td>
<td>St. Joseph, MO 74507-2145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### In Memoriam—Bishops and Spouses who have died during the quadrennium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Twila Bryan (Monk)</td>
<td>Mrs. Benjalee Crutchfield (Finis)</td>
<td>Mrs. Ernestine Dixon (Ernest)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Lavelle Owen (Ray)</td>
<td>Mrs. Julia Wilke (Richard)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Deaths of Delegates from 2012 Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missouri Conference:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chris Ricks, August 18, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri Conference:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jerry Ruth Williams, July 9, 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PICTURES OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED BISHOPS

Bishop Bruce Blake
(Retired)

Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe

Bishop Ben Chamness
(Retired)

Bishop Charles Crutchfield
(Retired)

Bishop John Wesley Hardt
(Retired)

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey

Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr.

Bishop Woodrow Hearn
(Retired)

Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks
(Retired)
Bishop William B. Oden  
(Retired)

Bishop John Russell  
(Retired)

Bishop Robert Schnase

Bishop Ann B. Sherer-Simpson  
(Retired)

Bishop Dan E. Solomon  
(Retired)

Bishop D. Max Whitfield  
(Retired)

Bishop Richard B. Wilke  
(Retired)

Bishop Joe Wilson  
(Retired)
**IN MEMORIAM**

**Bishop’s Spouses**

**Twila Farrell Stowe Bryan** was born October 1, 1918, in Muleshoe, in the Texas panhandle, one of ten children, and graduated from Texas Tech with a music degree. She was married to Bishop William McFerrin Stowe from 1943 until his death in 1988. Together they had three children, Bill, Twila, and Martha. Twila was married to Bishop Monk Bryan from 1992 until his death in 2011. She will be remembered for her great faith, intelligence, creativity, integrity, charm, and grace—and her golfing ability including two holes-in-one to her credit. Her life was committed to being the hands of God through church work, volunteering, music, missions, teaching, and being a devoted mother. Up to her last days she was busy keeping up on social issues, donating to missions, and writing encouraging notes to friends and family. She died November 25, 2014. The celebration of her life was held December 13, 2014, at Highland Park UMC in Dallas, Texas.

**Benja Lee (Bennie) Crutchfield** was born August 6, 1916, in Dallas, Texas, and earned a degree in English and Greek from SMU in 1937. She married Finis A. Crutchfield, Jr. in 1941 and they served as a team in several congregations, and as a Bishop’s spouse in Louisiana and Houston, Texas. They have one son, Charles Crutchfield, now a bishop. Her gifts for presenting programs about missions and the hospitality were extensions of her grace-filled love for others. Bennie died peacefully on May 31, 2015 at the age of 98. She had lived at Epworth Villa in Oklahoma City. Services were held at St. Luke’s UMC, in Oklahoma City on June 6, 2015, with burial at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery in Houston, Texas on June 8, 2015.

**Dr. Ernestine Gray Clark Dixon** was born May 8, 1923, and joined the Church Triumphant on July 2, 2015. She received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Prairie View A&M, Masters Degree in 1952 from Columbia University and her PHD from Texas Woman’s University in 1971. Earnestine married Mr. Nathan Clark, her first love, at 18 years of age, and he died in 1978. She later married Bishop Ernest T. Dixon with whom she enjoyed traveling the world and spreading the Gospel. She was a proud woman who loved the Lord and taught school for 26 years, and a caring mother to her adopted daughter Sherryl. She was preceded in death by both husbands. Dr. Dixon lived in California at the time of her passing. Funeral services were on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, at St. Andrew’s UMC, in Ft. Worth, Texas.

**Mary Lavelle Owen** was born January 28, 1933 near Alamo, Tennessee. She died October 4, 2015, on the 62nd wedding anniversary of her marriage to some-day-to-be Bishop Ray Owen. He served churches in the Oklahoma Conference and then, as bishop, served in the SW Texas and Rio Grande Conferences. Always a partner to her husband, her two boys, their families, and sisters were the lights of her life. All who knew her will remember her quiet, sweet spirit. After retirement they lived at Epworth Villa Retirement Center in Oklahoma City until he died. When her health deteriorated, she lived with son, Darryl in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she died. The family funeral was led by both sons, Darryl and Dyton on October 7, 2015, in Oklahoma City.

**Julia Kitchens Wilke** was born July 28, 1932, in Texarkana, Texas, and passed away February 25, 2016 in Houston, Texas, following a stroke suffered during major surgery. Services were March 3, 2016, at First UMC, Winfield, Kansas. She graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1953, and married Dick Wilke on June 20, 1953. She taught school while Dick studied at Yale Divinity School, before returning to Kansas to serve pastorates. When he was elected bishop, they moved to Little Rock, Arkansas where he served twelve years. Julia was always an active volunteer at their churches in choir, children and adult Sunday school classes, and finally co-writing the Disciple Bible Study series. This curriculum has been completed by millions around the world since its introduction in 1986, and is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. After retiring in 1996, Julia and Dick moved to Winfield.

Their children are Steve, Paul, Susan, and Sarah.
PART ONE. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

The South Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church shall be organized and composed according to
_The Book of Discipline_ of The United Methodist Church and these articles.

ARTICLE I. MEETINGS

Section 1. The entire meeting of the Jurisdiction shall be called The Conference. The daily meetings shall be
called Sessions.

Section 2. The Conference shall meet at the time determined by the Council of Bishops, or its delegated
committee. (_The Book of Discipline_—2012 ¶ 26 Article IV)

Section 3. The place of the meeting of The Conference shall be selected by the Jurisdictional Mission
Council. (_The Book of Discipline_—2012 ¶ 25, Article IV)

Section 4. Special Sessions. The bishops of the Jurisdiction, by a two-thirds vote, shall have authority to call
and set the meeting place of a special session of The Conference when necessary. A called session cannot
transact any other business than that indicated in the call. Such special sessions of The Conference shall be
composed of the delegates last elected by each Annual Conference.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS

Section 1. The Conference shall be presided over by the bishops of the Jurisdiction or a bishop of another
Jurisdiction or of a Central Conference. In case no bishop is present, The Conference may elect a president from
the clergy delegates. (_The Book of Discipline_—2012, ¶ 522)

Section 2. The College of Bishops shall determine the order in which the bishops shall be appointed to
preside over the sessions of The Conference.

Section 3. The President of the Conference shall decide all questions of law that have been presented to him/her
in writing, preserve order and decorum among the members, decide points of order, assign the floor to speakers
according to the Rules of Order, sign all documents enacted under his/her presidency, and perform all other
duties usually required of the President of a United Methodist Conference.

Section 4. There shall be a jurisdictional staff person called the Executive Director of Mission and
Administration. Hereinafter called Executive Director. This is a quarter to half-time position.

A. The duties of the Executive Director of Mission and Administration shall be:

1. Serve as the primary administrative officer of the Jurisdiction to enhance the mission efforts of the
Jurisdiction, its agencies, and the Annual Conferences of the Jurisdiction.
2. Promote, implement and coordinate the program of the Jurisdiction as defined by The Conference and
its agencies.
3. Serve as the primary staff person of the Jurisdictional Mission Council and all other entities of the
Jurisdiction as needed.
4. Serve, or assign others to serve, as the coordinator of Jurisdictional workshops, conferences, schools,
and other types of meetings of a jurisdictional nature.
5. Serve as an ex officio Trustee, with vote, of Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, Lydia
Patterson Institute, SMU Wesley Foundation and Southern Methodist University.
6. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Jurisdictional Mission Council.

B. The administrative duties of the Jurisdictional Executive Director of Mission and Administration shall include:

1. Serve as the primary administrative officer of the Jurisdiction
2. Serve as the Secretary of The Conference:
a. Nominate for election by The Conference as many assistants and secretaries as may be required.
b. Nominate for election by The Conference as many tellers as may be required, provided that
each Annual Conference shall have at least one teller.
c. Organize the secretarial staff of The Conference and evaluate their work.
d. Keep an official Journal of The Conference, provide for sufficient copies of the Journal as needed
to meet the demand, and send the Journal to the ensuing General Conference for examination.
e. Prepare, publish and mail The Christian Advocate to all delegates, bishops and others directly
concerned, by May 15 preceding the quadrennial session of The Conference.
3. Act as custodian of the records, official documents, and historical papers of The Conference and
to see that such materials are retained and preserved in accord with the Records Policy of The
South Central Jurisdiction.
4. Supervise the work and ministry of all Jurisdictional personnel, including office staff, Volunteers
In Mission Director and Korean Ministry Field Staff or Korean Ministries Director, whether
salaried or volunteer.
5. Represent the Jurisdiction at general meetings of The United Methodist Church as occasion demands.
6. Assist those responsible for planning The Conference Session.
7. Serve as ex officio member (without vote) of all standing committees.
9. The Executive Director of Mission and Administration shall be elected annually by the
Jurisdictional Mission Council upon recommendation of the Personnel Committee.

Section 5. Treasurer of The Conference

1. The Treasurer of the Jurisdiction shall be elected by The Conference upon nomination of the Mission
Council of the Jurisdiction. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to oversee receipts and disbursements
of all Jurisdictional funds as provided for in the budget as directed by the Mission Council.
2. The Treasurer shall be an ex officio member without vote of the Mission Council, and shall assume
office at the close of The Conference at which elected and shall serve until the close of the
succeeding quadrennial conference or until a successor is elected. In case of a vacancy in the office
of the Treasurer, The Mission Council shall elect a Treasurer to serve for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE III. GOVERNANCE BETWEEN MEETINGS of the CONFERENCE

The governance of the affairs of The Conference between quadrennial meetings of The Conference shall be
entrusted to the following body, to the extent specified herein and in The Book of Discipline ¶ 525 BOD 2012.

THE MISSION COUNCIL

Section 1.

1. There shall be a Mission Council of the South Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church,
hereinafter called The Council.
2. The Council members shall be named by the Jurisdiction Nominating Committee from a pool of persons
named by the Annual Conference delegations. There shall be a member on The Council from each
Annual Conference. Members are elected for an eight year term. The rotation shall be:

Class of 2020 (Completing their eight year tenure.)

Clergy
North Texas—Ouida Lee
Great Plains—Rick Just

Lay Men
Arkansas—John Crawford
North West Texas—Ron Enns

Lay Women
OIMC—Sue Burgess
Rio Texas (a one
quadrennium position.)
1. Class of 2024 (Beginning their eight year tenure.)

2. Clergy

3. Lay Men

4. Lay Women

5. Missouri

6. Central Texas

7. New Mexico

8. Oklahoma

9. Louisiana

10. Texas

3. The following shall also be members of The Council:

   a. Two Bishops selected by the College of Bishops

   b. Up to four at large, with vote, may be named by the College of Bishops if needed to serve eight years, but must be nominated each quadrennium by the College of Bishops.

   c. The designated Jurisdictional Lay Leader of the Jurisdictional Association of Conference Lay Leaders.

   d. A representative named by the Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization. (JYMO)

   e. The South Central Jurisdiction Archivist.

   f. The Executive Director of the South Central Jurisdiction, ex officio without vote.

   g. The Jurisdictional Director of Korean Ministries, ex officio without vote.

   h. The Treasurer of the South Central Jurisdiction, ex officio without vote.

   i. A representative from the South Central Jurisdiction VIM Coordinators, ex officio without vote.

   j. The South Central Jurisdictional Director of Volunteers In Mission and Disaster Response, ex officio without vote.

4. If an elected or at-large member does not/cannot fulfill their responsibilities, The Council may declare the position open. Un-excused absences from two annual meetings may constitute reason for removal. If this occurs, the Chairperson of The Council shall notify the Bishop of that Annual Conference to nominate, for election by The Council, an individual to complete the term until the next Jurisdictional Conference. Such nomination must replace the former member with the same gender and lay/clergy status.

5. A member who moves out of his/her Annual Conference must resign, unless special permission to continue is granted by the Council.

Section 2. Officers of the Council and their duties

1. The officers of the Council shall be a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and a Secretary. They shall serve during the quadrennium in which they are elected and until the organizational meeting of The Council for the succeeding quadrennium.

2. The Chair, Vice-Chairperson, and the Secretary shall be elected by The Council at its organizational meeting. Voting shall be by ballot.

3. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of The Council, issue the call for the meetings of The Council, and perform such other duties as customarily belong to such an office.

4. The Vice-Chairperson shall act for the Chairperson in the Chairperson’s absence or temporary incapacity to fulfill the duties of the office.

5. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of The Council. The Secretary shall ensure that notices are sent to each member not less than two weeks prior to the time fixed for the meeting. The Secretary shall ensure that each member receives a copy of the minutes and that other documentary materials of the Council are created, maintained and preserved in accord with the Records Policy of the South Central Jurisdiction.

6. The Council shall name (elect) a five to seven member committee on nominations at its meeting prior to, or at, the Jurisdictional Conference.

7. There shall be an Executive Committee to act on administrative matters not requiring a meeting of the full Council. Membership shall include the Council Officers, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and the chair of the Finance Committee, Chair of the Personnel Committee, one Bishop, and up to two additional persons, as needed for gender and ethnic inclusiveness.
Section 3. Duties and Limitations of the Council

1. It shall be the duty of The Council to:
   a. Elect annually the Executive Director of the South Central Jurisdiction.
   b. Fix the location of the Jurisdictional office.
   c. Determine the budget for the Jurisdictional office including the salary of the Executive Director, subject to the limitations set by The Conference.
   d. Assign duties and responsibilities to the Executive Director, as occasion may demand.
   e. Through its Personnel Committee supervise the work of and evaluate and provide appropriate support and counsel to the Executive Director.
   f. Elect persons to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees/Directors of Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center, Lydia Patterson Institute, and Southern Methodist University, between meetings of The Conference and verify the same to those institutions.
   g. Elect all other persons that require Jurisdictional Conference action between meetings of The Conference and verify the same to the appropriate body.
   h. Receive and consider all matters of policy and proposals coming from any source calling for action by The Conference.
   i. Serve as the Program Committee for The Conference, in consultation with a Host Committee at the site of the ensuing Jurisdictional Conference.
   j. Serve as the Agenda Committee of The Conference in consultation with the College of Bishops.
   k. Select the site of The Conference quadrennial meeting.
   l. Deal with new matters and emergencies of a Jurisdictional nature between sessions of the quadrennial meeting.
   m. Between meetings of The Conference shall perform all administrative and financial responsibilities not assigned to other bodies of The Conference, and have general responsibility for the budget and finances of the Jurisdiction.
   n. Between meetings of The Conference, shall serve as the program and mission agency of the Jurisdiction; oversee the work of the Ministry Teams, task forces and any other program and/or mission entities of the Jurisdiction.

Section 4. Ministry Teams

There shall be Ministry Teams composed of members of The Council and certain others specified herein. The Teams shall be amenable to The Council. The membership of the teams shall be nominated by the officers of The Council at the organization meeting of the quadrennium, for election by The Council. All members shall serve on at least one Ministry Team. Ministry Teams may be of such size as The Council deems necessary to fulfill their responsibilities. Each Ministry Team shall elect its own officers. The Council chairperson shall have authority to appoint additional short term task forces not mentioned herein from the members of The Council.

1. There shall be a Finance and Administration Team whose duties shall be to:
   a. Make a careful evaluation of jurisdictional administration expenses and all other causes and interests that shall be included in the total annual jurisdictional budget.
   b. Recommend funds sufficient to pay the expenses of the Executive Director’s office in the performance of secretarial, missional and administrative duties.
   c. Recommend quadrennial budgets to The Council for its review and referral to The Conference.
   d. Recommend annual budgets to The Council for its action.
   e. Recommend the basis of determining the apportionment formula for each Annual Conference.
f. Give oversight to the raising of the funds for the Jurisdictional budget by the Annual Conferences

g. Review and submit to The Council for final approval, all requests for funds not in the budget as originally approved by The Conference.

h. Establish, in cooperation with the Executive Director and the Treasurer, a system of requisitioning and paying Jurisdictional expenses. No Jurisdictional agency or interest, including any related agency or institution such as a school, college, university, hospital, home, housing project, or other service institution, shall make a special jurisdiction-wide appeal to Annual Conferences or local churches for funds not already approved by The Conference with review of this Team and approval by The Council.

i. Recommend a uniform basis for paying expenses for jurisdictional meetings.

j. Establish, in cooperation with the Executive Director, a procedure whereby all contracts involving events, meetings and programs sponsored or co-sponsored by The Conference, or any of its program or administrative agencies shall be approved and signed by the Executive Director prior to signing by the parties involved. The South Central Jurisdiction shall not be legally or financially responsible for any contract that has not had the prior approval and signature of the Executive Director.

k. Recommend provisions for an annual audit of all Jurisdictional funds by a Certified Public Accountant.

l. Recommend to The Council depository banks for Jurisdictional funds that are federally insured institutions.

m. Decide all matters relating to expenses of delegates and reserve delegates seated in the place of delegates.

n. Receive and review the recommendations of the other Ministry Teams regarding their budgets and any needs for changes therein, and submit them for final approval by the Council.

o. Nominate the Treasurer of the Jurisdiction.

p. Recommend to The Council facilities and equipment in the Jurisdictional office. Ensure that the budget includes the total amount voted by The Conference for (1) the Quadrennial Meeting Expense Funds. (2) expenses of the Executive Director’s office including support staff and secretarial duties, (3) provide sufficient reserves to cover the expenses of a called session of The Conference, should one be required, and (4) other expenses of The Conference, including those of the Council, expenses related to holding hearings, and expenses of the Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy.

q. To abide by and conform to any specific action taken by The Conference and to any and all provisions of The Book of Discipline.

2. There shall be a **Volunteers In Mission Team.** It shall work with the VIM and Disaster Response Director to facilitate the networking of Annual Conference Volunteers in Mission Coordinators. It shall consult with the VIM Volunteers in Mission Director regarding their responsibilities, and annually make recommendation to the Personnel committee pertaining to the Director’s continuation. The Team shall include one Annual Conference VIM Coordinator named by the Annual Conference Coordinators.

3. There shall be a **Structure and Rules, Archives and History Team.**

   a. It shall review and recommend to The Council, for referral to The Conference, all matters related to the organization and structure of the Jurisdiction, and rules for the conduct of the Conference, provided that the rules of the preceding Conference shall govern until this report is adopted by The Conference.
1. It shall gather, preserve and disseminate materials on the history of the Jurisdiction; provide support for the work of annual conference Commissions on Archives and History through training workshops and other events; elect the Jurisdictional Archivist, if any; consult with Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology about the collection, retention and preservation of the Jurisdiction’s archives; encourage the recognition and designation of historic sites, shrines and landmarks of a jurisdictional nature; and serve as an auxiliary to the General Commission on Archives and History. The Team may name up to two additional members with expertise in the area of archives and history who are not members of the Council.

4. There shall be an Ethnic Ministry Initiatives Team. It shall include, to the extent possible, persons from major ethnic groups in the Jurisdiction (Asian, African, Hispanic and Native Americans.) It shall study and recommend to The Council appropriate action related to the ethnic ministry initiatives adopted by The General Conference. It shall advocate for ethnic concerns. The Ethnic Ministry Initiatives Team shall include:

   a. A Korean American member named by the Jurisdictional Korean Caucus who will meet with and have vote with the Ethnic Ministry Initiatives Team only.
   b. The Jurisdictional Korean Ministries Director, ex officio without vote.
   c. The Team will consult with Jurisdictional Staff to evaluate Korean Mission in the Jurisdiction; to recommend events and services of a jurisdictional nature; to develop models of mission and ministry for the Korean mission in the Jurisdiction.

Section 5. The Program Committee of The Conference

1. The Council shall act as the Program Committee of The Conference, and in that capacity its duties shall be:

   a. Arrange a program for The Conference that will present a challenge on behalf of the church and its worldwide mission.
   b. The Program Committee shall be assisted by a Local Arrangements Task Force or Host Committee, as specified below.
   c. Arrange for effective communications with the public and church media for the sessions of The Conference.
   d. Confer with the College of Bishops as they arrange a memorial service for Bishops and Delegates who have died since the preceding Conference.
   e. Confer with the College of Bishops on the agenda for The Conference.

2. The Council shall invite the Area next hosting the Jurisdictional Conference to form a Local Arrangements Task Force or Host Committee, which shall work closely with the Program Committee and The Executive Director to make plans for the business and entertainment of The Conference. The Task Force Host Committee shall be composed as follows:

   a. The Resident Bishop(s) of the Area(s) in which The Conference will be held, one of whom shall be elected chairperson.
   b. The District Superintendent(s) of the host city.
   c. Three pastors and three lay persons of the host Area.
   d. The Chairperson of the Council.
   e. The Jurisdictional Executive Director
   f. Others as deemed necessary by the Task Force Host Committee.

Section 6. The Personnel Committee

1. There shall be a Personnel Committee composed of:

   a. The Chair of The Council
   b. The Jurisdictional Lay Leader
   c. The Chair of Finance and Administration Ministry Team.
d. Three other persons nominated by the chairperson of The Council, if needed, to assure racial/ethnic, gender and regional inclusiveness.
e. One Korean American member of The Council and one member of the Volunteers in Mission Ministry Team.
f. One SCJ Bishop serving as a member of The Council.

2. The duties of the Personnel Committee shall be to:
   a. Support, counsel, and advocate on behalf of the personal and professional needs of the Jurisdiction Executive Director and support staff.
   b. Conduct an annual evaluation of the Jurisdictional Executive Director.
   c. Develop job descriptions to be submitted to The Council.
d. Request staff evaluations annually from the Executive Director of Mission and Administration.
e. Nominate annually to The Council a person to serve as the Executive Director of Mission and Administration.
f. Other duties appropriate to the Personnel Committee as assigned by The Council.

3. The Personnel Committee shall elect officers as it deems necessary for its work.

4. The Personnel Committee shall meet at least annually or upon the call of its chair, the Executive Director, or the chair of The Council.

ARTICLE IV. OTHER COMMITTEES AND RELATED BODIES

A. COMMITTEES NOMINATED BY THE COLLEGE OF BISHOPS

Section 1. Courtesies and Privileges
There shall be a Committee on Courtesies and Privileges consisting of one delegate from each Episcopal Area, named by the bishops, which shall have the following duties:
1. To arrange for extending the courtesies of The Conference to fraternal delegates, official visitors, and all others to whom courtesies are due.
2. To determine and cause to be presented to The Conference all matters of privilege, especially those looking to the comfort and orderly procedure of The Conference. All matters of privilege, (except those that are so urgent that they cannot wait, or that are of a highly personal character) shall first be passed upon by this Committee before being presented to The Conference.
3. To prepare and present to The Conference for its action such complimentary resolutions as occasion may demand.

Section 2. Journal
There shall be a Committee on Journal consisting of one delegate from each Episcopal Area named by the bishops, which shall have the following duties:
1. To examine the daily records including the minutes of the Secretary and report its findings to The Conference. The adoption of the report shall constitute the approval of the Minutes from that Session reported.
2. To assist the Secretary in editing and revising all reports of the Committees.

B. COMMITTEES NAMED BY ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATIONS
The following committees shall be elected by the Conference from its own membership, upon nomination of the respective annual conference delegations. With the exception of the Committee on Nomination, each such committee shall consist of one clergy and one lay person from each Annual Conference. Delegations with fewer delegates than committees may assign delegates to multiple committee memberships if desired. In extremely small delegations, elected alternates may be selected to
serve on any committee except the Committee on Episcopacy. The composition of the Committee on
Nominations shall be as stated in Section 1 below.

Section 1. Nominations
There shall be a Committee on Nominations who shall nominate representatives from this Jurisdiction to the
General Boards and Agencies, the Mission Council and any other nominations necessary to conform to the
Jurisdiction’s Structure and Rules of Order. It is recommended that the Committee be
one-third lay women, one-third lay men, and one-third clergy from among the delegates to The Conference.
The Jurisdictional Executive Director shall inform the Annual Conferences of the appropriate category in the
rotation. For the 2016 Conference the designations are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lay Women</th>
<th>Lay Men</th>
<th>Clergy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Central Texas</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Texas</td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>Great Plains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIMC</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>NW Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Texas</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>Texas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Nominations Committee, in addition to its concern for inclusiveness with regard to ethnic minorities,
male/female ratios, age levels and persons with handicapping conditions, shall insure, insofar as possible, that a
fair distribution of representatives shall be nominated from all geographic regions of the Jurisdiction.

Section 2. Petitions and Resolutions
There shall be a Committee on Petitions and Resolutions composed of one lay person and one clergy person
named by the delegation from each Annual Conference.

1. The duties of the Committee shall be:
   a. To receive and screen all resolutions, petitions, or other communications coming to the Conference
      from Annual Conferences or other agencies of the church or individuals who are members of The
      United Methodist Church which have been referred to it or which may be in its possession. At the
      beginning of each day of The Conference, the Committee shall report on all petitions, resolutions or
      communications in its possession, and in the event of failure to report within 24 hours of its receipt,
      the author, or any other delegate, shall be authorized to bring the matter to the floor of The
      Conference for consideration.
   b. To notify The Conference by publication in the South Central Jurisdiction Advocate or
      otherwise, of all communications received and referred, giving the number, captions, and
      destination of each.
   c. To refer resolutions, petitions, or other communication to other standing committees of
      The Conference as appropriate, providing, however that resolutions so referred to other
      standing committees shall be reported back to The Conference within 24 hours of its
      receipt. In the event of failure to report back to The Conference, the author or any
      sponsor thereof shall be authorized to bring the matter to the floor of The Conference for
      consideration.
   d. To recommend non-consideration of any matter which in its judgment does not properly belong
      to the business of The Conference, or which does not comply with the rules thereof, provided an
      appeal may be taken to The Conference by any member thereof.
   e. To recommend the Calendar for consideration of all matters under its jurisdiction.

2. Petitions and resolutions coming from the floor of The Conference shall be referred, prior to being acted
   upon, to the Committee on Petitions and Resolutions.

3. The secretary of The Conference shall be a member of this committee.
Section 3. Episcopacy
There shall be a Committee on Episcopacy composed of one clergy and one lay delegate to The Conference
named by the delegation from each annual conference whose duties shall be those assigned to it by The Book of
Discipline (¶ 524 BOD 2012) and those assigned to it by The Conference, including but not limited to the
following:
1. Review the work of the bishops and pass on their character and official administration, and report to The
Conference its findings for such action as The Conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional
warrant of power.
2. Recommend boundaries of the Episcopal areas and the assignment of the bishops.
3. Be available to the Council/College of Bishops for consultation on matters of mutual concern.
4. Determine the number of effective bishops eligible for assignment.
5. Receive and act upon requests for possible voluntary and involuntary retirement of bishops.
6. Consult with the Annual Conference Committees on Episcopacy with respect to the needs for Episcopal
leadership and how they can be fulfilled.
7. Establish a consultation process with each bishop regarding his/her Episcopal assignment.
8. Prepare a report of its decisions, activities, and recommendations to be transmitted to its successor through
the office of the secretary of The Conference. The report shall be made available to delegates of The
Conference prior to The Conference session.
9. Recommend to The Conference the number of bishops that should be elected.
10. Consider and recommend to The Conference, for its action, all other proposals related to the episcopacy.

Section 4. Annual Conference Boundaries
There shall be a Committee on Annual Conference Boundaries composed of one lay and one clergy named by
the delegations of the Annual Conferences. The duties of the Committee shall be to consider and recommend
to The Conference all matters relating to Annual Conference boundaries.

C. OTHER RELATED BODIES OF THE JURISDICTION

Section 1. Jurisdictional Youth Ministries Organization and Adult Coordinators of Jurisdictional Youth
Ministry
1. There shall be a Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization (JYMO) composed of the persons specified in
The Book of Discipline as members of the JYMO Convocation and such other persons as may be elected
by the Legislative Assembly (JYMO) in accordance with:
   a. The “Purposes and By-Laws of the Jurisdictional Youth Ministry organization.
   b. The guidelines adopted by The Conference, and,
   c. The Book of Discipline (¶ 533) and such others as may be assigned by the action of The Conference.
2. There shall be two Jurisdictional Youth Co-Coordinators, chosen by the “Election Process for Positions
Filled by the Legislative Body” (Section III) and “Adult Representation on JYT” (Section IV) of the
JYMO By-Laws. These persons shall be known as the “Adult Co-Coordinators of Jurisdictional Youth
Ministry.”

Section 2. United Methodist Women of the Jurisdiction
There shall be a Jurisdictional Organization of United Methodist Women, organized, functioning, and electing its own president and other officers, as prescribed by *The Book of Discipline.* (¶536)

**Section 3. United Methodist Men of the Jurisdiction**

There shall be a Jurisdictional Organization of United Methodist Men, composed of the annual conference presidents of United Methodist Men within the Jurisdiction (or their representatives) who shall elect the Jurisdictional President of United Methodist Men and other officers, and who shall perform the other duties and functions of this Committee as specified in *The Book of Discipline.* (¶ 537) All meetings of this committee shall be at the expense of the various annual conferences.

**Section 4. Annual Conference Lay Leaders of the Jurisdiction**

1. There shall be a Jurisdictional Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders to be governed by its own bylaws and electing its own officers. The South Central Jurisdiction Lay Leader shall chair the Association.
2. The SCJ Lay Leader shall be elected for the quadrennium by the Association from the immediate past Conference Lay Leaders and shall serve as a member of The Council during his/her term as specified in Article III. A. Section 1.3c.
3. Meetings of this Association shall be at the expense of the various Annual Conferences except for the Jurisdictional Lay Leader. The Jurisdiction shall provide for the expenses of the Jurisdictional Lay Leader. Such funds shall be, at the discretion of the Jurisdictional Lay Leader, used for travel and program ministries within the Jurisdiction.

**D. JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. Court of Appeals**

There shall be a Committee on Appeals, elected by The Conference, on nomination of the College of Bishops, to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher of this Jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee, in accordance with *The Book of Discipline.* (¶ 27.6) The Committee shall also function as the Court of Appeals as specified in *The Book of Discipline.* The Chairperson (President of the Court) and secretary of the Committee shall be elected from the membership of the Committee.

The committee shall consist of four clergy, three lay members, one Diaconal Minister and one full-time Local Pastor. A similar number may be nominated as alternates. The College of Bishops shall assign one of its members to organize this Committee at the Jurisdictional Conference. (¶ 27.6 and 2716, *The Book of Discipline*).

Expenses shall be reimbursed in the following manner: All necessary traveling, sustenance and secretarial expenses incurred by the Committee in the hearing of an appeal shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Jurisdiction upon receipt of an itemized statement of the expenses, including proper vouchers, and signed by the Chairperson and/or Secretary, and supported by proper vouchers.

All necessary and reasonable traveling and sustenance expenses of one counsel for the church and one counsel for the defendant incurred in the hearing of an appeal before the Jurisdictional Committee on Appeals shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Jurisdiction upon receipt of an itemized statement, supported by proper vouchers, of the expenses. Such statement shall be supported by the proper voucher and accompanied by a certificate from the Annual Conference from which the appeal came of their appointment as counsel.

The Jurisdiction shall not be liable for expenses connected with the trial, nor the expense of either counsel in preparation of the appeal, nor for an appeal to the Judicial Council on a question of law.
Section 2. Committee on Investigation

There shall be a Committee on Investigation, consisting of seven elders in full connection, elected by the Conference, with not more than one elder from an Annual Conference, if possible. Three reserves shall be elected. The Committee and its chairperson shall be elected by The Conference on nomination of the College of Bishops. The function of the Committee shall be to investigate written accusations against a Bishop of this Jurisdiction in accordance with The Book of Discipline. (¶ 2703.1) nominated by the College of Bishops, in consultation with the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee, and elected by The Conference. The Committee shall consist of seven clergy in full connection, and two lay observers, with not more than one person from each annual conference, if possible. Six alternates shall be selected, five clergy in good standing and one lay. (¶ 2703.1 The Book of Discipline.) Additional alternates may be named by the College of Bishops.

E. ORGANIZATION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Unless otherwise mandated by The Book of Discipline, or ordered by The Conference, all standing committees shall meet for organization immediately prior to, or immediately following the opening session of The Conference at a time and place designated by the Jurisdictional Program Committee and published in The South Central Jurisdiction Christian Advocate. A bishop, appointed by the College of Bishops, shall preside at the organizational meeting, with one member of the secretarial staff to keep the record. Unless otherwise ordered by The Conference, all such committees, upon nomination by Annual Conference Delegations, or by the College of Bishops, and before election by The Conference, shall be empowered at such organizational meeting and thereafter to make such recommendations and to take such action as may be delegated therein.

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

After referral to The Council and its Structure and Rules Ministry Team, the foregoing organization and structures may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting of The Conference.

Section 2.

Amendments may be approved by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting of The Council or any special meeting called for that purpose, provided such proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing to each member of The Council not less than thirty days before the date of the meeting at which it is to be considered. Amendments approved by The Council during the quadrennium shall be in full force and effect until the next regular meeting of The Conference. All amendments approved by The Council shall be subject to review and final action by The Conference.

Section 3.

The organization, structure, and rules of order shall be in accord with any and all provisions mandated by The Book of Discipline.

PART TWO, CONFERENCE RULES OF ORDER

The follow Rules of Order shall govern the quadrennial or called meetings of the Jurisdictional Conference.

Rule 1. Order of Business

a. Devotional service under the direction of the College of Bishops
b. Necrology and roll call, first day only.
c. Report of the Structure and Rules Team, first day only.
d. Report of the Committee on Journal
e. Report of the Committee on Courtesies and Privileges
f. Report of the Standing Committees
g. Report of Special Committees
Rule 2. Roll Call.

a. The Conference standing, the Secretary shall call the roll of Bishops, Bishops’ spouses, and Delegates elected to the South Central Jurisdictional Conference who have died since the preceding Jurisdictional Conference.

b. The Secretary of the College of Bishops shall report the number of Bishops present and give the Secretary a list of those present for the record.

c. The roll of the Annual Conferences shall be called and the chairperson of each delegation shall announce the number of Delegates to be seated in the place of absentee Delegates and furnish the Secretary a list of the Delegates for the record.


a. Business may be introduced by resolutions, reports of committees, or upon motion. A resolution signed by two or more members of the Conference shall be considered in the possession of The Conference with or without the formal action of a motion to adopt.

b. All resolutions and reports of committees shall be printed in triplicate. All other motions including amendments, shall be written and shall require a second before they are presented to The Conference for consideration.

Rule 4. Referral to Committee.

a. When a proposition is referred to one of the several standing committees, it shall be understood that the whole question to which the proposition relates is referred to that committee for such action as it may deem wise.

b. Each standing committee shall have authority to initiate matters which relate to the interests it is appointed to consider.

Rule 5. Committee Reports

a. Reports of Committees shall be written in the form on the paper provided. They shall include the name of the committee, the total membership of the committee, number present when voting, number voting for the report, the number voting against the report and the number not voting.

b. A report of the committee, when submitted in proper form, and signed by the Chairperson and Secretary of the Committee which has been read to The Conference (or published in The South Central Jurisdiction Christian Advocate on a previous day) shall be considered as in the possession of The Conference with or without formal motion to receive or adopt.

c. At the close of each day’s meeting, the chairperson and secretaries of the General Standing Committees shall hand any updates to the Secretary of The Conference, or to someone designated by the Secretary. The Secretary shall enter the several reports on the Calendar in the order in which they are received.

d. Reports that have been printed in The South Central Jurisdiction Christian Advocate or otherwise made available to the delegates before the day of consideration shall be read unless by order of The Conference. However, when The Conference orders such reports to be considered on the same day as printed, such reports shall be read.

e. Any proposed addition or change in the Structure and Rules of Order shall be noted in bold print. The existing language that is proposed to be changed or deleted shall be struck through by a
single line, or appear in parentheses directly following the proposed language, which shall be double underlined.

f. Reports recommending concurrence shall be placed on the Calendar in the order in which they are received and presented to The Conference by the Committee on Petitions and Resolutions in that order, provided that The Conference by a two-thirds vote may consider a report out of its legal order.

g. Reports recommending non-concurrence shall be kept on a separate Calendar and considered after the Calendar reports recommending concurrence have been exhausted, provided that The Conference by a two-thirds vote may suspend this rule and bring such reports to the immediate attention of The Conference.

Rule 6. Minority Reports.

A minority report of a committee, signed by one-tenth of the committee, shall be placed on the Calendar along with the majority report on that subject and shall become a rival main motion subject to the same rules and privileges as the main majority motion. As far as practical, it shall conform to the rule for a majority report.


The following motions shall be taken without debate:

a. To adjourn.

b. To suspend the rules.

c. To lay on the table.

d. To take from the table.

e. To call for the pending or previous question.

f. To consider a non-debatable motion.

Rule 8. Debate on the Main Motion

The main proposition may be opened to debate under the following motions; to adopt, to commit, to substitute, to postpone, to reconsider. No new motion, resolution, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall be disposed of, but one or more of the following motions may be made, and they shall have precedence in their order, namely:

a. To fix the time to which The Conference shall adjourn. This motion is subject to amendment, substitution, or may be laid on the table.

b. To adjourn.

c. To take a recess.

d. To order the pending or previous question. (This motion cannot be laid on the table.)

e. To lay on the table.

f. To postpone to a given time.

g. To refer.

h. To substitute.

i. To amend. (One amendment to an amendment being allowed.)

j. To postpone indefinitely.

Rule 9. Substitute Motions

When there is a main motion, amendments and a substitute with a possible amendment pending the order of procedure shall be:

1. Perfect the main motion by action on the amendment or amendments to it.

2. Perfect the substitute by action on any amendment offered to it.
3. Vote upon the question of the substitute
4. If the substitute is in order, the substitute then becomes the main motion.

Rule 10. Presentation of Committee Report

When the report of a committee is under consideration the first to be recognized by the Presiding Officer shall
be the chairperson of the committee, or someone designated by the chairperson. In case of a minority report,
the chairperson of the minority or someone designated by that person shall next be recognized.

Rule 11. Rules of Debate

When the report of the committee is under consideration it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to
ascertain when a delegate is recognized, on which side they propose to speak, and shall not assign the floor to
any delegate proposing to speak in the same side of the pending questions as the speaker immediately
preceding, if any delegate desires to speak on the other side. No report shall be adopted, or question relating to
the same decided without opportunity having been given for at least one speech for and one against the said
proposal. Provided this right is claimed before the chairperson or duly authorized delegate presenting the
committee’s report or the minority report, if there is one, is presented to close the debate. When all have spoken
who desire to do so, or when (and after) the pending or previous questions have been ordered, the chairperson
or duly authorized delegate or delegates presenting the committee’s report and the minority report, if there is
one, shall be permitted to speak before the vote is taken. Unless The Conference extends the time, no speaker
shall be allowed more than seven minutes.

Rule 12. Motion to Table

The motion to lay on the table is the highest ranking subsidiary motion. It is non-debatable. When applied to a
subsidiary motion, it shall not carry the main question with it. The motion to lay on the table shall require a
two-thirds vote.

Rule 13. Order of Previous Question

The previous questions shall not be ordered unless opportunity has been given for at least one speech for and
one speech against the question. When it is ordered the question shall be put without further debate, except that
the chairperson of the committee or the mover of the motion shall be allowed five minutes to answer any new
matter that might have been brought into the debate. The same privilege shall be accorded the delegate
presenting the minority report.

Rule 14. Motion to Reconsider

A motion to reconsider an action of The Conference shall be in order at any time if ordered by a delegate who
voted with the prevailing side. If the motion being reconsidered is non-debatable, the motion to reconsider may
not be debated.

Rule 15. Required Majority

All questions shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and voting, except as otherwise ordered
by The Book of Discipline or by The Conference.

Rule 16. Calendar

The Secretary of The Conference shall keep a chronological record of the Orders of the Day, or reports of
committees and all other matters and resolutions submitted for future consideration. This record shall be called
the Calendar, and the items of business placed on it shall be considered in order, unless by a vote of The
Conference, a report is taken up out of order.
Rule 17. Suspension of the Rules of Order

These Rules may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote of The Conference.

Rule 18. Amendment of the Rules of Order

After the Rules of Order are adopted at the opening session of the Conference, they may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of The Conference. Any proposed change or amendment must be presented to The Conference in writing and referred to the Structure and Rules Team, who shall report back to The Conference no later than the following day.

Rule 19. Election of Bishops

a. At the first session of The Conference the Committee on the Episcopacy shall report the number of Bishops to be elected.

b. The First ballot shall be taken at the first plenary session.

c. For election an Elder must receive at least sixty percent (60%) of the effective ballots cast.

d. Upon recommendation of The Conference and approval by The College of Bishops an electronic (non-paper ballot) voting system may be used in the election of Bishops. A ballot book containing the names and assigned numbers of all elders elected to The Conference, in alphabetical order shall be prepared by the Secretary of The Conference and distributed to the delegates at the first plenary. Additional spaces shall be provided for write-in names and assigned numbers of elders not elected as delegates to The Conference. An opportunity for write-in names to be assigned numbers for voting shall be provided prior to the taking of the first ballot, and subsequently prior to the taking of each ballot. A valid ballot shall be one in which the number of votes cast on an electronic device is equal to the number of bishops to be elected. After taking the first ballot and its report there shall not be another ballot until the Secretary provides the body written copies of the result of the first ballot. Following the first ballot, the second and succeeding ballots shall be cast, the results of which given to the Presiding Officer for announcement. Upon the election of a bishop there shall be a thirty-minute recess before the next ballot is taken. Following each ballot with no election there shall be a fifteen minute recess, with the exception of ballots taken at the time of a mid-morning or mid-afternoon recess, or a mealtime break. At such times the break for those activities shall constitute a recess following and prior to a succeeding vote.

e. The results of all electronic (non-paper) ballots shall first be reported to the Presiding Officer and the Secretary in written format which shall include the number of ballots cast, number of invalid ballots, number of valid and number required for election; this followed by the listing of names and votes received by each elder in descending numerical order. After the ballot results are announced by the Presiding Officer, and/or the Secretary, they may be projected electronically on a public screen. Paper copies of these ballot reports shall be posted within the meeting hall. Following the second ballot report the names of those receiving fewer than five (5) votes shall not be reported to the Conference.

f. If paper ballots are used and if a ballot is incorrectly counted or reported to the The Conference, the Presiding Officer shall order a recount of the ballot in question and, if found to be incorrect, shall declare the tellers’ report to be null and void, and shall report the corrected tellers’ report. If a recount of the ballot is ordered The Conference shall not proceed until the recount is reported. If additional ballots have been taken after the recalled ballot but before any recount is ordered and such tellers’ report was found to be incorrect, such additional ballots and elections hall be declared null and void. If a delegate challenges the accuracy of a tellers’ report of a ballot, The Conference may order a recount by a majority vote.
g. Following the report of a ballot and any ordered recess (See Rule 20) the casting of the next ballot shall be the Order of the Day.

h. Any required paper ballots taken at the close of a session shall be sealed and placed in the hands of the Secretary to be counted immediately preceding the opening of the next session.

Rule 20. Ordered Recess

a. If paper ballots are used, with the exception of the first ballot, following the required recess, and before taking subsequent ballots for the election of a bishop, the presiding officer shall lead The Conference in prayer, invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

b. When voting with electronic devices, the presiding officer shall order a fifteen minute recess following each ballot in which there is no election. Following this recess the presiding officer shall lead The Conference in prayer, invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit prior to the next ballot taken.

Rule 21. Motion to Adjourn

The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order except:

a. When a question is actually put or a vote is being taken, and before it is finally decided.

b. When the pending or previous question has been ordered and action thereunder is pending.

c. When the motion to adjourn has been lost, and no business or debate has intervened.

d. When the motion to fix the time to which The Conference shall adjourn is pending.

Rule 22. Robert’s Rules of Order

In all matters not specified, proceedings of The Conference shall be governed by the most recent version of Robert’s Rules of Order Revised.

PART THREE—ADDITIONAL MATTERS

Two printed copies of the Conference Journal from each Annual Conference shall be forwarded annually to the office of the Executive Director of The South Central Jurisdiction immediately upon publication.
REPORT OF THE MISSION COUNCIL

The Mission Council met following the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference and upon recommendation of the nominating committee elected the following officers: Jim Welch, Chair, Sue Burgess, Vice-Chair, Becky Hensley, Secretary. In turn the officers appointed the Ministry Team Chairs: Jada Hodgson—Finance Committee, Daniel Garcia—Personnel Committee, Larry Norman—VIM Committee, Ouida Lee—Ethnic Initiatives Committee, and Andrew Ponder Williams, Structure and Rules and Archives Committee.

The Council has one meeting a year, except for the year of the Jurisdictional Conference when there is a meeting before that event, and then an organizational meeting in the fall of that year to reorganizes and elect new officers. The Structure and Rules of the Conference require one person from each Annual Conference to be elected to an eight year term. These are divided into two classes providing a rotation system so there is memory on each council. In addition there may be up to four at large members appointed by the College of Bishops for age, racial or ethnic balance.

During the quadrennium there were five Annual Conferences that merged into two and has resulted in some changes in a rotation system which was designed to give male-female-clergy balance. There will be, in the coming quadrennium, twelve basic members and up to four at large.

During the quadrennium we engaged the leadership of Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center in a discussion on the future of the Mountain as a Jurisdictional entity. We helped fund a consultant in the field of retreat and conference centers who assisted the Trustees of the Mountain to re-cast their future. One of the conclusions from that consultation was that it is improbable that the role of Mount Sequoyah as a Jurisdictional facility could ever be what it was in a past era. With agreement with the Board of Trustees, the Mission Council proposed that over the next four years we reduce the Jurisdictional apportionment to the Mountain by one/fourth, starting in 2017, and that by the end of the quadrennium, we would have no apportionment to that entity. During those four years, the leadership at Mt. Sequoyah would continue to seek a new direction and would, by the end of the quadrennium, agree to purchase the property from the Jurisdiction, or agree to closing and placing it up for sale. That action is reflected in the budget proposal included in this document, and the decision of the Mission Council to affirm that four year plan will be before the Conference for your consideration and approval. The proposal reads thus:

The Mission Council, in consultation with the Trustees of Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center, proposes that over the next four years the current annual apportionment of $165,000 be reduced by an amount equal to one-fourth each year until there is no apportionment asked of the Conferences of the Jurisdiction. The amounts would be: 2017=$123,750, 2018=$82,500, 2019=$41,250, 2020=$0. Further, we recommend that during this quadrennium the Trustees be permitted to re-construct the Board of Trustees to reflect a more local membership as they seek both a new direction and by the end of the quadrennium either offer to buy the property from the Jurisdiction, or that the Jurisdiction may place the property on the market to sell.

There were no other decisions asked of, or made by, the Mission Council that require ratification by the Jurisdictional Conference during the past four years. We have managed the assigned tasks given to us, and other reports are included in this document for your consideration.

In the third quadrennium, our Executive Director Dr. David Severe, submitted his intention to resign effective following the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference and the production of the Journal of the proceedings. In the Mission Council meeting in 2015, the Rev. Brian Bakeman was elected and will assume that office in the fall of this year. Rev. Bakeman is the Treasurer of the Oklahoma Conference currently, and plans to retire from that position and we welcome him to be our new Executive Director.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Welch, Chair
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

For the last eleven years it has been my privilege to serve as your Executive Director. As all good things must come to a transition, so that time has come for me. I did not say things would come to an end, for I will always follow and cheer for the South Central Jurisdiction, albeit now from the sidelines. But what an honor it has been to be in this relationship in my senior years. I was delighted to be given this opportunity, and have thoroughly enjoyed these almost three quadrennia working with the Mission Council, the College of Bishops, and all of you.

And, for the last several years, spouse Paula and I have worked as a team in this endeavor and she has done a great job as the Office Manager. Some questioned if the marriage could endure, but it did and we discovered we truly enjoyed the task as a couple. She joins me in appreciating the extension of our time in ministry.

We look forward to travel, continued writing of our Memoirs and our church St. Luke’s in OKC. We are blessed to be part of the Insight Sunday School class where they let me teach each week. They are a blessing.

And we are delighted to leave the work in the capable hands of Rev. Brian Bakeman, who will assume the reins as soon as this Conference is over, and we get the Journal printed. He will make a great leader for and with you.

Again, thanks for the privilege.

Grace and Peace,
David Severe

OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Brian Bakeman is an ordained Deacon and began working in the area of church business administration in 1984 at First UMC in Lubbock, Texas. He is currently serving as the Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer/Benefits Officer/Statistician for the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church since 2006 and appointed a deacon at St. Luke’s UMC in Oklahoma City since 1994. He is a member of the Association of United Methodist Conference Pension and Benefit Officers (AUMCPBO), the Nat’l Association of Annual Conference Treasurers (NAACT), and The Church Network (formerly NACBA) where he holds Certification in Church Administration.

Bakeman graduated from Long Island University in 1974 with a BS Magna Cum Laude in Management and an MBA from Texas Tech University in 1984.

Bakeman has been elected to General and Jurisdictional Conference in 2008, 2012 and 2016 and currently serves on the Oklahoma City University Board of Trustees, Oklahoma UM Foundation Board, Skyline Urban Ministries Board, the El Sistema Orchestra Board, a member of the Oklahoma City Rotary, and the Oklahoma Community Orchestra. For fun, Bakeman loves to garden, play bridge, read, and lead Sunday school and bible study classes and spend time with his family. Bakeman and his wife, Julia, have three grown children and four grandchildren.

South Central Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy 2012–2016

This report is submitted in accordance with ¶ 524.3h of the 2012 Book of Discipline which calls for a report of the committee activities, decisions and recommendations during the quadrennium. In an effort to be better prepared to make the very best recommendations for the assignment of active bishops in 2016, the following activities have been taken:

A. The SCJ Episcopacy Committee met several times in face-to-face meetings and by conference calls. The organizational meeting took place at the end of Jurisdiction Conference in 2012. Officers were elected: Donald R. House, Chair, Judy Benson, Vice Chair, and Rev. David Wilson, Secretary. The first meeting after jurisdictional conference was held in Dallas on Feb. 4, 2013. The second meeting was held
in Austin, Texas on Feb. 25, 2013 with Gil Rendle as a meeting facilitator. The third meeting was held with the active bishops in a joint meeting on June 18, 2013 in Southlake, Texas. The fourth meeting was held in Dallas on Feb. 10, 2014. The fifth meeting was held with the active bishops in the second joint meeting on August 22, 2014 in Dallas. The sixth meeting was held in Dallas on January 16, 2015. The seventh meeting was held in Dallas with the active bishops on June 23–24, 2015. The eighth meeting was held in Dallas Feb. 1–2, 2016 when active bishops were interviewed individually. The final series of meetings will take place at jurisdictional conference in Kansas City between July 11 and July 15, 2016. During the jurisdictional conference, the Committee will interview the retired bishops and the newly elected bishops and will develop the recommended active bishops’ assignments for the next quadrennium.

B. The Committee helped facilitate a meeting of the jurisdictional delegates that was held October 29–30 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church. Last quadrennium a similar meeting was also held in Oklahoma City, and the previous quadrennial meeting was help in Austin, Texas. The meeting enabled delegates from each of the annual conferences to gather, have fellowship, and discuss many of the issues to be considered at General Conference 2016.

C. The Committee responded to the Judicial Council Decision No. 1230 by seeking a reconsideration of the decision on several grounds. The reconsideration was denied. The Committee complied with all Judicial Council mandates in the Decision, including its endorsement of the action of the College of Bishops in its choice to assign Bishop Bledsoe to the New Mexico/Northwest Texas Episcopal area.

D. The Committee received information from the College of Bishops regarding the planned unification of the Southwest Texas Annual Conference and the Rio Grande Annual Conference, forming the new Rio Texas Annual Conference.

E. The Committee received information from the College of Bishops regarding the resignation of Jim Dorff from the episcopacy and the plan to administer the operations of the Rio Texas Annual Conference until September 1, 2016 when a bishop is to be assigned by the jurisdictional conference.

F. The Committee helped coordinate the annual conference delegations’ interviews of candidates seeking election to the episcopacy.

G. The Committee’s work focused upon the patterns of decline in worship attendance among the annual conferences in the jurisdiction. It made use of a study of the dominate trends in the jurisdiction, including primary indicators such as worship attendance, professions of faith, and the payment of apportionments. The information included demographic trends that have been shown to affect worship attendance, professions of faith, and giving. This study also provided the Committee evidence of past assignments and historical trends demonstrating both strengths and weaknesses within each episcopal area.

H. The Committee asked for and received brief summaries of the annual conference strategies in place designed to arrest continuing worship attendance decline within our episcopal areas. Each active bishop gave an oral presentation of these strategies in a joint meeting with the Committee. The active bishops and Committee members discussed the development of a jurisdictional strategy seeking to arrest the decline in worship attendance in the South Central Jurisdiction. A representative of the Committee met with the SCJ Mission Council to further consider the development of such a strategy.

I. The Committee received plans for changes in the boundaries of episcopal areas in the event that the jurisdiction is instructed to reduce its number of active bishops.

J. The Committee agreed to follow an assignment process that has been used in several previous quadrennia. The Committee approved the use of a consultant to administer the process during the jurisdictional conference.

Summary: The South Central Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy faced a number of challenges during the quadrennium. However, member attendance at the face-to-face meetings and for the telephone conference calls was excellent, in spite of the travel time and expense incurred among its 30 members. Participation and focus before and during the meetings were outstanding. It is an impressive group of church leaders. The jurisdiction has an impressive group of active bishops—clearly the best among the jurisdictions. The challenges before the jurisdiction are significant and daunting—particularly the challenges of declining worship attendance. With effective strategies, this jurisdiction will be best positioned to arrest its decline.

Donald R. House, Chair
Mission and Administration Financial Reports

Report # 1. The South Central Jurisdiction Financial Reports

The Finance and Administration Committee of the Mission Council is composed of six people: Rev. Jada Hodgson—Chair, Rev. Jim Welch, Becky Walker, Secretary, Bill Junk, Treasurer, Bishop Cynthia Harvey, and Office Manager, Paula Severe.

During the quadrennium the Finance Committee has developed, monitored and reviewed the income and expenditures of the Jurisdiction. We have consulted with the Executive Director, the Jurisdiction Treasurer and engaged the firm of Finley & Cook, PLLC Certified Public Accountants to audit the books annually, reviewing their report each year. We have monitored the record of accrued funds held by the Jurisdiction, and approved the apportionment formula and the total apportionments assigned to each Annual Conference.

Report # 2. Stipend, travel and expenses of the Conference

All delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference will receive a stipend of $600. Delegates who arrive early for committee meetings held before Wednesday of the Conference will receive an additional $150. Delegates are responsible for their room accommodations, meals, and all other expenses incurred. Should an alternate delegate be seated permanently for an elected delegate, the delegate is responsible for sharing the stipend with that alternate. No stipend or travel is paid to alternate delegates, except as stated above.

Delegates flying into Wichita are to make their own arrangements and are expected to secure the least expensive flight arrangements. A copy of the flight itinerary with costs attached is to be affixed to the expense voucher.

Those driving less than 150 miles round trip, to a departure airport, or to the site of the conference will not receive travel reimbursement. Travel in excess of that will be paid. Parking fees from departure airports for up to four days for those flying into Wichita will be paid. Receipts for all reimbursements are to be attached to the voucher. No travel expense will be paid for delegates living within 75 miles of Wichita. No lodging or other expense will be paid for overnight accommodations to or from Wichita, Kansas. Mileage will be paid on the basis of the shortest driving distance between the delegate’s home and the site of the Conference.

Receipts must accompany requests for all reimbursements and must be submitted by July 31, 2016.

Note: Expense vouchers will be collected on Friday morning of the Conference. Each delegation leader is responsible for collecting their delegation’s vouchers and turning them in to the Secretary by noon on Friday. Checks will not be written at the conference, but will be processed and mailed within ten days of adjournment.

Report # 3. Recommendations:

1. Apportionment Formula

The apportionment formula is based on 50% of membership and 50% on total giving, less building improvements, payment on debt, apportionments, advanced specials, special offerings and all directly paid missional giving by the local church. GCFA provides us the apportionment percentages, which we apply to the approved amounts.

2. Apportionments to Agencies of the Jurisdiction. $1,263,163

   a. The total apportionment to the Conferences will remain the same as the 2012-2016 quadrennium.

   b. The Mission Council recommends the following amounts, taking into account the end of an apportionment to the SMU Wesley Foundation, and the proposed gradual reduction, over the quadrennium, of an apportionment to Mt. Sequoyah.
3. Mission and Administration apportionment. $380,000
   The apportionment for Mission and Administration is requested to be increased. It has been unchanged for the past 12 years, and the increase costs in a number of areas requires it to be higher.

4. Replenishing the Reserves of the Jurisdiction. $54,413
   It has been a long-standing practice of the Jurisdiction to maintain a reserve balance to meet any potential emergency, and especially to fund a called session of the Conference, if needed. In 2007 our reserves were $863,085. Over the years that amount has been reduced to $336,644, of which nearly $100,000 are custodial funds which the Jurisdiction holds for a variety of related entities. The Mission Council recommends, while we do not have to increase the total apportionment amount, that we apportion a Reserves amount that will, over the next quadrennium, begin to replenish that reserve.

5. Gradually end an apportionment to Mount Sequoyah. 2017=$123,750, 2018=$82,500, 2019=$41,250, 2020=$0
   The Mission Council feels that Mount Sequoyah no longer truly serves the Jurisdiction in the way it once did. And the leadership there are in agreement and seek to develop the Mountain in a different way, and eventually separate it from the Jurisdiction. Our mutual agreement is to reduce the apportionment by one-fourth each year during this quadrennium. We have also agreed that by the end of the quadrennium, the local board will seek a way to independently purchase the property, or the Jurisdiction will put it up for sale. The apportionment of $165,000 will be reduced by one fourth each year.

6. Lydia Patterson Institute. $705,000
   We rejoice in the ministry and mission of LPI and believe they deserve an increase in their apportionment. Their success is gratifying and the students they produce are excellent, both academically, and spiritually.

7. We recommend Mr. Billy Meade to be elected as Treasurer of the Jurisdiction.
   We express our deep thanks for the gifts which Bill Junk has brought to the work of the Jurisdiction in these last eight years. His guidance over the financial expenditures and budget process have been invaluable. An honorarium of $100 per year is to be paid to the treasurer in recognition of services rendered.

8. That the Jurisdictional budget be administered through the Jurisdictional office and be amenable to the Mission Council, or its successor.

9. That the Jurisdictional Conference Treasurer, the Executive Director and the Office Manager be bonded in an adequate amount to be determined by the Mission Council.

10. That the Jurisdictional office serve as the receiving and distributing office for all Jurisdictional funds, budgeted, or held for the benefit of, and disbursements made via expense vouchers.

11. That an annual audit of the financial books be made and distributed to the members of the Mission Council, the College of Bishops of the South Central Jurisdiction, Annual Conference Treasurers, and others as requested.

12. That the SCJ depository be First Fidelity Bank, Oklahoma City, or one approved by the Committee on Finance, as well as the determination of other depositories that may be required.
13. That all monies for Apportionments and other causes be deposited electronically at First Fidelity Bank of Oklahoma City, OK, accompanied by an e-mail to the Jurisdiction office defining the distribution of same among the apportioned entities, or mailed directly to the Jurisdiction office, 3160 W. Britton Rd., Suite F- Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

14. That the Executive Director shall set each year the deadline for deposits of Jurisdictional funds for the previous year, and so notify each Annual Conference Treasurer.

15. That the Jurisdictional Office is instructed to forward all accrued monies received to the respective agencies of the Jurisdiction each month.
APPORTIONMENT FORMULA DECIMALS

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<th>CONFERENCE</th>
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<th>RESERVES</th>
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Total apportionments same as last quad.

SCJ APPORTIONMENTS 2017–2020

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Reserves History

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Reduction in Reserves $526,441

** Mission Council recommends reducing Mt. Sequoyah apportionment by 1/4 each year, starting in 2017**
### MISSION COUNCIL BUDGET 2017-2020

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90% PAY OUT

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#### ANNUAL EXPENSES

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#### Administration

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#### Total

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58 2016 Christian Advocate, South Central Jurisdiction
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Mission Council
South Central Jurisdiction of
the United Methodist Church
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church (the “Jurisdiction”), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors’ Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors’ judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the Jurisdiction’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Jurisdiction’s internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

(Continued)
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS’ REPORT, CONTINUED

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Jurisdiction as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Shawnee, Oklahoma
August 25, 2015
## SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

### STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

*Year Ended December 31, 2014*

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Board-designated</td>
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<td>Revenues and other support:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apportionments</td>
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<td>Contributions and program fees</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>63,528</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>63,528</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<td>Interest income</td>
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<td><strong>Total revenues and other support</strong></td>
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<td>370,880</td>
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<td>Distributions and expenses:</td>
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<td>Programs:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth ministries (JYMO)</td>
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<td>41,598</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korean ministry</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>20,104</td>
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<td>240</td>
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<td><strong>Total programs</strong></td>
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<td>Management and general:</td>
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<td>Salaries and benefits</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
<td>3,017</td>
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<td>Telephone and internet</td>
<td>6,231</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>6,231</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>595</td>
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<td>Postage</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>507</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>1,823</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>1,823</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5,957</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,957</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total management and general</strong></td>
<td>176,499</td>
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<td>176,499</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total distributions and expenses</strong></td>
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<td>86,622</td>
<td>240</td>
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<td>Transfers</td>
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<td>Change in net assets</td>
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<td>234</td>
<td>50,458</td>
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<td>283,482</td>
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<td><strong>Net assets, end of year</strong></td>
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<td>336,644</td>
<td>6,450</td>
<td>52,983</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

See Independent Auditors' Report.
See accompanying notes to financial statements.
Volunteers in Mission & Disaster Response Report
2013–2016 Quadrennium

Staff/Position Changes

The 2013–2016 quadrennium was active for missions in the United Methodist Church of the South Central Jurisdiction (SCJ). This quadrennium began under the leadership of Debbie Vest as Director. Debbie built wonderful relationships with the Volunteers in Mission Coordinators across the SCJ, and we are grateful for her efforts and heart for mission. In May of 2014 Debbie retired and June 2014 brought Audrey Phelps of the Missouri Conference to this position. The position was also expanded to include relating to the Disaster Response Coordinators as well as the Volunteers in Mission Coordinators of the SCJ.

Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response are analogous in our understanding and practice of prayer, spiritual & emotional care, leadership, poverty alleviation, cultural awareness & sensitivity, relationship building, and other best practices. A partnership also exists in the areas of transitioning to long term recovery, volunteer overlap, etc. With this in mind, some changes were implemented to strengthen the connection between Coordinators in the SCJ:

The Disaster Response Coordinators are now included in bi-annual meetings. In 2014 we first met following the September Disaster Academy. Our Spring 2015 site visit (educational opportunity) was held in Rio Bravo, Mexico at the ministry of Manos Juntas. The Fall 2015 business meeting again followed the SCJ Mission Academy, and our site visit for Spring of 2016 will be held in the Great Plains Conference. We plan to continue this bi-annual rotation; meeting in the Fall for business and Spring for educational purposes.

The Jurisdictional Disaster Academy was renamed the SCJ Mission Academy and expanded to include mission topics beyond the scope of Disaster Response education. Our first Mission Academy was in September of 2015 with 75 registrants, a 30% increase from previous years. The 2016 SCJ Mission Academy is set for September 11-14th and will be held at Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, Arkansas. We plan to continue this expanded course schedule to connect with a broad range of short-term mission interests.

Conference Connections

Of the 12 Conferences within the SCJ, 9 have Volunteers in Mission Coordinators and 11 have Disaster Response Coordinators. Some positions are part to full-time paid staff while others are strictly volunteer held positions. For some, this is a role they hold in addition to other Conference or employment responsibilities. In light of the diverse nature of the local Conference programs within the SCJ, our Director of Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response works closely with each Conference to identify what is needed in terms of support. In 2014 Audrey was present in 5 of our local Conferences from June-December providing assistance with 2 Volunteers in Mission Leadership Training events; a Disaster Early Response Team Training; teaching workshops at a mission conference; attending UMCOR’s Disaster Response Academy; and participating in various meetings and educational opportunities. In 2015 Audrey was present in 6 local Conferences participating in a Volunteers in Mission Leadership Training Event; attending Annual Conference; co-leading Individual Volunteer training with Global Ministries Mission Volunteers staff; teaching courses at our SCJ Mission Academy; and participating in various meetings and educational opportunities. Additionally, she co-lead an International Volunteers in Mission training in Manilla, Philippines with Global Ministries Mission Volunteer staff. In 2016 to-date, Audrey has been in 3 local Conferences assisting with Disaster Response; UMCOR Grant writing; and Volunteers in Mission leadership training. She has also attended a mission conference to research potential course offerings for upcoming SCJ Mission Academies. Future 2016 plans include additional Volunteers in Mission Leadership training, a Coordinators site visit and meeting; an SCJ Leadership development mission to Manos Juntas in Rio Bravo, Mexico; the SCJ Mission Academy, etc.

The Director of Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response also works to maintain the relationships of our connectional system with Global Ministries, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and other Jurisdictions by participating in yearly meetings and mission-related events.
Mission Statistics
Disasters: According to FEMA.gov there were 44 declared disasters from 2013–2016 (to-date). Ten of these impacted individual households with approximately $40.5 million dollars requested for individual assistance. These statistics do not give the full picture of United Methodist response, however, as many undeclared disasters occurred to which the church and UMCOR responded.

*Mission Teams: From the period of 2014–2015 reports were collected from the local Conferences of the SCJ. These indicated more than 1,043 short-term teams participated in Disaster Response, Construction, Medical, Relational/Educational, and other short-term mission-related activities (see pie chart). Teams served an average of 8 states and 9 different countries per reporting Conference.

*Training: Local Conferences also reported offering more than 50 Leadership training events to almost 600 missioners; 56 Disaster training events to 944 missioners; and 10 other mission-related events to more than 3,300 missioners (see line graph).

Statistic Notes: Data from previous years is unavailable. Challenges exist in interpreting these statics: Data is not received from every Conference, and, in reporting Conferences, not from every mission team. Additionally, each Conference and Jurisdiction have differing methods of data collection which can lead to gaps in information. A standardized collection method across mission programs of the United Methodist Church in the US could alleviate these challenges.

Closing
The SCJ is blessed with dedicated and caring Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response Coordinators that work hard to resource and connect local churches to the missions God is calling them to. We are thrilled to be able to support these programs with the Director of Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response position. We look forward to this relationship strengthening mission throughout the SCJ, creating disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Respectfully Submitted by Audrey Phelps
SCJ Director of Volunteers in Mission & Disaster Response
vimphelps@gmail.com
www.scjumc.org/mission
The Korean Ministries Director is a voluntary position of the Jurisdiction and is responsible for implementing strategies for establishing new churches for Korean speaking congregations. The director also contributive for nurturing existing Korean American churches.

The director serves as a consultant to local Korean American churches regarding their need, potential and viability. When requested by a Bishop or District Superintendent, the director provides information of possible candidates for appointment to Korean churches in the South Central Jurisdiction.

Following is the current status of the Korean American church in the South Central Jurisdiction as of January 2016:

1. In the SCJ there are 31 churches out of 274 Korean American churches in the U.S.

   Distribution of church size by attendance:
   - 2,000+ 1 church Central Korean UMC in Dallas, N. TX Conference
   - 300+ 1 church St. Luke UMC in Killeen, TX C. TX Conference
   - 150–200 6 churches
   - 100–150 4 churches
   - 50–100 11 churches
   - 50– 8 churches

2. Distribution of pastor by Position (Full/Part time):

   Full: 10 3/4:12 1/2:8  TBS:1 Austin Korean UMC, since 8/2014

3. Distribution of pastor by Connection with UMC:

   Elder UMC: 12  Local Pastor UMC: 3  Elder KMC: 14  Ordained K Pentecostal: 1

There are 26 more Korean ministers serving English speaking congregations, conferences and other institutes. (Dr. Young Ho Chun—Professor at St. Paul Seminary, Rev. Kibum Kim—Parsens District Superintendent, Rev. Gloria Kim Fowler—North Texas Conference Staff)

4. Membership Transfer: Rev. Jin Hee Lee, senior pastor at Wesley Korean UMC in Carrollton, Texas, was received unanimously as a Full Elder to N. Texas Conference by transfer from Korean Methodist Church at the 2014 annual conference session.

5. New Church Development:

   Name of Church: Pittsburg Love Korean UMC (Fellowship) located at 415 N. Pine St. Pittsburg, KS 66752
   Partner Church: First UMC of Pittsburg
   Launched July 7, 2013 with 20 adults and 5 children attending.
   Financial Support: Great Plains Conf: $30,000. Partner Church: $30,000.
   Korean Ministries Plan: $10.00

6. Church Property Purchase:

   A. Peace Korean UMC in Oklahoma Conference purchased a parsonage at 2027 Lantern Ln. Enid, OK 73703 Size and price: 1,800 sq ft. $130,000. Closing date: 10/14/2014.


7. Consecration of Church Building
North Central Korean UMC in North Texas Conference had consecration of church building on February 16, 2014.
Location: 4649 S. Colony Blvd. The Colony, TX 75056.
Size and Price: 9,400 sq ft Lot: 1 acre $1,050,000

Here are the accomplishments of the Korean Ministries Director:

1. Assistance to District Superintendents: At the request of District Superintendents I furnished information of Korean ministers to assist with the appointment process and gave advice and suggestions to solve conflicts in Korean American churches on 9 occasions.

2. Service to Local Churches:
   - Visiting to local church: 67 times
   - Training of Lay Stewards: 15 times
   - Qualifying Examination of Lay Stewards: 18 times
   - Installation of Lay Stewards: 18 times
   - Installation of Pastor: 2 times
   - Meeting with Local Church Leaders: 6 times Consecration Service
   - 1 time Treatment for Local Church Pastor/Family
   - 19 times

3. *Pending Issue: Revitalization of Austin Korean UMC
   No pastor has been appointed to Austin Korean UM Church since August 2014 by reason of financial shortage. So a large portion of the congregation was scattered during vacancy of their pastor. The church urgently needs a strong pastoral leadership for revitalization. The church owns a piece of land covering 3.5 acres to the market value of $600,000. The full amount of mortgage for the land was paid off already.
   I have earnestly requested several times to District Superintendent for supplement of a new pastor. However, I received a noncommittal answer only. Please remember the Austin Korean UMC in your prayers.

   Rev. Chung Keun Kim
   Korean Ministries Director
LAY LEADER REPORT

The South Central Conference Lay Leaders continue to build partnerships with laity in local churches, clergy in their conferences, the SCJ College of Bishops and other leaders throughout the United Methodist connection.

In April of 2014, your Conference Lay Leaders hosted the annual meeting of the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders in Kansas City, Missouri. Sixty Conference Lay Leaders from the United States, Europe and Africa came together for three days to worship, learn and share. Bishop Schnase lead several sessions sharing insights from his book “Seven Levers: Missional Strategies for Conferences.”

Other highlights of the AACLL Meeting included opening worship lead by the entire SCJ Conference Lay Leaders. On Saturday night, attendees were welcomed by Rev. Adam Hamilton at the Church of the Resurrection as they toured the campus and attended worship. Then on Sunday morning, the group attended worship at the downtown Kansas City campus of the Church of the Resurrection.

Linda Parks (North Texas), Kim Simpson (Central Texas) and Courtney Fowler (Great Plains), are all members of the AACLL Executive Board. Both Fowler and Brian Hammons (Missouri) will be representing the SCJ as part of the Laity Address at General Conference 2016.

Leah Taylor
SCJ Lay Leader
I bring you greetings from South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president during this quadrennium. Let me review some of what transpired during my tenure.

Since the General Conference’s action in May 2012, United Methodist Women is organized as an independent agency of The United Methodist Church. Therefore we modified the board structure to meet the changing needs of women organized for mission.

The board now consists of 25 members (down from 50) and is responsible for managing the organization’s program policies, finances, property and its top executive staff persons. Twenty members were elected through the five jurisdiction quadrennial meetings and five through a nominations process to ensure diversity of age, race, language, physical ability and working status.

The leadership structure also includes the Program Advisory Group (PAG) of which I serve as a member. The 70 to 80 members of the PAG are from a variety of positions within United Methodist Women and the church. This group includes:

- The United Methodist Women’s 25 member Board of Directors;
- Five United Methodist Women Jurisdiction Presidents;
- A representative from each conference not already represented on the 25 member board;
- Representatives from the United Methodist Agencies, the deaconess and home missioner community.

As a member of the Program Advisory Group (PAG) we meet at least once a year to study issues and prepare recommendations to the national board regarding mission priorities, mission education work and program guidance for United Methodist Women.

United Methodist Women members’ legacy is one of faith, caring for women and children, giving attention to the marginalized, advocating for justice and supporting Mission Giving. We as United Methodist Women “Make It Happen”.

Nationally, we have almost 100 National Mission Institutions. I am proud to report that we have 27 in the South Central Jurisdiction.

Although some of our conferences were consolidated over this quadrennium, UMW transition went very well and without any major problems.

During my tenure on the Program Advisory Group we met and discussed some of the following:

- Legislation United Methodist Women brought before General Conference. Many current resolutions that relate to United Methodist Women work must be readopted, as they were set to expire.
- Participated in a workshop on eliminating institutional racism;
- Attended Assembly, National Seminar and other national sponsored programs and discussed issues such as domestic violence, human trafficking, environment and immigration.

I am excited about the direction that we are going. Our new priority issues will be:

- Climate justice: Life giving stewardship that promotes sustainability.
- Maternal and child health: Life saving access and education that promotes well-being.
- Racial and gender Justice: Protecting women and families by ending criminalization of people of color.
- Economic justice: Inequality is a women’s issue.

These issues were chosen “because in the 21st century, we as global citizens are not sustainable in our relationships with another and with the earth. Because every two minutes, somewhere in the world, a woman dies during pregnancy and childbirth. Because criminalization incarceration, detention and deportation are being used as tools to control the most vulnerable in our society. Because the top 1 percent of our society holds 25 percent of the total wealth in the United States.”

Our Quadrennial Meeting was held April 15–17, 2016 in Oklahoma City. Our theme: “a fresh wind blowing”, with the Scripture coming from John 3:8. Our Bible Study Leader was Rev. Janet Wolf, an ordained elder of the United Methodist Church with a 40 year history of advocacy for people who are
poor and pushed to the margins of society. Our music was under the direction of Marcus Briggs Cloud, who is from the Maskoke Nation, son of the Wind Clan people. He served as choir conductor and composer in Rome, Italy for the 2012 Vatican Canonization Liturgy of the first Native American Catholic Saint, Kateri Tekakwitha. The meeting also allowed a choice to visit either Neighborhood Services Organization, one of our National Mission Institutions in OKC or attend two of the eleven workshops that were offered.

Serving on the Leadership Team with me are: Sue Sidney, Vice president; Jeanette Grenz, Treasurer; LaDonna Busby, Secretary; Sue Burgess, Committee on Nominations Chairperson; Nominations Committee Members, Cindy Damon, Anita Jost, Linda Jackson and Cindy Johnson.

Finally, I am proud to report that our Legacy Fund is part of our five-year 150th anniversary celebration. It is a permanent endowment to support the work of future generations of United Methodist Women.

Again I consider it an honor to have represented the United Methodist Women in South Central Jurisdiction.

In the Service of Christ,
Edna Brown Hickman, president
South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women
SCJ United Methodist Men
Quadrennial Report

The South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Men passionately rejoice in the privilege of supporting and resourcing men’s ministry in the twelve Conferences of our Jurisdiction. The new officers of the SCJ UMM were elected in Nashville on March 5, 2016 at the National Association of Conference Presidents annual meeting. They are: Kenneth Tielke (Texas Conf), President; Joe Kelley (Louisiana Conf), Vice President; Cary Boddeker (Rio-Texas Conf), Secretary; Gard Wayt (Louisiana Conf), Treasurer. These men will serve for the 2016–2020 quadriennium.

Changes in the structure and re-naming of Conferences and Districts over the last four years, such as the Kansas East, Kansas West and Nebraska conferences merging to become The Great Plains Conference, and the Southwest Texas and Rio-Grande conferences merging to become The Rio-Texas Conference, has presented some challenges to the organizational re-structure in men’s ministry leadership teams. New Constitutions and Bylaws, as well as elections of new officers were required to “start-up” a new men’s ministry leadership platform. As Episcopal Offices decide to make changes in the number of Districts, the borders of these Districts and the local churches to include as part of these newly created Districts, the same scenario of Name change, Constitution, Bylaws and elections of officers was required. In many cases, that meant new Treasurers, new bank accounts, new combined budgets, goals, missions, and ministry leadership training. These are challenging times, but it appears to have become the way of life in the United Methodist Church. We grew from twelve disciples into what we are now through many challenges and changes and have survived, so far, with God’s help.

For the most part, the men’s leadership teams in our SCJ conferences are strong and dedicated and focused on making disciples of Jesus Christ. We do need more men with a heart for God’s mission to step up to the plate, stand in the gap and dedicate their time, talents and gifts to the building of the Kingdom through men’s ministry work. Presently, there are UMM Conference leadership positions open and needed in North Texas, Northwest Texas and Central Texas.

We are fortunate to have an outstanding leadership team at the General Commission on United Methodist Men in Nashville with Gil Hanke as our General Secretary, Bishop James Swanson as our President and Bishop Thomas Bickerton as our Vice-President, with a fantastic small staff and three deployed staff members to help train and lead anywhere they are needed.

Our goal over the next four years is to make sure that all men’s ministry leadership positions in all the Conferences in the South Central Jurisdiction are filled with competent, trained and energized men of God, that they have designated mission projects and ministry goals set in stone and financially supported through fund raising projects and events. There will be a revival of the Christian Spirit in the hearts, minds and souls of men throughout and within all the local churches in the Conferences of our Jurisdiction and beyond.

Kenneth Kielke, SCJ President
LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE  
South Central Jurisdiction Report  
2015

Members of the South Central Jurisdiction:

It is my privilege and honor to render a report of your only institution on the U.S.-Mexico border serving predominately Hispanics, Lydia Patterson Institute (LPI). It is with deep appreciation that I thank the bishops and all the members of their respective conferences for the love, prayers and support given to “La Lydia”.

This quadrennium saw Lydia Patterson Institute step into a second century as one of the United Methodist Church’s most redemptive ministries. In 2013, LPI celebrated 100 years of changing lives through education and forming bilingual leader for the church and society. The celebration began with a “gala” attended by more than 400 community and church leaders, stakeholders, and supporters from throughout the country and Mexico. Three distinguished alumni were honored and words of wisdom and congratulations were brought by Former First Lady Laura Bush and U.S. Congressman Beto O’Rourke. A formal announcement of a capital funds campaign for renovation of the LPI campus was made at the event.

The capital campaign was set in motion throughout the South Central Jurisdiction and the El Paso-Juarez borderland. The first $1 million gift was received followed by a $500,000 grant from the Woodworth Estates of the Oklahoma Conference for a new science lab, and a $750,000 matching grant from an El Paso philanthropist. Other conferences and individuals have stepped forward with their commitments and support. The first phase of the building project was completed with the renovation of fourteen classrooms. The academic phase of the plan was put in place with the addition of the middle school and the introduction of the ELPILearn, all made possible with the support of the Central Texas Conference, the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation and the Texas Methodist Foundation. The classrooms were transformed into advanced learning centers with SmartBoards, tablets and e-books. The ELPILearn is an exclusive program designed by our own staff to teach ESL with content courses using the latest technology. The students learn English twice as fast and are better prepared for high school and college. It is the most technologically advanced program in the El Paso area.

Service to the church remains another priority of “La Lydia”. Students from the Student Lay Ministry Program were placed in internships throughout the jurisdiction and beyond at an average of 40 per year. Many are presently serving in local churches while attending college. Several lay ministry students have followed their calling and are presently attending seminary or have already been commissioned to service in a local church. LPI understands the urgent need for bilingual leadership within the United Methodist Church and works diligently to fulfill this need.

I wish to thank every member of this jurisdiction for joining us in making a difference in the lives of so many young people. When you take Angel, Emanuel, Febe, and Ester Ara, who live in extreme poverty, and you teach them English, give them the best education, and prepare them for college, you are saving an entire family. They have been freed from the afflictions of poverty and their faith has been strengthened. When you invest in the lives of those like the Ara family, I believe your rate of return is enormously high. Angel and Emanuel will graduate next year, and we are already looking for the United Methodist institution that will continue our ministry by providing them with a college education. They will add to our successful experience of sending 98% of our students to college.

On behalf of every student, past and present, please accept our most sincere appreciation for the support of your ministry on the border, Lydia Patterson Institute.

Socorro de Anda, President
Mount Sequoyah Center, Inc.
2014–2015 Report

Thank you for the opportunity to report the past year’s activities, provide a vision of the programming and activities to come in 2015–2016, and project possible images of what the future might hold for Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center.

Usage: Since September 1, 2014 Mount Sequoyah hosted 38,850 guests, served 16,000 meals, witnessed 35 couples unite in holy matrimony, shared our facilities with 35 churches, and introduced 565 youth to The United Methodist Church through our swim and tennis programs, Kamp Kanakuk, and SHOUT mission camps.

Financial Health: Mount Sequoyah’s financial health is the best it has been in years. Mount Sequoyah’s operating reserve has a value of $308,000.00 and a capital improvement reserve has a value of $97,000.00. Since January 1, 2013, all contributions, except apportionments, have been used for capital improvements—none to pay operating costs. Since November 2011, Mount Sequoyah has spent $630,000.00 on capital improvements for which there is $113,000.00 owed the City of Fayetteville which debt accrues interest at one (1%) per annum. In addition to the $113,000.00, the long-term debts are $175,600.00 on the 1011 Skyline house and $160,000.00 on the operating Line of Credit Note (LOC) that has varied from $60,000.00 to $200,000.00.

Programming: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN LIVES AND OUR CHURCH:
In September 2014 Denni Palmer, M.Div. joined the staff as Director of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation. Mount Sequoyah’s intentional programming, that is; programming designed, developed, and presented or solicited by staff, was refocused in 2014. Staff is no longer seeking ways to fill spaces but now is focused on the design, development, and presentation or solicitation of workshops, programs, and seminars that stress religious education and spiritual growth.

During the past year staff sought and assisted in the design and planning of:

The Beyond Conference: A 3-day workshop designed to educate and encourage children’s pastors and childcare staff and volunteers. Around 100 attended primarily from Arkansas; however we also had attendees from Louisiana, Kansas and Texas. The featured speaker was Mark Burrows from First United Methodist in Fort Worth.

The Lay Servant Academy: Conducted in May 2015 offered basic and advanced courses to United Methodists seeking Lay Servant training and certification. The training was preceded by a meeting of jurisdictional directors facilitated by Jodi Cataldo from Discipleship Ministries at the General Conference. A second Lay Servant Academy is scheduled for October 15–17.

SHOUT: Mission camps emphasizing worship, fellowship, learning, and working together. Participants were 3rd through 8th graders. Two camps were conducted in July and had a total participation of 50 youth. The youth participated in worship, fellowship, and worked with community agencies in serving low income families. The goal is to make the camps attractive to church throughout the jurisdiction.

General:
Sunday School Teacher Training and workshop will be offered in January with trained professionals serving as instructors.
Easter Sunrise Services will continue. Approximately 300 attended the service presented in English and 40 attended service presented in Spanish. The Spanish Sunrise Service was a first time event and will be repeated.
At the Cross Senior Adult Retreat combines worship, fellowship, education, and local tours. This event continues to attract participants from conferences outside Arkansas. An effort to establish a commuter segment is underway.
AWAKEN Yoga Festival: A new event held in May. The event attracted participants primarily from

---

38,850 guests—If a local group of 100 attended a 3 day workshop they are counted as 100; however; if 100 people rented rooms for 3 nights and did mission work in the community, then the number 300 was used because we are counting room usage on a per night use. If 100 rented rooms for 3 nights and meet on campus, only the room usage was counted-300. However 200 college kids met one night for 36 weeks and two churches and a Boy’s Scout Troop with varying attendances met 50 weeks but none are in the count.
Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma.

Support Sundays—the Campus provides meeting space and if requested leaders to facilitate various support groups from local UM churches such as DivorceCare, Financial Peace University, and LiveWell. Other potential programs are Older Adult Yoga, Bible Studies, and Men’s and Women’s accountability groups.

Seasonal Devotional are prepared and placed in the guest room.

Bible Studies to Go are available in the Office and Dining area.

Pastor Appreciation lunches were given to honor area pastors.

A Pastor’s Appreciation Packet was designed and mailed to each UM Staff Parish Relation Committee Chair in the jurisdiction whose addresses we could obtain. The goal was to encourage laity to show appreciation to their clergy. Mount Sequoyah offered great mini vacation packages.

**WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS:**

The Lay Mobilization Institute: Discussions with the Beeson Center at Asbury Theological Seminary will hopefully lead to a 2 year church coaching and training process. One goal is to equip and involve laity in ministry along with clergy.

Sports Camps with a Christian curriculum: Work is underway to design sport camps around sports stars with a love for Christ and His Church.

Youth Workers Conference. Staff is working with Kelly Carpenter and Michelle Moore to bring this SCJ Youth Workers Conference to Mount Sequoyah in 2016.

Academy of Spiritual Formation—continuing efforts are underway to bring the Academy to Mount Sequoyah.

5 Talents is a ministry incubator in development to provide emerging churches with support for innovative ministry through support of ministerial leaders and business professionals in a team effort.

**In Conclusion:**

Mount Sequoyah’s intentional programming continues to target the youth of our Church and the world. The Mount Sequoyah swim program combines Bible Study with swimming and is highly successful. In June our Tennis Courts were reconstructed and opened to public use. Individual lessons and group workshops are offered. In February we were able to reconstruct our WIFI system. Some question spending money on a swimming pool, tennis courts and a WIFI system, all of which were totally funded by contributions. Our response has been and will continue to be these assets attract children and young mothers and dads, many of whom will never have exposure to a Church facility other than The United Methodist Church through Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center. Our archives have many letters from our elders who dedicated their lives to the ministry or service in Christian fields and have written to let us know of their love for Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center because they first were exposed to Christian hospitality and beliefs at camps and fun activities they reluctantly attended many years ago. We believe some of the young people who swim, play tennis, and attend our mission workshops will come to know Jesus Christ and someday tell our successors they first met Him on Mount Sequoyah.

By His Grace and For His Glory,

Lamar Pettus, Interim Executive Director

Mount Sequoyah Center, Inc. nominates the following persons for election as Trustees for the 2016–2020 term:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>DeWitt Smith</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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<td>Margaret Whillock</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Shane Pair</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. William O. (Bud) Reeves</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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<td>Kathy Retzlaff</td>
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<td>Mike Ross</td>
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<td>Rev. Eric Folkerth</td>
<td>North Texas</td>
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<td>Doug Foss</td>
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<td>Randy Hollums</td>
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<td>Rev. Richard (Rick) Mang</td>
<td>Central Texas</td>
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<td>Marvin Morgan</td>
<td>Great Plains</td>
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<td>Jason Oswald</td>
<td>Great Plains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dick White</td>
<td>Texas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BY VIRTUE OF OFFICE:**

Rev. Stephen Coburn, Northwest Arkansas District Superintendent

**Emeritus Trustees:**

Dr. Earl B. Carter

Trev Hall

Dr. Ed Matthews

Rev. Larry Norman

Dr. Ron Gilbert

Bishop Kenneth Hicks

Jack Meadows

Allen Tuten
One hundred years ago, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, joined with Dallas civic leaders to establish Southern Methodist University. SMU commemorated the University’s founding in 1911 and its opening in 1915 with a five-year centennial celebration.

As SMU passes the century mark, the University continues to rise in academic stature and student quality. SMU is ranked in the top one-fourth among the “best national universities” by *U.S. News & World Report*. Cox School of Business ranks among the top in the nation and the world, according to leading business publications. Other programs, such as law, music and dance, enjoy national rankings.

Today SMU enrolls approximately 11,000 students (6,200 undergraduates and 4,800 graduate students). Students come from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, with about half from outside Texas. Students represent diverse economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds, with a minority enrollment of more than 25 percent and an international enrollment of 13 percent. The 2015 fall entering class had an average SAT score of 1309, an increase of nearly 100 points in the past 10 years.

The Second Century Campaign, launched in 2008, reached its $1 billion goal in September 2015, ahead of schedule. It raised support for 582 new student scholarships; 49 new endowed faculty positions, now totaling 111; 66 academic programs and initiatives, including endowments for two schools; and 18 capital projects.

Campaign gifts have supported new centers focusing on research, cyber security, education, victims of crimes against women, family law and legal research in science and technology. A gift from the Highland Park United Methodist Church established the Umphrey Lee Professorship in Methodist History in Perkins School of Theology.

Also funded by campaign gifts, five new residence halls and a dining hall opened in fall 2014, joining six existing residence halls adapted to the Residential Commons model, which features classrooms and faculty in residence. SMU now requires sophomores as well as first-year students to live on campus.

Learning at SMU today extends beyond the classroom through scholarly research, civic engagement, professional internships and creative activity. SMU supports more than 100 Engaged Learning projects, locally and around the world. The Big iDeas program funds student projects in Dallas. The Embrey Human Rights Program is one of only seven human rights majors in the nation and includes study tours abroad.

The George W. Bush Presidential Center, housing the Library, Museum and independent Institute, opened in 2013. The Bush Institute sponsors programs that promote economic growth, education reform, global health and human freedom. Several SMU faculty members developed curricula, serve as mentors and teach for the Bush Institute Women’s Initiative focusing on women of the Middle East, and SMU students have worked at clinics in Zambia as part of the Bush Center Global Health initiative. The Bush Center facilitated a visit and lecture by the Dalai Lama at SMU.

The Meadows Museum at SMU, housing one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside Spain, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015 with special exhibitions of art treasures never before seen in the U.S.

As you may know, in September 2015 the NCAA found that three former SMU employees violated NCAA bylaws and cited several additional violations in men’s basketball and golf. When SMU learned of the allegations, we took immediate action to terminate the employees involved, imposed sanctions on ourselves and cooperated fully with the NCAA investigation. We are committed to full NCAA compliance and have been noted by the NCAA as having a strong compliance program. However, we realize that mistakes were made, and we must do better. SMU’s response to the NCAA findings can be found at [www.smu.edu](http://www.smu.edu).

After nearly 14 years as dean of Perkins School of Theology, William B. Lawrence is retiring in 2016. Under his outstanding leadership, Perkins added several programs and centers, increased in diversity and expanded outreach to underserved communities. Major expansion and improvement of facilities included construction of Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall and extensive renovations of two other halls.

As SMU enters a second century of achievement, we treasure our Methodist heritage and ask for your continued prayers and support.

R. Gerald Turner, President
Southern Methodist University
Office of the Secretary
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
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DEAN’S REPORT  
PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
2016

Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the South Central Jurisdiction:

- Enrollment at Perkins for the 2015–16 academic year totals 365 students, of which more than two-thirds are United Methodist and more than 40 percent are ethnic minority students. Master’s degree programs comprise approximately 53 percent male and 47 percent female students. The D.Min. program includes students from southern Asia taking classes in Singapore and Dallas. Our Ph.D. program has 32 students.

- A total of 190 Perkins students are affiliated with an Annual Conference within the South Central Jurisdiction. That breakdown is as follows:
  - North Texas Annual Conference: 74 students
  - Texas Annual Conference: 52 students
  - Central Texas Annual Conference: 24 students
  - Rio Texas Annual Conference: 13 students
  - Louisiana Annual Conference: 9 students
  - Oklahoma Annual Conference: 6 students
  - Missouri Annual Conference: 5 students
  - Northwest Texas Annual Conference: 4 students
  - Arkansas Annual Conference: 2 students
  - Great Plains Annual Conference: 2 students
  - New Mexico Annual Conference: 0 students
  - Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference: 0 students

Please note the following faculty additions:

- Dr. O. Wesley Allen Jr. (Ph.D., Emory) joined the Perkins faculty as the Lois Craddock Perkins Chair in Homiletics in August 2015.
- Dr. Evelyn L. Parker (Ph.D., Northwestern), Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Perkins, was appointed to the Susanna Wesley Centennial Chair in Practical Theology at Perkins.
- Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison (Ph.D., University of St. Andrew’s) joined Perkins as the school’s Associate Dean for External Programs.
- Dr. Tom Spann was named director of the Perkins Intern Program, succeeding Dr. Bill Bryan, who was named to the newly created position of Associate Dean of Student Affairs.
- Dr. Paul Barton (Ph.D., Southern Methodist University) was named director of the Mexican American and Hispanic-Latino/a Church Ministries Program.

Highland Park United Methodist Church provided a $1.5 million gift to Southern Methodist University that endowed the Umphrey Lee Professorship in Methodist History at Perkins as well as support the HPUMC Future Church Leaders Program.

The Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions at Perkins was awarded a $500,000 grant by The Henry Luce Foundation’s Theology program. The three-year grant will significantly expand the Center’s work in promoting an understanding of the different religious expressions within the Latino/a communities in the United States and in Latin America.

Perkins unveiled a new degree option, the Master of Theology (Th.M.), which began enrolling students in the Fall 2015 semester. The Th.M. degree is a second master’s and requires 24 term hours within one of four divisions of study: The Biblical Witness, The Heritage and Context of Christianity, The Interpretation of the Christian Witness and The Theology and Practice of Ministry.

Additionally, Perkins revealed that it will begin offering a Spanish-language Master of Theology (Th.M.) degree beginning in fall 2017. The degree, the first of its kind among the 13 United Methodist-related schools of theology, will be a nonresidential program designed for experienced full-time pastors or church/academic leaders.

Perkins also announced the creation of a first-of-its-kind degree, the Doctor of Pastoral Music, which
will begin enrolling students in 2016. Areas of focused study will include liturgy, congregational song, worship leadership, performance skills and the theological basis of church music.

Perkins thanks our many colleagues, friends, and alumni/ae across the connection for generous support in many ways, including referrals of prospective students, as we continue our vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

I will retire as Dean of Perkins School of Theology on May 31, 2016. It has been my privilege to serve in this capacity since 2002. In our mission to prepare women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry, the students who have passed through the halls of this school and into the world of ministry are the focus of our work. I am honored to have been a part of their journey.

Grace and peace,
William B. Lawrence
Dean and Professor of American Church History
Saint Paul School of Theology, a seminary of the United Methodist Church, serves alongside the South Central Jurisdiction as we support the Church and local congregations in nurturing disciples, renewing the Church, and transforming the world by the grace of God’s work among us.

Remembering our heritage and the bold leaders who created and defined us, Saint Paul is a seminary on a pilgrimage seeking out relationships that enhance theological education and, therefore, the ministries of the Church. We are firmly planted in both the academy and the Church. Eight years ago, Saint Paul established a campus at Oklahoma City University, where the faculty pioneered distance education using video conferences and online learning tools to build a learning community across state lines. Three years ago, the seminary moved the Kansas City, Missouri, campus to Kansas, and we hold classes at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood. In the church setting, our courses pursue an innovative model with practitioners bringing expertise to the classroom, practicums, and contextual education.

We are two campuses and one seminary, but we are growing. Connections with the Church enable Saint Paul to invite new students into a Fellows program with diverse locations for students to develop skills. With the support of annual conferences and congregations, students not only receive scholarships supporting fully their degree studies, but also enter ministry opportunities with mentoring churches. Connections with the academy are moving in new directions with the creation of a collaboration with Kansas Wesleyan University, where students may complete an undergraduate degree and a seminary degree in six years.

As a pilgrim seminary we are steadily enhancing online learning for students. Winter 2016 was a semester when faculty became students earning certificates in the fundamentals of online teaching. While we have been offering courses that blend face-to-face and online learning since 2007, the course schedule now coordinates the schedule of face-to-face sessions in all concurrent courses, and the curriculum includes increasing numbers of blended and online courses. New curricular options, including basic graduate theological studies, will become available to both students and interested seekers.

In other ways, the seminary has made theological education more accessible to students. Saint Paul launched new Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MA(CM)), Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) curricula in the fall of 2014. The Master of Divinity curriculum is devoted to educating the whole person. Spiritual formation retreats ground students in their faith, while diverse practicums equip students with specific ministry skills. Small collaborative seminars led by faculty integrate seminary studies with vocational formation. Focused intentional assessment occurs at mid-degree and in the last year of studies. The MA(CM) and MATS, as well as the MDiv, now require fewer credit hours, which means less debt for Saint Paul graduates.

Pilgrim people need vision and direction, and Saint Paul’s Board of Trustees has approved a new Strategic Plan 2017–2025 anticipating a renewed and faithful vision for the seminary. We are excited to live into a future redefining what it means to be seminary in a different spiritual climate with the heritage of Saint Paul to steady our journey.

The plan begins with our purpose, mission, vision, and values. Each of these statements remembers the historical commitments of Saint Paul, but also reflects our current vision for a strongly relational seminary. The mission statement is now stated this way: “Centered in Christ and rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of collaborative relationships committed to the formation of people for ministry through rigorous academic life, the dynamic exploration of Scripture, and diverse, contextual experience.” The related statements of purpose include our deepest commitments to ministry with the Church, identity with the Heartland, and work for justice.

The strategic plan emphasizes four directions. First is the work to strengthen the educational enterprise of the seminary, particularly by focus on preparation of people for ministry in the changing 21st century context. Second is creation of a community for theological learning, training, dialogue, and research in the Heartland, where we bring together the church, urban and rural contexts, the public square, and the academy. Third is the advance of the presence of Saint Paul, which means spreading the news of Saint Paul’s vision as a witness to the compelling story of our journey with God in theological education. Fourth is shaping the future of Saint Paul grounded in a strong foundation of leadership,
governance, and planning that will sustain our mission into the future.

Our intentional reflection on the future of the seminary, our mission, and our relationships begins with you. We are grateful that you will start this new journey with us, and we invite you to pray for us in this new season and join us in supporting our mission.

Nancy R. Howell
Acting President
Mission 21 Report on
SCJ Episcopal Area Realignment

1. Overview
This report recommends changes to the boundaries of annual conferences and episcopal areas within the South Central Jurisdiction (SCJ) of The United Methodist Church (UMC) based on a discernment and feedback process carried out by the SCJ Mission 21 Task Force. The Task Force, which includes representatives from each episcopal area, was formed after the 2012 SCJ Conference via a resolution from the SCJ College of Bishops. In the resolution, the Mission 21 Task Force was required to bring a recommendation to the 2016 South Central Jurisdictional Conference, and this report contains that recommendation.

The purpose of this document is to share (1) the Task Force’s discernment process, (2) results of the survey we conducted with as many organizations and people as possible throughout the jurisdiction to gain feedback on a variety of possible options, and (3) a set of recommendations for the SCJ to consider at its July 2016 meeting.

In short, the Mission 21 Task Force is recommending that the 2016 South Central Jurisdictional Conference make a decision to proceed with a specific realignment of episcopal areas because (1) it is very likely that the SCJ will be required in 2020 to make a reduction in its number of bishops based on expected membership declines within the jurisdiction, and (2) the 2012 General Conference changed the timing to require implementation by September of the first year of the quadrennium rather than the fourth year of the quadrennium. It is imperative that the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference make decisions that allow the SCJ to be prepared for implementation when and if a mandate for episcopal reductions comes.

2. Background and Context
In this section, we provide background information on the Mission 21 Task Force, our charge, and the history that brought us to our recommendations.

The Charge of the Mission 21 Task Force
The Mission 21 Task Force was mandated at the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference and is charged with examining the systematic and detailed realignment of SCJ resources including annual conferences and episcopal areas (See Appendix A for the text of the resolution). The Task Force is expected to make recommendations to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference.

Background/Past Efforts
During the 2008 quadrennium, in response to a mandate from the 2008 General Conference, the SCJ College of Bishops gathered information and considered various options for reducing the SCJ by one episcopal area. Because of the mandate to eliminate an episcopal area prior to the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference, the College of Bishops had limited time to select a strategy for making the reduction prior to the deadline for implementation. After analyzing available data, determining priorities and values, and identifying options, the College of Bishops carried out a consultation process by which pairs of bishops worked together to present the options being considered to each annual conference (delegates and other key leaders identified by the resident bishop) and gather feedback. The College of Bishops ultimately chose to combine the states of Kansas and Nebraska into the Great Plains Episcopal Area. The bishops learned through this process that such a decision takes time and requires broader input, and these lessons served as the impetus for the resolution for the Mission 21 Task Force passed in 2012.

Roles and Responsibilities
The Book of Discipline addresses the topic of decisions about boundaries in Paragraph 40, Article IV of the Constitution. This paragraph was amended at the 2012 General Conference and ratified by annual conferences in 2013 and 2014 in order to clarify confusion resulting from Judicial Council Decision 517. Judicial Council Decision 517 gave the authority to determine episcopal area boundaries to Colleges of Bishops. The amendment that was passed by the 2012 General Conference and subsequently ratified by
the annual conferences reversed the Judicial Council decision, effectively returning the power of boundary decisions to jurisdictional conferences (see Figure 1). The responsibility of the Mission 21 Task Force is to make recommendations to the 2016 South Central Jurisdictional Conference. The Task Force will cease to exist after the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference. Changes to episcopal area boundaries must be approved by the Jurisdictional Conference.

**Figure 1.** Amendments to Paragraph 40, Article IV, Book of Discipline, approved by the 2012 General Conference and Ratified by Annual Conferences

Amend ¶40 as indicated:

¶ 40. Article IV. The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas may be effected shall be determined by the jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the central conferences. The authority of jurisdictional and central conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

**Current South Central Jurisdiction**

The SCJ currently includes 10 episcopal areas that span 12 annual conferences. Figure 2 is a map of these annual conferences. Figure 3 shows statistics associated with these conferences.

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1The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Annual Conference (OIMC) is historically the oldest Methodist annual conference in Oklahoma. The OIMC is based primarily within the geographic boundaries of the state of Oklahoma, but also has a number of vital congregations in annual conferences across the U.S.
Mission 21 Task Force Composition

The Task Force included one representative for each episcopal area and two bishops (Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey—Louisiana Annual Conference, and Bishop Mike Lowry—Central Texas Annual Conference).

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<th>Conference</th>
<th>Sq. Miles</th>
<th>Churches</th>
<th>Worship</th>
<th>Apportionment</th>
<th>Pop. 2020</th>
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Note: Race Legend (% Rounded)
A: Asian
B: Black/African American
H: Hispanic, Latino
W: White, Caucasian
O: Native American, Pacific Islander, Other Non-Hispanic

Churches, Worship and Apportionment is 2012 data from GCF & A
Apportionment: Does Not Include District Apportionments

Mission 21 Task Force Activities

The Task Force met seven times during the last quadrennium. Through these meetings, we have:
- gotten to know and trust each other
- reviewed materials and information considered by the College of Bishops between 2008 and 2012
- identified a variety of considerations to drive the development of options, narrowed the options to five priorities and further to three major themes (see Figure 4)
- gathered and reviewed resources such as regional maps from other denominations, maps depicting media coverage, and historic annual conference configurations
- examined multiple scenarios for potential changes
- developed a survey to gather feedback on several key scenarios
- identified a primary recommendation for changes to annual conference boundaries within our jurisdiction, along with several implementation recommendations

Figure 3. South Central Jurisdiction Statistics
Jurisdiction Considerations

As depicted in Figure 4, the Task Force defined three broad considerations in developing scenarios and making recommendations:

- Focusing on groupings that serve the mission of the church, capitalize on similarities and emphasize creativity rather than doing what is easy.
- Developing groupings that position annual conferences and our jurisdiction for the future, taking into account population trends and future needs.
- Considering issues faced by bishops, including balanced supervision responsibilities and maximizing effectiveness, that allow our episcopal leaders to efficiently provide guidance and oversight to their areas. See Appendix B for further discussion of this complex consideration.

We also reviewed changes to Paragraph 404 of the Book of Discipline regarding the determination of the number of bishops each jurisdiction receives and what happens if a jurisdiction drops below the threshold:

- U. S. Jurisdictional Conferences
  - Five bishops per 300,000 church members or fewer
  - One additional bishop per every 300,000 additional members
- It shall be the responsibility of the affected Jurisdiction, through its Committee on Episcopacy, to request consideration of its missional need for an exception.
- If a reduction in the number of bishops is required, the reduction will be effective September 1 of the calendar year in which the reduction was determined by the General Conference. [Note that the 2012 General Conference changed the effective date from September 1 of the fourth calendar year after the decision is made to September 1 of the same year].

Along with Paragraph 404, we considered trends in annual conferences and projections on the number of bishops due to the SCJ provided by Don House (Texas Annual Conference). Based on the latest analysis from the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA; see www.gcfa.org/jurisdictional-bishop-count-could-be-reduced-in-two-us-jurisdictions), the SCJ did not cross that threshold be-

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2One of the survey respondents asked how the SCJ could have the number of bishops it does, given the statistics presented above for the current annual conferences. Please note that ¶404 refers to the number of members rather than the number in worship (which is what the Task Force members felt was a more relevant statistic for comparison in its work).

3Several survey respondents emphasized the need to grow disciples as a primary strategy to maintain or increase membership levels and avoid the need to face a reduction at all.
before the 2016 General Conference met.

The membership within the jurisdiction is likely to decline enough to trigger a mandate from the General Conference in 2020 to reduce the number of bishops within the SCJ. Given the change in implementation timing (due to the change in the effective date of implementation by action of the 2012 General Conference—see above), the speed with which the Jurisdictional Conference must respond to any future mandate highlights the importance of the Task Force’s work.

Because of the time and details involved in implementing changes to episcopal areas, we recommend that the Jurisdictional Conference make a contingent decision that would result in the reduction of an episcopal area in advance of any mandate from General Conference. In other words, the Jurisdictional Conference could decide in 2016 to make changes that result in a reduction to the number of episcopal areas and begin planning for those changes. For example, in 2019, when GCFA completes its analysis and determines whether any jurisdictions will be required to reduce the number of bishops, and if the South Central Jurisdiction is required to make a reduction, the Jurisdiction will then have only one year to implement the changes, and only two months from the date of the next Jurisdictional Conference, making this sort of contingent decision especially prescient. However, if the GCFA analysis shows no need to reduce the number of bishops, then the contingent decision could be put on hold until some future Jurisdictional Conference needs to make a final decision.

The Task Force discussed the possibility of requesting a missional exception to any future requirement regarding reductions in the number of episcopal areas and determined that doing so would only delay the inevitable. We want to ensure the jurisdiction is prepared when and if a future General Conference requires a reduction in the number of episcopal areas; therefore, the Task Force is not including the option of requesting a missional exception among its recommendations.

If a specific realignment is approved, the Jurisdictional Conference, through a floor action, will then need to designate a group or committee to implement the changes. We recommend that the Jurisdictional Conference establish a new task force to implement any changes approved by the Jurisdictional Conference. Membership would likely include two bishops from the College of Bishops, and one representative from each affected episcopal area, nominated by the resident bishop of those areas. This implementation task force would be charged with finalizing the details of the recommended plan—including making any needed changes to boundaries—and working toward implementation of the recommended plan, engaging consultants to lead/coordinate the process, develop maps, and negotiate any potential pensions and health benefits issues. The final plan can then be approved by a future Jurisdictional Conference. If the Jurisdictional Conference decides not to accept a specific alignment recommendation, no action will be taken, and the report can remain as a resource for any future work in this area.

Implications of Pensions/Benefits, Clergy Assignments, and Asset Redistribution

Pensions/Benefits Implications. One of the major barriers to any change in annual conference boundaries or unification of such conferences is in how to handle pensions and health benefits for current and retired clergy within those conferences. In many annual conferences, a large proportion of resources are tied up in reserves or within benefit plans, and a joining of annual conferences might greatly benefit one conference while diluting the resources of another. Also, because each annual conference funds (or does not fund) post-retirement health benefits differently, it can be difficult to decide what benefits will or will not be made available to retired clergy (and sometimes spouses) under the new alignment. Another concern is how to handle “pre-82” pension benefits, which are specifically tied to the annual conference clergy served prior to 1982. These complications require that prior to any annual conference realignment, benefits need to be approached with care and a clear and defined plan for those benefits needs to be understood. A more detailed discussion of the concerns and some potential strategies for addressing such concerns appears in Appendix C.

Clergy Assignment Implications. Some survey respondents raised concerns about how clergy

4One of the survey respondents suggested that the Task Force is attempting to solve a problem that may not exist for much longer if a future General Conference changes the denominational structure in a way that no longer incorporates jurisdictional conferences in the U.S. Although this is possible, the earliest that issue is expected to be considered would be the 2020 General Conference, which would then have to be ratified by annual conferences for implementation in 2024. The SCJ could face a mandate to reduce the number of episcopal areas as early as September 2020.

5All the more reason to have a contingent plan in place prior to any mandate to reduce the number of episcopal areas in the SCJ. Under the current Discipline, the SCJ could have a matter of months to address these very critical considerations, further complicating the Task Force’s priority of missional considerations over merely practical (financial) or expedient ones.
assignments would be handled with any changes to annual conference boundaries. Two specific comments were as follows: “Leaving pastors who are unlucky enough to be appointed at the time of the transition could find themselves in another annual conference...not by choice,” and “Currently, clergy can transfer between the NM AC and the NWTX AC, so what will be in place to allow clergy who are currently serving in NWTX to go back to NM, should they wish, if the conferences are no longer one episcopal area (or vice versa)?” Members of the Task Force discussed this issue and acknowledged that in some instances pastors might find themselves in a different annual conference after certain realignments. The greatest of care would need to be taken to address such situations. The annual conferences would need to be nimble during this process and should be informed by strategies employed by other annual conferences who have experienced similar boundary changes. Usually there is a period of time during which pastors have the opportunity to move to a new annual conference of their choosing, provided there is an appointment available.

Asset Redistribution Implications. In any change of annual conference boundaries, there is also the issue of asset distribution or re-distribution. That process can become exceedingly tedious and time-consuming. Though this is no small matter, the Mission 21 Task Force commends to all involved that the assets of each annual conference (as well as the assets of each human being) are God’s and held in trust for a finite period of time. While no annual conference or cadre of congregations should be short-changed, it is counter to the Gospel for the Body of Christ to spat about assets. A fair distribution or re-distribution does not have to be exact to be effective. In short, whoever holds it in trust, it all belongs to God.

3. Mission 21 Survey Results

The Mission 21 Task Force developed a draft report (available at www.ctcumc.org/mission21) to share with members of the SCJ that contained three scenarios or options for the Jurisdictional Conference to consider: (1) redrawing annual conference boundaries in the majority of conferences (The Comprehensive Option), (2) combining Río Texas with New Mexico as one episcopal area and Northwest Texas with Central Texas as another episcopal area (The Base Option), and (3) redrawing boundaries in Texas and New Mexico (The Hybrid Option). The Task Force members developed a survey for members of the SCJ to provide feedback on each option. Bishop Lowry of the Central Texas Annual Conference sent the initial invitation to the College of Bishops and heads of delegations on January 28, 2016. Two reminders were sent by a member of the Task Force, and the survey closed on February 16.

135 individuals participated in the survey, with at least one person from every annual conference within the SCJ (see Figure 5). Approximately two-thirds of respondents were male; more than half were between the ages of 40 and 64; in addition to eight bishops who responded, there was an even split of clergy and laity.

Figure 5. Annual Conference Participation in the Mission 21 Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>4.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Texas</td>
<td>19.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Plains</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Texas</td>
<td>11.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Texas</td>
<td>5.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>9.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Indian Missionary</td>
<td>0.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Texas</td>
<td>8.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>10.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 120

Note: 15 respondents chose not to disclose their annual conference affiliation.
For each option, respondents could indicate that the option was (1) their top choice, (2) not their top choice but viable, or (3) not viable. Some overarching results:

- Six respondents indicated that all three options are not viable.
- 28 respondents did not indicate a “top” choice (selected a combination of “not viable” and “viable but not top” or selected “viable but not top” for all three options).
- Three respondents selected more than one option as their top choice.
- **Comprehensive Option**: nearly two-thirds of respondents (63.7%) said this option is not viable. Ten respondents, however, indicated this as their top choice.
- **Base Option**: 85% of respondents favorably responded to this option (44.36% said it was their top choice; 40.6% said it was viable but not their top choice).
- **Hybrid Option**: 76% of respondents favorably responded to this option (27.1% said it was their top choice; 48.9% said it was viable but not their top choice).

The survey provided respondents the opportunity to share comments about the advantages and disadvantages of each option, as well as any general comments. Task Force members reviewed these comments carefully to glean new ideas for the report, examine additional alternate scenarios (see Appendix D), and add information to the final report to answer questions raised by respondents. With a small handful of exceptions, the comments we received were very encouraging, affirming, and supportive. It was especially noticeable to see the concerns raised for members of the Río Texas and New Mexico Annual Conferences from respondents outside those conferences, noting how significantly several of the options would affect them. The Task Force members are grateful for the acknowledgement of how difficult this task was and the offers of prayer support we received.

4. Realignment Recommendations

Based on its work to date and the feedback received from the survey, the Task Force is recommending one specific realignment option as its first choice. We also noted strong support for a second realignment scenario that is a viable solution if the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference does not approve the Task Force’s primary recommended option. Each is described in more detail below. The maps included with each option are approximations, and the exact geographic boundaries will need to be finalized by a future implementation task force. In general, we intended to retain the current boundaries of annual conferences on the exterior edges of the jurisdiction and used county lines to guide changes to boundaries within the jurisdiction.

**First Choice: The Missional Option**

The Task Force recommends what we are calling the “Missional” option, which is an improved variation of the “Hybrid” option that was presented in the draft report (available at www.ctcumc.org/mission21).6 The Missional option would realign annual conference boundaries within the states of New Mexico and Texas to result in a reduction from five episcopal areas (six annual conferences) to four.7 The creation of new annual conferences in Texas and New Mexico offers a fresh opportunity to align ministry based on cultural affinities and an equitable episcopal workload. Annual conference boundaries were drawn by counties, with consideration given to the main interstate arteries and major metropolitan areas (see Figure 6 for a map showing all four new annual conferences).8 This option also offers a reasonably balanced financial base for each of the resulting annual conferences (see Figure 7 for the statistics).9

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6In the draft report, the Task Force presented two variations of the Hybrid option: one in which one of the annual conferences was centered around the Rio Grande corridor and another in which the state of New Mexico as whole was partnered with other areas to the northeast, and the Texas portion of the New Mexico Annual Conference was joined with areas to the southeast. The “New Mexico State” variation was favored by a large majority of survey respondents and provided for better balance across conferences, so the Task Force decided to proceed with this second variation of the original Hybrid option as its top recommendation.

7Local congregations that are currently part of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC) existing within the boundaries of the areas affected by this recommendation would remain affiliated with the OIMC.

8Final recommendations on annual conference boundaries could be made by the implementation task force and approved by a future South Central Jurisdictional Conference.

9Based on survey feedback, the Task Force made some changes to the “New Mexico State” variation of the Hybrid option presented in the draft report: namely to ensure that all four resulting annual conferences have access to a United Methodist camping facility. This slight shift of counties from Conference 4 to Conference 2 also has the advantage of creating even more balance across annual conferences.
The Task Force selected this option as its top recommended realignment option for two important reasons: (1) The Hybrid option was supported as feasible by more than three-fourths of survey respondents, so we felt it had the potential for strong support, and (2) although the “Base” option had somewhat stronger support, the Task Force members agreed that the Hybrid option is more in line with the Task Force Priorities that had guided our work in that it is more missional, positions the jurisdiction better for the future, and creates a better balance across annual conferences.

Although the re-drawing of these lines presents the usual administrative challenges that accompany restructuring plans—primarily in the area of pensions—the option does hold the potential of strengthening each area missionally for the future. It also builds on cooperative work that has already been done in merging the New Mexico and Texas Methodist Foundations. The emphasis on regional cultural affinities could be a unifying factor in reaching under-served populations. Several comments...
from survey respondents sum it up well:

- “Innovation is disruptive. Merger is convenient. I would wish that the church—even if only occasionally—was motivated by mission, outreach and innovation rather than convenience and simplicity.”
- “Any realignment plan is going to be costly and complicated, no matter how minor it may seem. If we are going to bother to do a realignment we should make it count.”
- “I would prefer the hybrid model, as it would hopefully send a signal to our churches that our mission and future orientation are the most important ground for our organization. We do belong to one another, and the conference is vital to that connection, but our belonging is no longer the end goal; it is a means or tool toward a greater end, which is service to God’s mission.”

A potential over-arching concern about this plan is that it would have major implications on benefits (life insurance, disability plans, retirement, etc.), but these changes would affect fewer annual conferences and bishops than would the Comprehensive Option the Task Force developed for the draft report (see Appendix D), which shared similar concerns. However, one bishop who responded said of this option, “Dealing with the pensions, insurance, etc. will be difficult, but not prohibitive to the plan.”

Another general concern raised about this option was, “Time needed to build relationships and trust,” which speaks to the advantages making a contingent decision that allows the affected annual conferences time to build relationships and trust.

Each of the proposed new annual conferences is described in more detail below.

**Conference 1**

Conference 1 (see the map in Figure 8) includes the Texas counties of Anderson, Angelina, Austin, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Caddo, Chambers, Cherokee, Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Waller, Washington and Wharton. The episcopal office would likely be located in Houston, but the final recommendation can be determined by a future task force.

- The rationale for the territory that would encompass Conference 1 includes:
  - Southeast Texas cultural and economic affinities to Houston;
  - Reasonable travel distances;
  - Includes the I-45 and I-10 corridors;
  - Major airports include Houston International and Houston Hobby

Additional concerns (beyond pension implications) related to Conference 1 include:

- The area is geographically small compared with Conferences 3 and 4 (however, increasing the area would also increase episcopal workload—especially with regard to the number of churches and clergy—in some potentially unmanageable ways);
- Some areas within this proposed annual conference do not share affinities to Houston, but it is not clear that they would have affiliations with the Dallas area of Conference 2, either, and survey respondents did not generally support a more comprehensive option to group these areas with parts of Louisiana.

**Conference 2**

Conference 2 (see the map in Figure 9) includes the Texas counties of Bowie, Camp, Cass, Clay, Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Franklin, Grayson, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson,
Hill, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Lamar, Marion, Montague, Morris, Navarro, Rains, Red River, Rockwall, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wichita, Wise, and Wood. The episcopal office would likely be located in Dallas, but the final recommendation can be determined by a future task force.

The rationale for the territory that would encompass Conference 2 includes:
- Northeast Texas cultural and economic affinities to Dallas;
- Reasonable travel distances;
- Inclusion of western counties ensure access to camping facilities;
- Includes the I-20, I-30, and I-35 corridors;
- Major airports include Dallas International (DFW) and Dallas Love Field

Additional concerns (beyond pension implications) related to Conference 2 include:
- The area is geographically small compared with Conferences 3 and 4 (however, increasing the area would also increase episcopal workload—especially with regard to the number of churches and clergy—in some potentially unmanageable ways);

**Figure 9. The Missional Option: Conference 2**

**Conference 3**

Conference 3 (see the map in Figure 10) includes the Texas counties of Aransas, Atascosa, Bandera, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brewster, Brooks, Brown, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Coke, Colorado, Coleman, Comal, Concho, Coryell, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, DeWitt, Dimmit, Duval, Ector, Edwards, El Paso, Falls, Fayette, Frio, Gillespie, Glasscock, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Irion, Jackson, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Live Oak, Llano, Loving, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, McLennan, Medina, Menard, Midland, Milam, Mills, Nueces, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Real, Reeves, Refugio, Runnels, San Patricio, San Saba, Schleicher, Starr, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Tom Green, Travis, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Ward, Webb, Willacy, Williamson, Wilson, Winkler, Zapata and Zavala. The episcopal office would likely be located in San Antonio, but the final recommendation can be determined by a future task force.

The rationale for the territory that would encompass Conference 3 includes:
- West Texas cultural and economic affinities and rich legacies;
- This area unites Midland and Odessa, which share a combined mission field focused around the oil and gas industry;
- This proposed annual conference includes “border” areas within Texas containing churches that could potentially collaborate and work more directly and effectively with immigration issues;
- Relatively larger population in the mission field, combined with greater combined resources (e.g., churches, clergy) provides enormous potential and opportunity for new faith communities;
• Mutual mission fields:
  ○ Historic Hispanic population and culture
  ○ New Hispanic migration
• Includes the I-10, I-35, and I-37 corridors;
• Major airports include San Antonio International, Austin International, and El Paso.
Additional concerns (beyond pension implications) related to Conference 3 include:
• Large geographical region;
• The Río Texas Annual Conference recently underwent its own unification process and may not be prepared to undertake another;
• Placement of episcopal office: San Antonio is the largest metropolitan area but it is located on the eastern side of the proposed annual conference and may be perceived as too far a distance from the western part of the conference.

Figure 10. The Missional Option: Conference 3

Conference 4

Conference 4 (see the map in Figure 11) includes portions of Apache County in Arizona (the same areas as are included in the current New Mexico Annual Conference); all New Mexico counties: Bernalillo, Catron, Chaves, Cibola, Colfax, Curry, DeBaca, Doña Ana, Eddy, Grant, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Los Alamos, Luna, McKinley, Mora, Otero, Quay, Rio Arriba, Roosevelt San Juan, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Sierra, Socorro, Taos, Torrance, Union and Valencia); and the Texas counties of Andrews, Archer, Armstrong, Bailey, Baylor, Borden, Bosque, Briscoe, Callahan, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Collingsworth, Comanche, Cottle, Crosby, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Eastland, Erath, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Gaines, Garza, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hamilton, Hansford, Hardeman, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Hockley, Hood, Howard, Hutchinson, Jack, Johnson, Jones, Kent, King, Knox, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Mitchell, Moore, Motley, Nolan, Ochiltree, Oldham, Palo Pinto, Parker, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Scurry, Shackelford, Sherman, Somervell, Stephens, Stonewall, Swisher, Tarrant, Taylor, Terry, Throckmorton, Wheeler, Wilbarger, Yoakum and Young. The episcopal office would likely be located in Ft. Worth, but the final recommendation can be determined by a future task force.
The **rationale** for the territory that would encompass Conference 4 includes:

- Shared cultural and economic affinities between eastern New Mexico and the northwest Texas area;
- New Mexico and the panhandle of Texas have shared a bishop and have experienced many cross-appointments that have resulted in a blending of clergy within those areas;
- Two urban anchors (Fort Worth and Albuquerque);
- Fort Worth is referenced as a “West Texas” community and has the agricultural legacy of “Cowtown;”
- Combination of areas could potentially strengthen churches within the proposed annual conference, and the relatively larger population provides potential for new faith communities;
- Mutual mission field: 1st and 2nd generation Hispanic population attracted to jobs in larger cities and urban-centers as well as agriculture;
- Includes the I-20, I-25, I-27, I-35, and I-40 corridors;
- Airports include Dallas International (DFW), Albuquerque, and nearby El Paso.

Additional **concerns** (beyond pension implications) related to Conference 4 include:

- Large geographical region, although it is smaller than the current NM/NWTX pairing which encompasses 228,834 square miles;
- Juxtaposition of the urban area of Fort Worth with the rural culture of the Texas panhandle;
- Placement of episcopal office—Fort Worth is the largest metropolitan area but is located on the far eastern side of the proposed area and may be perceived as too far a distance from the western part of the area. One survey respondent suggested Abilene as a possible new annual conference office location.

**Figure 11. The Missional Option: Conference 4**

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**Alternate Choice: The Pairing Option**

If the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference does not approve the Missional Option, as described above, the Task Force recommends the Pairing Option as its second choice for realignment. In this option, the New Mexico Annual Conference and the Northwest Texas Annual Conference, which are currently paired under one episcopal area would instead be paired with two existing episcopal areas, resulting in a reduction from three episcopal areas to two:

- The Northwest Texas Annual Conference would be paired with the Central Texas Annual Conference to form one episcopal area
- The New Mexico Annual Conference would be paired with the Río Texas Annual Conference to form one episcopal area

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2016 Christian Advocate, South Central Jurisdiction
The following map (Figure 12) illustrates the territory covered by these proposed episcopal area alignments. Although this option does not require that these paired annual conferences merge to form a single conference, we recommend that these new paired annual conferences consider unifying so that there will be one annual conference in each episcopal area. Such unification would focus episcopal leadership, maximize administrative efficiency, and improve missional effectiveness (see Figure 13 for the resulting statistics). One survey respondent added that if unification is not pursued, perhaps the paired annual conferences could develop some combined positions such as the Dean of the Cabinet or Assistant to the Bishop.

**Figure 12.** The Northwest Texas/Central Texas and New Mexico/Río Texas Pairings (Pairing Option)

![Map of the Northwest Texas/Central Texas and New Mexico/Río Texas Pairings](image)

**Figure 13.** Statistics resulting from the Base Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Sq. Miles</th>
<th>Churches</th>
<th>Worship</th>
<th>Apportionment</th>
<th>Pop. 2020</th>
<th>Race by % 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C &amp; NW TX</td>
<td>85,660</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>67,784</td>
<td>$17,345,178</td>
<td>5,670,429</td>
<td>A3 B10 H26 W59 O2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NM &amp; R TX</td>
<td>248,777</td>
<td>517</td>
<td>61,824</td>
<td>$14,191,408</td>
<td>10,844,450</td>
<td>A2 B4 H57 W34 O4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Race Legend (% Rounded)

- A: Asian
- B: Black/African American
- H: Hispanic, Latino
- W: White, Caucasian
- O: Native American, Pacific Islander, Other Non-Hispanic

Churches, Worship and Apportionment is 2012 data from GCF & A
Apportionment: Does Not Include District Apportionments
Each of the proposed pairings is described in further detail below.

**The Northwest Texas/Central Texas Pairing**

The **rationale** for pairing the Northwest Texas and Central Texas Annual Conferences (see Figure 14) includes:

- Northwest Texas and Central Texas were one annual conference historically.
- Fort Worth is referenced as a “West Texas” community and has the agricultural legacy of “Cowtown.”
- The western portion of the CTX Annual Conference has a close economic affinity with Northwest Texas.
- Both annual conferences share the Interstate 20 artery.
- Mutual mission field: 1st and 2nd generation Hispanic population attracted to jobs in larger cities and urban-centers as well as agriculture.

**Figure 14.** The Pairing Option (Alternate Choice): Pairing Northwest Texas and Central Texas

Potential **concerns** about pairing the Northwest Texas and Central Texas Annual Conferences include:

- Fort Worth is located on the far eastern side of the proposed episcopal area and may be perceived as too far a distance from portions of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference. One survey respondent suggested Abilene as a possible new Annual Conference Office location. Another suggested that those in the panhandle are used to driving long distances and was not concerned about this issue.
- *If the two annual conferences decided to unify rather than simply pairing as one episcopal area: Growth on three Interstate (I-20, I-30, and I-35) corridors could split the focus of one annual conference and hamper its ability to prepare, plan and implement effective ministry.*
The New Mexico/Río Texas Pairing

The rationale for pairing the New Mexico and Río Texas Annual Conferences (see Figure 15) includes:

- New Mexico and Río Texas both share the Rio Grande corridor.
- Some of the New Mexico Annual Conference shares affinity with the west Texas area of the Río Texas Annual Conference.
- With the Permian Basin and Eagle Ford Shale, the conferences can work jointly on mission to the oil field.
- Both annual conferences include “border” areas that work directly with immigration issues.
- Río Texas has a tradition of using the New Mexico camp (Sacramento) as a legacy location for spiritual enrichment and discipleship commitment.
- Mutual mission fields:
  - Historic Hispanic population and culture
  - New Hispanic migration

Figure 15. The Pairing Option (Alternate Choice): Pairing New Mexico and Río Texas

Potential concerns about pairing the New Mexico and Río Texas Annual Conferences include:

- The geographic expanse is formidable.
- Concentrating Hispanic populations in this annual conference may dampen diversity in other conferences.
- The Río Texas Annual Conference recently underwent its own unification process and may not be prepared to undertake another.
- There are currently two episcopal offices between the two annual conferences. Where would the episcopal office be located with this pairing (if the two annual conferences unified)?

10One survey respondent suggested a new Episcopal office at a midpoint such as El Paso.
Conclusion
The members of the Mission 21 Task Force appreciate your time and attention in your reading of this report, which shares the background and process of our work and outlines several recommendations for consideration.

Summary of Recommendations
We recommend that the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference make a contingent decision that would result in the reduction of an episcopal area in advance of any mandate from General Conference.

Note that the Task Force does NOT recommend that the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference formally decide to pursue the strategy of requesting a missional exception to any future requirement for reductions to the number of bishops within the South Central Jurisdiction. Given the implementation timing surrounding any future mandate, it is imperative that the Jurisdictional Conference be prepared to proceed with a specific recommendation.

We recommend that the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference approve one of the following options for realignment of episcopal areas within the South Central Jurisdiction:

First Choice—The Missional Option: Redraw the five existing episcopal areas (six annual conferences) in Texas and New Mexico as four episcopal areas.

Alternate Choice—The Pairing Option: Pair the Northwest Texas Annual Conference with the Central Texas Annual Conference as one episcopal area and the New Mexico Annual Conference with the Río Texas Annual Conference as one episcopal area.

We recommend that the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference establish a new task force for implementation of any changes approved by the Jurisdictional Conference. The Mission 21 Task Force presents these recommendations to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference for consideration and approval. Please also review the information shared in the Appendixes that follow. We end by sharing several additional thoughts from survey respondents:

• “When boundaries have to be redrawn folks tend to feel they have lost their identity in lieu of realizing they have gained an expanded identity.”

• “Change is hard, and while there are parts of this report that are difficult for me to swallow personally, I would rather be proactive in planning for these possible changes.”

• “I am optimistic as to where the Holy Spirit will lead us as a SCJ in the UMC. It is a new day. Let us embrace the winds of change trusting everything to God’s grace and design.”
Appendix A: Text of the Mission 21 Resolution from 2012

### MISSION 21:
South Central Jurisdictional Conference Realignment for the Twenty-first Century

The SCJ College of Bishops  
July 17, 2012

Resolution: The South Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops petitions the South Central Jurisdictional Conference to establish a Task Force designated as “Mission 21” for systematic and detailed realignment of the South Central Jurisdiction resources including Conferences and Episcopal areas to enhance the stated mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Mission 21 Task Force shall make recommendations to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference realignment of the South Central Jurisdiction. The Mission 21 Task Force shall be guided by but not limited to considerations in the following areas:

- **The number and make up of Conferences and Episcopal Areas in the Jurisdiction.** Where possible, it shall seek to recommend an alignment of one Conference per Episcopal Area.

- **Consideration of realignment along different lines shall be investigated including but not limited to alignment based on:**
  - Serving more people, younger people and more diverse populations
  - Affinity or other commonalities
  - Metropolitan areas
  - Geography
  - Clergy deployment

- **The focus of Episcopal leadership consistent with the demographic and missional outreach and growth of the Jurisdiction.** The Mission 21 Task Force will seek to discern and recommend how Episcopal leadership may be best deployed to enhance our mission on a Jurisdictional level. The Mission 21 Task Force shall further be encouraged to make recommendations involving the key elements of ministry focus for bishops.

- **The use of Jurisdictional resources for accomplishing the stated mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.** Jurisdictional resources including but not limited to finances, property, and personnel shall be examined for their best use in accomplishing the stated mission.

- **The Mission 21 Task Force shall be governed by the general principle that “everything is on the table.”**

- **The Mission 21 Task Force shall be named by The College of Bishops in consultation with the Jurisdictional Episcopal Committee.**

- **The makeup of the Mission 21 Task Force shall:**
  - Be no more than 10 people plus two Bishops named by the College of Bishops
  - Have at least one representative from every Episcopal Area
  - Contain appropriate diversity
  - Have at least 5 members below age 40

- **A conscious effort shall be made to assign people to the Mission 21 Task Force who will look to the whole jurisdiction and most explicitly to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world over and above defending turf or guarding established institutions, conferences or areas of privilege.**

- **Foundational principles established for the 2012 Jurisdictional restructuring shall be followed with the provision that this work shall build upon the work already done, most especially the detailed listing conducted in existing Episcopal areas.**
  - **Mission**—Everything we do is shaped by our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
  - **A More Vital, Faithful, Fruitful United Methodist Witness**—We envision an outcome of our work being a stronger United Methodist presence and witness.
  - **Listening To God**—Prayer and discernment must undergird and shape all of our deliberations.
  - **Listening to Everyone Affected**—One way we will listen to God is by listening to one another across the jurisdiction to hear the wisdom God has given us on this matter.

Adequate financial resources shall be designated to employ a consultant(s) to guide the process as well as professional planners in Area modeling and missional design.
Factors Affecting Episcopal Supervision

The South Central Jurisdiction (SCJ) College of Bishops, in its 2012 restructuring, looked in depth at supervisory workloads of resident bishops. In addition, it surveyed delegates to the 2008 General Conference in regards to the most important issues shaping episcopal supervision and oversight. Workload ranked No. 3 (with “positioned for the future” and “stewardship” as No.1 & 2 respectively) when delegates were asked to rank. There is a widespread consensus among the bishops that the number of clergy to supervise significantly affects workload. The College of Bishops in the 2008–2012 quadrennium noted the following key elements as affecting the bishops’ workloads:

- Missional reasons
- Number of clergy under supervision
- Number of annual conferences over which a bishop presides
- Geography

Each of these factors is discussed further below.

Missional reasons

What arrangement best serves the fruitfulness of our episcopal areas? How can we reconfigure our life together in a way that best serves the kingdom needs of the people in our jurisdiction?

Number of clergy under supervision

At least three factors must be considered:

- Scope and span of supervision—included but not limited to the number of superintendents, clergy members, and lay supply pastors
- Number of administrative and judicial processes
  - The Mission 21 Task Force discussed an idea to recommend the creation of a Jurisdictional Chancellor and has referred this recommendation to the Mission Council.
- Leadership training—empowering and equipping the leadership of the episcopal area to work towards missional goals

Number of annual conferences over which a bishop presides

The more annual conferences, the more administrative and appointive workload. An effort in realignment must keep multiple annual conferences under a single episcopal area to a minimum.

Geography

The larger the terrain under supervision, the more time spent in travel and the less episcopal presence is possible across the mission field(s). In any reconfiguration an effort must be made to lessen the travel time, which includes—but is not limited to—access to airports and key travel hubs (See Figure A–1).

Several survey respondents also mentioned the possibility of maintaining one or more “satellite” episcopal offices that the resident bishop could rotate to as needed to reduce the travel burden for members at the far ends of geographically large annual conferences, with minimal staff such as Assistant to the Bishop in permanent residence. Another theme raised by survey respondents was to consider increased use of technology for meetings. One respondent said, “No matter what solution is approved, this further cements the fact that ALL conferences must get better and more comfortable with using mobile and web technologies to keep in communication and for meetings. They should NEVER replace face-to-face, but the expense and wear and tear of travel absolutely dictates a shift in thinking/practice.”
## Figure A–1. Information about current SCJ episcopal areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Annual Conferences</th>
<th>Sq. Miles</th>
<th>Churches</th>
<th>Worship</th>
<th>Major Cities</th>
<th>Major Roadways</th>
<th>Airports</th>
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<td>665</td>
<td>51,058</td>
<td>Little Rock Texarkana Fort Smith</td>
<td>I-40 I-30 Hwy 65</td>
<td>Bill and Hillary National</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jonesboro Fayetteville</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CTX</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22,003</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>48,403</td>
<td>Fort Worth Arlington Corsicana</td>
<td>I-20 I-30 I-35 Hwy 67/377</td>
<td>DFW Int'l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Waco Killeen Temple Georgetown</td>
<td>Hwy 281 Hwy 121/183 Hwy 174</td>
<td>Austin-Bergstrom (adjacent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Round Rock Brownwood</td>
<td>Hwy 70 Hwy 83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hwy 83</td>
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<td>Great Plains</td>
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<td>1,038</td>
<td>89,022</td>
<td>Wichita Topeka Kansas City</td>
<td>I-35/1-335 I-70 I-80</td>
<td>Wichita Dwight D Eisenhower Int'l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dodge City Salina Manhattan</td>
<td>Hwy 335 Hwy 77</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Omaha Lincoln Grand Island North Platte</td>
<td>Hwy 83 Hwy 81 Hwy 136 Hwy 183</td>
<td>Omaha Eppley Airfield</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Columbia Springfield St. Louis</td>
<td>Hwy 36 Hwy 60</td>
<td>Springfield-Branson</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lambert-St. Louis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Changing Nature of Episcopal Leadership

The College of Bishops is undergoing a major transition in understanding the episcopal office during this time period. Bishops are now expected to exercise significantly more leadership as opposed to administrative management. Additionally, worldwide responsibilities of The United Methodist Church as a whole continue to occupy a significant amount of a bishop’s time.

All current options under consideration sought to satisfy, to the best of our ability, a balance between these factors while acknowledging that continuing conversation is needed in order to adapt to the ever-increasing changes in the mission fields we serve.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Annual Conferences</th>
<th>Sq. Miles</th>
<th>Churches</th>
<th>Worship</th>
<th>Major Cities</th>
<th>Major Roadways</th>
<th>Airports</th>
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<td>55,886</td>
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<td>Houston Bush Intercontinental Houston Hobby Jack Brook's Regional Airport</td>
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Churches and Worship is 2012 data from GCFA
Appendix C: Pensions and Benefits Implications

Implications Related to Options Involving No Changes to Annual Conference Boundaries (e.g., the Pairing Option without unification)

If the Jurisdictional Conference chooses an option that does not change annual conference boundaries, then no structural change to the benefit programs would be necessary. Please keep in mind, however, that the various Boards of Pension involved need to be aware of the benefits in place between annual conferences as there will tend to be more clergy movement between conferences when a bishop is shared by more than one conference. Moves between annual conferences can be disruptive to the clergyperson’s family when there are varied benefits—and in some cases, will negatively impact either the disposable income that the clergyperson was told he/she might be receiving (with the possibility of more out-of-pocket expenses to pay for less generous benefits) or the ability of the clergyperson to retire comfortably.

Implications Related to Options Involving Annual Conference Boundary Changes (e.g., the Missional Option or the Pairing Option with unification)

If the Jurisdictional Conference chooses an option that would cause any of the annual conference boundaries to change and/or one or more conferences to dissolve, then benefits will definitely be impacted. In many cases, benefit changes caused by the dissolution of an annual conference can be a barrier to the successful joining of two conferences. Often this is because, in many annual conferences, the amount of money in reserves or within benefit plans represents a major portion of the money owned by the conferences. This factor, combined with the self-interest of clergypersons who might be negatively impacted financially should they receive less generous benefits than their current annual conference is offering, means that benefits need to be approached with care, and a clear and defined plan for those benefits needs to be understood prior to any annual conference realignment.

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits staff remains ready to assist annual conferences in their realignment per the Book of Discipline paragraph 1509. The recent unifications within Great Plains and Río Texas Annual Conferences followed these processes as described by the Book of Discipline, as well as setting up benefit task forces prior to the votes of the annual conferences involved to move ahead on merger so that a clear plan for benefits could be defined ahead of that vote.

One of the most challenging issues faced in any unification process is when an area realigns annual conference borders such that it would cause the dissolution of one or more conferences. For instance, two of the options identified by the Mission 21 group involve dissolving the existing annual conferences within particular states and creating a smaller number of new conferences with the same areas. In such scenarios, the challenge becomes Pre-82 pension benefits of the clergyperson who served in the dissolved conference. Those clergy’s benefits are specifically tied to the annual conference from which they had served prior to 1982.

This is just one piece of a larger benefits puzzle. Post-retirement health benefit funding can even be a larger problem since every annual conference has a very different way of funding (or not funding) retiree health benefits and, in many cases, more money (or liability) is involved than is involved in the Pre-82 plan funding. Even in the current benefit plans (both pension and health benefits), there are conference-by-conference decisions on levels of benefits that must be reconciled.

Thus, there are two concerns in these scenarios:

1) Annual Conference Membership of Retired Clergy

Which annual conference would retired clergypersons now be associated? It cannot always be in the location where a clergyperson is currently residing because clergy move all over the country (and sometimes out of the country) after they retire. Presumably active clergy might, as a general rule, become members of the new annual conference in which they are serving. A method or criteria would need to be defined for deciding annual conference membership of retired clergy, whose service might have spanned more than one of the new conferences. Perhaps that could be as simple as allowing the retirees to decide their annual conference membership, based on where they felt most at home or other preferences. However, annual conference membership decisions could affect non-retirement benefits such as retiree health, which tend to vary widely from conference to conference. Just as benefits vary widely, so do annual conference costs of and eligibility for retiree health.
insurance—as well as conference funding to the retirees for the purchase of a health plan. Impact on annual conference budgets, fair allocation of existing funds for retiree health benefits and any ongoing apportionments for retiree health care should be considerations in any decisions about annual conference membership of retirees. A group—perhaps the Joint Distributing Committee or another group representing Boards of Pensions of the existing conferences—would need to recommend how retirees’ annual conference membership will be determined.

2) Allocation of Pre-82 Service, Liabilities and Assets; Decisions on Benefit Levels

When annual conferences unite, divide or realign, responsibility for Pre-82 benefits goes to the new conference within whose bounds the charge is located where Pre-82 service was rendered (¶1506.7). Pre-82 assets of the existing annual conferences are typically allocated to new conferences accordingly, based on the liabilities each assumes for Pre-82 service in the charges of the new conference. Pre-82 benefit levels and funding levels for those benefits differ widely among the annual conferences most likely to be involved in realignment. The data-gathering and analysis to allocate all Pre-82 service and related liabilities of the existing annual conferences among the new conferences can be a significant effort for both the Joint Distributing Committee and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Further, the realignment may mean that a clergyperson’s Pre-82 benefits are now coming from two or more new annual conferences and are paid at different Past Service Rates, whereas the person’s Pre-82 service may have been all within one of the former conferences and at a single Past Service Rate. Complicating this further, each annual conference has authority to set its own Past Service Rate(s), within some restrictions, and the new conferences might elect greater or lesser benefit increases than the former conference would have adopted.

Potential Strategies for Managing Pensions Issues Related to Annual Conference Boundary Changes

If the Jurisdictional Conference were to approve an option that entails the dissolution and creation of annual conferences, the variation among annual conferences in Pre-82 benefit levels and funded status noted above may call for a new overall approach to setting Pre-82 benefits after conference boundaries are redrawn. Although each annual conference ultimately can make its own decision about Pre-82 benefits, a unified strategy agreed on by all the new conferences could help assure retirees receive benefits in line with what they might have expected without realignment, and churches are not burdened with greater benefit costs than they might have otherwise experienced. Such an approach could take one of several directions, such as:

1) A uniform rate of increase, for example 2 percent, in Past Service Rates for all Pre-82 service within Texas.

2) Increasing Past Service Rates in accordance with funding plans of the former annual conferences (which would mean multiple rates in a new conference comprised of churches from two or more former conferences).

3) Freezing Past Service Rates at time of realignment and giving grants for the increases that could have been expected without realignment. An understanding of this nature may be reassuring to retirees with significant Pre-82 service, as well as helping keep liabilities in check.

Because changing economic circumstances and demographics could call for eventual revisions to any initial approach for Pre-82 benefits, it may be important for the annual conferences involved to determine at the outset how, and by whom, subsequent review and assessment will be done and adjustments to the strategy recommended. This approach deals only with one of the benefit-related issues, but since Pre-82 benefits can become complicated in annual conference realignments, the approach might assist with the realignment process. That being said, a more “regional approach” to issues such as pre- and post-retiree health insurance, active pension benefits, and other ancillary benefits might be explored to minimize the benefit disruption for clergy who would be impacted by the creation of the new annual conferences.
Appendix D: Alternate Options Considered

The Mission 21 Task Force considered a number of possible realignment options over the course of the quadrennium. Some were discussed at length and developed in detail. Others, including several interesting ideas shared through the Mission 21 survey, were considered briefly but set aside in favor of options that better fit the priorities of the Task Force (see Figure 4). Two of the options presented in the original draft report (available at www.ctcumc.org/mission21) appear in this appendix, followed by a listing of the suggestions submitted by survey respondents. Although we reviewed and considered each option, those contained in this section were rejected in favor of the two options contained in the body of this report.

The Comprehensive Option

The Task Force spent significant time discussing and identifying a comprehensive option to realign the majority of the SCJ. We developed a set of proposed new annual conferences centered on major metropolitan areas and areas of cultural similarity such as the Houston/Austin area and the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Note that this realignment would actually result in a reduction from seven episcopal areas (eight annual conferences) to five, for a total reduction of two episcopal areas. Figure D–1 shows the new episcopal areas that were identified under this option, and Figure D–2 summarizes several statistics that would result from this configuration.

Figure D–1. Comprehensive Option Map

![Map of Comprehensive Option Areas]

Figure D–2. Statistics resulting from the Comprehensive Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Sq. Miles</th>
<th>Churches</th>
<th>Worship</th>
<th>Apportionment</th>
<th>Pop. 2020</th>
<th>Race by % 2020</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$13,459,262</td>
<td>5,534,403</td>
<td>A1 B3 H45 W44.5 O6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Race Legend (% Rounded)

A: Asian
B: Black/African American
H: Hispanic, Latino
W: White, Caucasian
O: Native American, Pacific Islander, Other Non-Hispanic

Churches, Worship and Apportionment is 2012 data from GCF & A
Apportionment: Does Not Include District Apportionments
After further development, the Task Force determined that changes of this scale will simply not be feasible to implement and that the other options would be more cost efficient, more time effective, and less complicated. Implementation of this option would tie up the vast majority of SCJ conferences (eight out of eleven), including bishops and annual conference leadership, hampering their ability to resource the local churches and individuals located within them. Our research and discussions identified that the crucial factors we were asked to consider along with the overall process for redrawing the entire SCJ would not best accomplish the goal/mission of the Task Force for reasons including but not limited to the following:

- Based on the number of churches and membership in the proposed revised annual conferences / episcopal areas, it was impossible to provide equal clergy and ensure quality of service. The possibilities of being over-staffed in one area vs. under-staffed in another are significantly higher.
- Based on the same data, the average workload for each episcopal area would increase substantially for most bishops, minimizing the overall effectiveness.
- Based on the overall demographics of the proposed plans, there would be significant issues with communication, accountability, and performance in respect to time and location.
- Based on the major implications regarding benefits (life insurance, disability plans, retirement, etc.) on clergy and staff, the task of identifying, developing, and employing an acceptable benefit plan would be an extensively complex undertaking and the potential financial impact to the annual conferences and the clergy is likely to be unreasonable (see Appendix C).

The Missional Option Additional Variation

The Task Force considered a second variation of the Missional option (this was the primary variation of the Hybrid option in the draft report and survey) in which Conference 3 includes the eastern New Mexico portion of the New Mexico Annual Conference (west of the Texas Panhandle) and Conference 4 encompasses the Rio Grande corridor. This variation is depicted in Figure D–3. Figure D–4 lists the statistics associated with this variation. Although the Task Force favored this variation because it better reflects cultural similarities, the majority of survey respondents preferred the other variation that is presented in the body of this report as the Task Force’s first choice.

Options Suggested by Survey Respondents

Members of the Task Force read through all of the comments submitted on the Mission 21 survey to extract specific suggestions contributed by respondents and spent additional time considering those suggestions. Several of these ideas were also considered in early Task Force meetings. Below, we present the suggestions made by survey respondents, followed by a response summarizing the advantages and containing a rationale for why the Task Force is not recommending that option.

**Suggestion 1. Combine the western third of Kansas with the panhandle of Oklahoma and NWTX. Combine the eastern third of Kansas with Missouri and eastern part of Nebraska. Move Western Nebraska to the Western Jurisdiction.**

**Response:** This alignment creatively considers similar cultures and offers a missional focus. However, this option was considered and rejected in the previous area alignments. Splitting Kansas breaks up the natural affinity of one state, and there is no adequate provision in the above suggestion for the middle of the state. Also, the Mission 21 mandate does not include the option of redrawing jurisdictional lines or considering options outside the jurisdiction.

**Suggestion 2. Combine the Central Texas and North Texas Annual Conferences.**

**Response:** If the annual conferences are kept separate, this is probably the easiest realignment to do from a bureaucratic perspective. However, it could greatly diminish missional impact in a crucial growth area of the jurisdiction, damage the breadth and depth of episcopal leadership and the greater sense of connectionalism. The episcopal work load is crushing and it does not effectively cover two of the most critical mission field-growth areas of the jurisdiction. The “institutional” workload for the bishop is immense (the last bishop to serve both North Texas and Central Texas as one episcopal area termed the combined institutional load “crushing” and commented that a bishop barely had time for anything else) and would severely impact episcopal leadership in other mission-critical areas (e.g., Four Focus areas, vital congregations). The diversity of the larger metro-area combined with outlying rural areas
necessitates greater—not lesser—episcopal supervision.

**Suggestion 3.** *Divide the Central Texas Annual Conference between the Río Texas and North Texas Annual Conferences.*

**Response:** This proposal may minimize disruptions and seeks to create balance while reducing number of annual conferences. It provides resources to strengthen both Río Texas and North Texas, and avoids establishing another massive geographical annual conference. However, there was concern that this does little to positively affect the mission of the church, and could result in episcopal overload (as noted in the above response under Suggestion 2). Dallas and Tarrant Counties are among the fastest growing in the nation. Keeping them in distinctly different episcopal areas maximizes missional impact.
Suggestion 4. Combine the Texas and Río Texas Annual Conferences.
Response: This option presents limited disruption with regard to boundaries and offers some missional and cultural focus for south Texas and the Gulf coast. However, it creates another massive annual conference (129,882 square miles) as well as a large episcopal workload (1041 churches). Missional focus would be divided between enormous urban populations and vast regions of rural areas.

Suggestion 5. Make the State of New Mexico its own conference (Missionary Conference if necessary).
Response: This option acknowledges the unique culture of the State of New Mexico and could be considered as part of the Pairing Option (if preferred over the Missional Option by the Jurisdictional Conference). Under this scenario, the New Mexico state portion of the New Mexico Annual Conference could maintain a separate annual conference, sharing a bishop with a sister conference comprising Río Texas and the Texas portions of the New Mexico Annual Conference. Although this is a possibility, the resulting resources available to the New Mexico State annual conference would be limiting, and maintaining separate conferences would work against the Task Force’s goal to have one annual conference per Episcopal area.

Suggestion 6. Move the New Mexico Annual Conference to the Western Jurisdiction (Desert Southwest Annual Conference).
Response: Although this option may address cultural affinity and a shared missional focus as to the population and social makeup of the Southwest, it would not result in the reduction of an episcopal area, because the New Mexico Annual Conference currently shares a bishop with the Northwest Texas Annual Conference. Also, the Mission 21 mandate does not include the option of redrawing jurisdictional lines or considering options outside the jurisdiction.

Suggestion 7. Combine the New Mexico Annual Conference with the Oklahoma and Oklahoma Indian Missionary Annual Conferences.
Response: There is an historic relationship between New Mexico and Oklahoma. Cultural similarities of these areas could allow for more focused resourcing to Native American and Hispanic ministries. However, it does not result in the reduction of an episcopal area, because the New Mexico Annual Conference currently shares a bishop with the Northwest Texas Annual Conference.

Suggestion 8. Combine the Arkansas and Louisiana Annual Conferences.
Response: There is an historic relationship between these two annual conferences and some cultural affinity in the state border region that adjoins them. However, it would create an unmanageable episcopal workload (1158 churches) and a geographical region that encompasses different cultural affinities.

Suggestion 9. Combine the Northwest Texas and New Mexico Annual Conferences.
Response: This option would create a very large geographical region (228,834 square miles) and would not result in the reduction of an episcopal area because the two annual conferences already share one bishop.

Suggestion 10. Combine the Northwest Texas and Río Texas Annual Conferences.
Response: This solution would not result in a reduction of in the number of episcopal areas. The New Mexico Annual Conference would still retain the bishop currently shared with Northwest Texas, and it could not easily be paired with another annual conference because it would be cut off geographically from the rest of the South Central Jurisdiction. Combining this solution with something similar to Suggestion 5 above (move the New Mexico Annual Conference to the Western Jurisdiction) could potentially result in a reduction of episcopal areas, but—as noted above—cross-jurisdictional changes were outside the purview of the Task Force’s mandate.
Section V—Other Information

Site of the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference. The 2020 Jurisdictional Conference will be in Houston, Texas. Dates to be determined.

Badges
Badges for the South Central Jurisdictional Conference will be color-coded and included in the registration packet. The following colors are to be used:

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Color</th>
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<tr>
<td>Delegates</td>
<td>Red</td>
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<td>Bishops’ Spouses</td>
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<td>Delegates’ Spouses</td>
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<td>Youth Observers</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Agency Staff</td>
<td>Silver</td>
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<td>Visitors, Special Guests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pages</td>
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<td>Jurisdictional Staff</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Press</td>
<td>Maroon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Arrangements/Hosts</td>
<td>Orange</td>
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</table>

Voting Devices. Each delegate will receive a voting device from the Lumi Insight Company to use for casting ballots as well as for other decisions required. You will receive your personal information card to insert in the device to activate it. **Do not take the voting device from the Plenary Room. If you do, they will alarm loudly!** You may take your activation card with you without fear of setting off the alarm. If you leave the Plenary Session, leave the voting device at your spot at the table. Alternate delegates will have their own cards to activate. If you leave the site of the Conference permanently, turn in your ID card to the IML booth. **Rehearsal for using the voting devices is Wednesday afternoon at 3:30.**

Transportation Information

From the Wichita Airport. The Hyatt Regency Hotel runs a shuttle to and from the Airport.

Church shuttle buses will also be available at the airport to take you to your hotels. Please contact Mr. Loyd Hamrick at lhamrick46@cox.net. He will arrange for your ride to the hotels. Coach buses will be outside the Hyatt Hotel at the times listed in the Agenda for the worship Service on Wednesday evening and the Consecration Service on Saturday morning.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Mr. Craig Teel of Oklahoma City for the graphic of the new Jurisdiction boundaries. Thank you to Greg Sullivan, of The Sullivan Group, for providing the Conference Logo.
## Section V—Report of Ballots

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<th>Ballots by Number</th>
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Section V—Report of Ballots

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