

JOURNAL
of the
**SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTIONAL
CONFERENCE**

The Thirteenth Session since the Uniting Conference in 1968

of
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

held at

The Hyatt Regency Hotel
and
First United Methodist Church
Wichita, Kansas

July 13–16, 2016

Edited by the Rev. Dr. David L. Severe, Secretary
3160 W. Britton Road, Suite F
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120

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SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE JOURNAL FOR JULY 2016

CERTIFICATION

This certifies that the following pages constitute the Official Journal of the Twelfth Session of the South Central Jurisdiction since union in 1968, held in Wichita, Kansas, July 13–16, 2016. It includes the lists of delegates, officers, committees, councils, institutions, representatives of various agencies, nominations, Conference boundaries, election of three Bishops, proceedings of the business sessions and other matters ordered printed by the Jurisdictional Conference.

David L. Severe,
Conference Secretary

CONFERENCE OFFICERS SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

Presiding Officers

The active Bishops of the South Central Jurisdiction

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CONFERENCE SECRETARY

Rev. Dr. David L. Severe
3160 W. Britton Road, Suite F
Oklahoma City, OK 73120

TREASURER

Mr. Bill Junk
4201 North Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

CONFERENCE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES

Bette Trumble
Cathy Cole
Gary Brooks
Deanna Holland

TELLER CAPTAIN

Burt Palmer

VOTING PROCESS AND SOUND/VIDEO

Show Core
GNTV

OFFICE STAFF

Mrs. Paula Severe, Office Manager
Rev. Linda Brinkworth, Assistant
Mrs. Sherri Severe Brown, Assistant



College of Bishops

THE COLLEGE OF BISHOPS

South Central Jurisdiction

Area	Name	Address	Phone/Email
Arkansas	Gary Mueller	800 W. Daisy L Gaston Bates Dr Little Rock, AR 72202	501-324-8001 bishop@arumc.org
Central Texas	Michael Lowry	3200 Rosedale Ft. Worth, TX 76105	817-877-5222 bishop@ctcumc.org
Great Plains	Ruben Saenz, Jr.	9440 E. Boston St. Ste. 160 Wichita, KS 67207	316-686-0600 bishop@ greatplainsumc.org
Louisiana	Cynthia Harvey	527 North Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70802	225-346-1646 bishop@la-umc.org
Missouri	Robert Farr	3601 Amron Ct. Columbia, MO 65202	573-441-1770 rfarr@ moumethodist.org
North Texas	Michael McKee	PO Box 866188 Plano, TX 75086	972-526-5015 bishop@ntcumc.org
NWTX/NM	W. Earl Bledsoe	11816 Lomas Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87112	575-225-8786 bishopbledsoe@ ebledsoe.net
Oklahoma/ OIMC	Jimmy Nunn	1501 NW 24th St. Oklahoma City, OK 73106	405-550-2025 jnunn@okumc.org
Rio Texas	Robert Schnase	16400 Huebner Rd San Antonio, TX 78248	210-408-4502 bishop@riotexas.org
Texas	Scott Jones	5215 Main St. Houston, TX 77002	713-521-9383 sjjones@txcumc.org

ACTIVE BISHOPS IN ORDER OF ELECTION

Name	Date Elected	Episcopal Area
Robert Schnase	2004	Rio Texas
Scott J. Jones	2004	Texas
W. Earl Bledsoe	2008	NW TX/ NM
Michael Lowry	2008	Central TX
Cynthia Harvey	2012	Louisiana
Gary Mueller	2012	Arkansas
Michael McKee	2012	North Texas
Ruben Saenz, Jr.	2016	Great Plains
Jimmy Nunn	2016	Oklahoma/OIMC
Bob Farr	2016	Missouri

BISHOPS ELECTED AT THE 2012 JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

Ruben Saenz, Jr.

Jimmy Nunn

Bob Farr

RETIRED BISHOPS IN ORDER OF ELECTION

Name	Year of election
Kenneth W. Hicks	1976
John Wesley Hardt	1980
John Russell	1980
J. Woodrow Hearn	1984
William B. Oden	1988
Bruce P. Blake	1988
Dan E. Solomon	1988
Alfred L. Norris	1992
Joe A. Wilson	1992
Ann B. Scherer-Simpson	1992
Fritz Mutti	1992
Joel N. Martinez	1992
Januce Riggle Huie	1996
William Hutchinson	2000
D. Max Whitfield	2000
Ben Chamness	2000
Robert Hayes, Jr.	2004
Charles N. Crutchfield	2004

Resigned

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

SURVIVING SPOUSES OF BISHOPS

Mrs. Ruth Handy (W.T.)	525 Madeira	Franklin, TN 37064
Mrs. Jewell Moncure (Rhymes)	3527 Maple Hill Rd.	Lithonia, GA 30038
Mrs. Ina Schowengerdt (Louis)	803 South 39th	St. Joseph, MO 74507

DECEASED BISHOPS IN ORDER OF ELECTION

NAME	ELECTION DATE
William C. Martin	1938
Ivan Lee Holt	1938
Charles C. Selecman	1938
W. Angie Smith	1944
Paul E. Martin	1944
Dana Dawson	1948
H. Bascom Watts	1952
Eugene M. Frank	1956
O. Eugene Slater	1960
W. Kenneth Pope	1960
Paul V. Galloway	1960
Aubrey G. Walton	1960
Kenneth W. Copeland	1960
Noah W. Moore, Jr.	1960
Paul W. Millhouse	1960
W. McFerrin Stowe	1964
Alsie H. Carleton	1968
Finis A. Crutchfield, Jr.	1972
Robert E. Goodrich, Jr.	1972
Ernest T. Dixon, Jr.	1972
Don W. Holter, Jr.	1972
J. Kenneth Shamblin	1976
Monk Bryan	1976
J. Chess Lovern	1976
W. T. Handy, Jr.	1980
Benjamin Oliphint	1980
Louis W. Schowengerdt	1980
Walter L. Underwood	1984
Raymond Owen	1992
Rhymes H. Moncure, Jr.	2000

BISHOPS ELECTED by the SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION of THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Year	Bishop/ Conference	Site of Conference	Place in Delegation/ Ballot Elected	Office Held When Elected
1944	W. Angie Smith North Texas	Tulsa, Oklahoma	1st 2nd	Pastor, First Dallas, TX
1944	Paul E. Martin North Texas		4th 11th	Pastor, Wichita Falls, TX
1948	Dana Dawson Louisiana	El Paso, Texas	1st 29th	Pastor, First Shreveport, LA
1952	H. Bascom Watts East Oklahoma	Wichita, KS	1st 7th	District Superintendent Tulsa, OK
1956	Eugene M. Frank Kansas	New Orleans, LA	1st 8th	Pastor, 1st Topeka, KS
1960	O. Eugene Slater NW Texas	San Antonio, TX	2nd 1st	Pastor, Polk Street Amarillo, TX
1960	W. Kenneth Pope Texas		1st 3rd	Pastor, 1st Houston, TX
1960	Paul V. Galloway Oklahoma		5th 3rd	Pastor, Boston Ave., Tulsa, OK
1960	Aubrey Little Rock, AR	G. Walton	6th 6th	Pastor, First Little Rock, AR
1960	Kenneth W. Copeland W Texas		2nd 9th	Pastor, Travis Park San Antonio, TX
1964	W. McFerrin Stowe Oklahoma	Dallas, TX	2nd 8th	Pastor, St. Luke's Oklahoma City, OK
1968	Alsie H. Carlton North TX	Oklahoma City, OK	3rd 13th	Professor, Perkins School of Theology
1972	Finis A Crutchfield, Jr. Oklahoma	Houston, TX	1st 3rd	Pastor, Boston Ave. Tulsa, OK

Year	Bishop/ Conference	Site of Conference	Place in Delegation/ Ballot Elected	Office Held When Elected
1972	Robert E. Goodrich, Jr. North TX		4th 6th	Pastor, First UMC Dallas, TX
1972	Ernest T. Dixon, Jr. SW Texas		1st 9th	General Council on Ministries
1972	Don W. Holter Kansas East		3rd 10th	President, St. Paul School of Theology
1976	J. Kenneth Shamblin Texas	Lincoln, NE	1st 5th	Pastor, St. Luke's Houston, TX
1976	Monk Bryan Missouri East		2nd 8th	Pastor, Missouri UMC Columbia, MO
1976	Kenneth Hicks Nebraska		1st 10th	Pastor, Trinity UMC Grand Island, NE
1976	J. Chess Lovern Oklahoma		10th 14th	Pastor, Boston Ave. Tulsa, OK
1980	W.T. Handy, Jr. Louisiana	Little Rock, AR	1st 2nd	District Superintendent Baton Rouge, LA
1980	John Wesley Hardt Texas		1st 3rd	District Superintendent Houston East, TX
1980	Benjamin Oliphint North Texas		1st 5th	Pastor, First UMC Dallas, TX
1980	Louis W. Schowengerdt Missouri West		6th 6th	Council Director Missouri West
1980	John Russell Oklahoma		1st 22nd	Pastor, Boston Ave. Tulsa, OK
1984	J. Woodrow Hearn Louisiana	Lubbock, TX	1st 4th	Pastor, First UMC Baton Rouge, LA
1984	Walter L. Underwood Texas		1st 4th	Pastor, St. Luke's Houston, TX
1984	Richard B. Wilke Kansas West		1st 8th	Pastor, First UMC Wichita, KS
1988	William B. Oden Oklahoma	New Orleans, LA	1st 5th	Pastor, First UMC Enid, OK

Year	Bishop/ Conference	Site of Conference	Place in Delegation/ Ballot Elected	Office Held When Elected
1988	Bruce B. Blake Kansas West		1st Special	Southwestern College President Winfield, KS
1988	Dan E. Solomon SW Texas		1st 13th	Pastor, First UMC Corpus Christi, TX
1992	Alfred L. Norris Louisiana	Ft. Worth, TX	1st 1st	President, Gammon Atlanta, GA
1992	Joe A. Wilson Texas		1st 3rd	Pastor, Marvin UMC Tyler, TX
1992	Ann B. Sherer Texas		7th 7th	Pastor, Westbury UMC Houston, TX
1992	Albert Frederick Mutti Missouri		1st 9th	District Superintendent Kansas City, MO
1992	Raymond H. Owen Oklahoma		1st 9th	Pastor, First UMC Bartlesville, OK
1992	Joel N. Martinez Rio Grande		2nd 9th	Pastor, Emmanuel UMC Dallas, TX
1996	Janice Riggie Huie SW Texas	Kansas City, MO	1st 16th	District Superintendent San Angelo, TX
2000	Rhymes H. Moncure, Jr. Missouri East	Albuquerque, NM	1st 1st	Pastor, Missouri UMC Columbia, MO
2000	William W. Hutchinson New Mexico		1st 2nd	Exec. Dir., NM Conference Methodist Foundation
2000	D. Max Whitfield N. Arkansas		1st 4th	District Superintendent North Arkansas
2000	Ben Chamness Texas		1st 7th	District Superintendent NW Houston, TX
2004	Robert Hayes, Jr. Texas	Corpus Christi, TX	1st 3rd	Annual Conf. Treasurer Texas Conference
2004	Robert C. Schnase SW Texas		2nd 7th	Pastor, First UMC McAllen, TX
2004	Scott J. Jones North Texas		5th 10th	McCreless Professor Perkins School of Theology

Year	Bishop/ Conference	Site of Conference	Place in Delegation/ Ballot Elected	Office Held When Elected
2004	Charles N. Crutchfield New Mexico		1st 13th	Pastor, Central UMC Albuquerque, NM
2008	B. Earl Bledsoe Texas	Dallas, TX	3rd 3rd	District Superintendent Bryan/West Houston, TX
2008	Michael Lowry SW Texas		3rd 11th	Exec Dir, New Church Dev. San Antonio, TX
2008	James Dorff North Texas		2nd 23rd	Admin Asst. to Bishop Dallas, TX
2012	Cynthia Harvey Texas	Oklahoma City, OK	14th 5th	Asst. Gen. Secretary GBGM-UMCOR
2012	Gary Mueller North Texas		3rd 11th	Pastor, First UMC Plano, TX
2012	Michael McKee Central Texas		1st 23rd	Pastor, First UMC Hurst, TX
2016	Ruben Saenz, Jr.	Wichita, KS	1st 3rd	Director Connectional Min. San Antonio, TX
2916	Jimmy Nunn		1st 21	Congregational Excellence Lubbock, TX
2016	Bob Farr		5th 35	Congregational Excellence Lake Sherwood, MO

THE EPISCOPACY



Bishop Bruce Blake
(Retired)



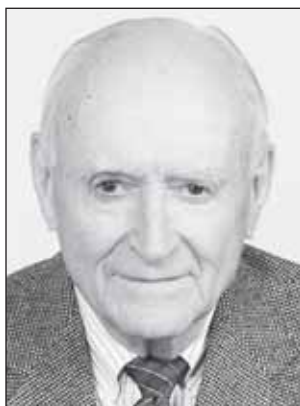
Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe



Bishop Ben Chamness
(Retired)



Bishop Charles Crutchfield (Retired)



Bishop John Wesley Hardt (Retired)



Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr. (Retired)



Bishop Woodrow Hearn
(Retired)



Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks
(Retired)



Bishop Janice Riggie Huie
(Retired)

THE EPISCOPACY



**Bishop William
Hutchinson (Retired)**



Bishop Scott J. Jones



Bishop Michael Lowry



**Bishop Joel N.
Martinez (Retired)**



**Bishop Albert
Frederick Mutti (Retired)**



**Bishop Alfred L.
Norris, Sr. (Retired)**



**Bishop William B. Oden
(Retired)**



**Bishop John Russell
(Retired)**



Bishop Robert Schnase

THE EPISCOPACY



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)



Bishop Cynthia Harvey



Bishop Gary Mueller

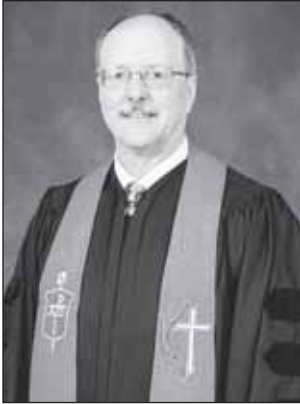


Bishop Mike McKee



Bishop Farr

THE EPISCOPACY



Bishop Nunn



Bishop Saenz

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, Master's 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.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF 2012 DELEGATES AND RESERVES

[*Clergy in italics*]

—A—			
<i>Aderholt, Robert</i>	Great Plains	Bousson, Eduardo	Great Plains
<i>Aguila, Pete</i>	Louisiana	Breon, Steve	Missouri
Ahischwede, Stephanie	Great Plains	<i>Brewster, Dixie</i>	Great Plains
<i>Alfred, Darlene</i>	Central Texas	<i>Briggs, Margie</i>	Missouri
Allen, Maxine	Arkansas	<i>Brim, Jay</i>	Rio Texas
<i>Allen, Sterling</i>	Texas	<i>Briones, Minerva</i>	Rio Texas
Alston, Ellen	Louisiana	Broadbent, Lesly	Oklahoma
Anderson, Zach	Great Plains	<i>Brown, Bill</i>	Texas
Avitia, Edgar	Rio Texas	<i>Brown, Marianne</i>	Central Texas
		<i>Brumbaugh, Susan</i>	New Mexico
		Bruster, Tim	Central Texas
—B—		Bryan, Andy	Missouri
<i>Baccus, Steve</i>	Great Plains	<i>Burgess, Sue</i>	Ok Indian Missionary
Bakeman, Brian	Oklahoma	<i>Burris, Todd</i>	Arkansas
Bandel, Holly	North Texas	Bush, David	Arkansas
Bass, Jim	Texas	Bynum, Jonathan	Texas
<i>Bates, Brandon</i>	Arkansas		
<i>Beard, Herschel</i>	Oklahoma	—C—	
Bell, Cheryl Jefferson	Great Plains	<i>Calcote, Tammy</i>	Missouri
Bennett, D.A.	Oklahoma	<i>Calderon, Chelsea</i>	New Mexico
<i>Biggerstaff, Randy</i>	Missouri	<i>Campbell, Kylie</i>	Central Texas
<i>Bonner, Byrd</i>	Rio Texas	<i>Carpenter, Kelly</i>	North Texas



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Carr, Louis	Central Texas	<i>Fisher, Jeff</i>	Northwest Texas
<i>Clark, Timmy</i>	North Texas	<i>Fowler, Courtney</i>	Great Plains
Cleaver, III, Emanuel	Missouri	Frederick, Austin	Rio Texas
<i>Clemons, Reggie</i>	Texas	<i>Fulton, Kent</i>	Oklahoma
Coleman, Justin	Texas		
Collier, Cody	Missouri	—G—	
Conner, Jim	Central Texas	<i>Garza, Oscar</i>	Texas
Cosby, Stan	Northwest Texas	<i>Gately, Wesley</i>	Great Plains
Crawford, Ray	Oklahoma	<i>Gatobu, Anne</i>	Great Plains
<i>Crouch, Tim</i>	North Texas	Gilbert, Janice	Texas
Crumpton, Debra	Central Texas	Gilts, Kip	Texas
		Goff, Andrew	Louisiana
		<i>Green, Oliver</i>	Great Plains
—D—		Greenwood, Lisa	North Texas
<i>Davis, Debra</i>	Oklahoma	<i>Gregory, Ethan</i>	Central Texas
Davis, Jan	North Texas	<i>Gregory, Kevin</i>	Central Texas
<i>Dawson, Ahnawake</i>	Oklahoma		
Day, Pat	Louisiana	—H—	
<i>Debus, Gretchen Toler</i>	North Texas	Hamilton, Adam	Great Plains
<i>Deere, Josephine</i>	Ok Indian Missionary	<i>Hammons, Brian</i>	Missouri
<i>Deupree, Darcy</i>	Central Texas	<i>Haney, Mary Bell</i>	New Mexico
<i>Deville, Terrel</i>	Louisiana	<i>Hanke, Gil</i>	Texas
<i>Deviney, Aislinn</i>	Rio Texas	<i>Harker, Linda</i>	Oklahoma
Deviney, Thomas	Rio Texas	<i>Harkrider, Tom</i>	Central Texas
Dotson, Junius	Great Plains	Harris, Joe	Oklahoma
<i>Dove, Carolyn</i>	Louisiana	Harris, Vincent	Texas
Downing, Jim	Missouri	<i>Harrison, Larry</i>	Rio Texas
<i>Dunn, Katye</i>	Arkansas	<i>Harrison, Ricky</i>	North Texas
Dyke, Lynn	Missouri	Harrison, Tom	Oklahoma
		<i>Hawkins, Stacy</i>	Texas
—E—		<i>Hay, Esther</i>	Great Plains
<i>Eckert, Serena</i>	North Texas	Hayden, Karen	Missouri
Edwards, Richard	Northwest Texas	Hayes, Chris	Central Texas
Embrey, John	Arkansas	Hayes, Terrence	Rio Texas
<i>Enns, Ron</i>	Northwest Texas	<i>Hearne, Richard</i>	North Texas
<i>Erwin, Eddie</i>	Texas	<i>Henderson, Enid</i>	Texas
Escamilla, Paul	Rio Texas	Henderson, Ron	North Texas
<i>Estes, Jr., Clarence</i>	Texas	<i>Hernandez, Andy</i>	Texas
Estes, Pam	Arkansas	Herrera, Abigail	Rio Texas
<i>Ezell, Kathy</i>	Central Texas	Hilliard, Wesley	Arkansas
		<i>Hinderliter, Shane</i>	Great Plains
—F—		Hjelle, Rebecca	Great Plains
<i>Fagan, Larry</i>	Missouri	<i>Hobbs, Marquice</i>	Texas
<i>Fairly, Jr., Rob</i>	Louisiana	<i>Hodginson, Randall</i>	Great Plains
Farr, Bob	Missouri	Holland, Mark	Great Plains
Feagins, Raquel Cajiri	Rio Texas	<i>Hood, Stacy</i>	Louisiana
Feltz, Amy	Northwest Texas	<i>House, Don</i>	Texas
<i>Fink, Elizabeth</i>	Arkansas		

Howard, Clifton	Central Texas	<i>King, Donel</i>	Texas
Huertas, Juan Carlos	Louisiana	<i>Kotan, Kay</i>	Missouri
<i>Hull, Cindy</i>	Oklahoma	<i>Kreutziger, Sarah</i>	Louisiana
<i>Huntsman, Carolyn</i>	Texas		
<i>Hyde, Richard</i>	Texas	—K—	
		La Grone, Jessica	Texas
—I—		Lee, Ouida	North Texas
Idom, Matt	Texas	<i>Leeper, Karelle</i>	Great Plains
		<i>Lessner, Henry</i>	North Texas
—J—		Levingston, Kenneth	Texas
Jacobs, Derek	North Texas	Lippoldt, Amy	Great Plains
<i>James, Ivan</i>	Missouri	Livingston, David	Great Plains
Jaynes, Jeff	Oklahoma	<i>Loeb, Carol</i>	Rio Texas
Johnson, Bernie	Louisiana	Long, Bob	Oklahoma
<i>Johnson, Cindy</i>	Rio Texas	Lopez, Robert	Rio Texas
Johnson, Margaret	Ok Indian Missionary		
Jones, Edward	Texas	—M—	
Jones, Rich	Northwest Texas	Malloy, Tish	Oklahoma
<i>Jordon, Shayla</i>	Great Plains	Malone, Jr., T. Lynn	Louisiana
Judkins, Matt	Oklahoma	<i>Mann, Karon</i>	Arkansas
<i>Junk, Bill</i>	Oklahoma	<i>Mantooth, Rick</i>	Rio Texas
<i>Junk, Tom</i>	Oklahoma	Matthis, Morris	Texas
Just, Rick	Great Plains	<i>Maupin, Lisa</i>	Great Plains
		<i>McIver, Steve</i>	Central Texas
—K—		Mckellar, John	Central Texas
<i>Keese, Teresa</i>	Rio Texas	<i>Meister, Shannon</i>	Missouri
<i>Kim, Don</i>	Oklahoma	Merrill, Laura	Rio Texas
Kim, Kibum	Great Plains	Miles, John	Arkansas



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Miles, Rebekah	Arkansas	Ross, Owen	North Texas
Millar, Karen	Arkansas	Rossnagel, Todd	Louisiana
Miller, Russell	Rio Texas		
Miofsky, Matt	Missouri	—S—	
Mitchell, Earl	Oklahoma	Saenz, Jr., Ruben	Rio Texas
Mitchell, James	Louisiana	Salzwedel, Todd	New Mexico
Morrison, Tim	North Texas	Sanchez, Silverio	Texas
Murray, Murphy	Northwest Texas	Sears-Jackson, Jill	North Texas
		Seay, Jessica	Oklahoma
—N—		Sharp, Scott	New Mexico
Nicholson, Trista Soendker	Missouri	Shahan, Aly	Oklahoma
Nicklas, Cara	Oklahoma	Simmons, Sandy	Great Plains
Nichols, Sarah	Oklahoma	Simpson, Kathryn McKay	Louisiana
Nord, Carl	Great Plains	Simpson, Kim	Central Texas
Norman, Mark	Arkansas	Sinn, Meagan	Missouri
Nunn, Jimmy	Northwest Texas	Soliz, Daniel	North Texas
		Spencer, Juliet	Louisiana
—O—		Spradlin, Mary	Central Texas
Oliphint, Clayton	North Texas	Stanton, Nathan	Great Plains
Olive, Jeff	Texas	Steele, Valerie	Oklahoma
Olsen, Keith	Great Plains	Stewart, Chuck	Oklahoma
Ortegon, Letty	Rio Texas	Stites, Randy	Northwest Texas
		Stobaugh, Joe	North Texas
—P—		Stoker, Andy	North Texas
Pace, Tom	Texas	Strang, Makala	Arkansas
Palmer, Burt	Northwest Texas	Strebeck, Sid	New Mexico
Parks, Linda	North Texas	Sullivan, Sue	Texas
Paschal, Jr., Wade	Oklahoma		
Percifield, Mary	Central Texas		
Perry, Barbara	Oklahoma		
Phillips, Anita	Ok Indian Missionary		
Pittman, Mark	Northwest Texas		
Player, Reece	Oklahoma		
Powers, Sam	Oklahoma		
Price, Amanda	Louisiana		
Pruett, Olivia	Louisiana		
—R—			
Rawle, Matthew	Louisiana		
Raybuck, Sean	Rio Texas		
Renfro, Rob	Texas		
Richards, Yvette	Missouri		
Rivera, Eduardo	New Mexico		
Robbins, Jr., Tom	Central Texas		
Roberts, Dede	Arkansas		
Rohlf, Carl	Rio Texas		
Rosario-Goodwin, Charity	Missouri		



cutline

<i>Swain, Brian</i>	Arkansas	—W—	
<i>Swetman, Michael</i>	Rio Texas	Waller, Kendall	Missouri
		Wang, Fuxia	Oklahoma
—T—		Warner, Lacey	Texas
<i>Taylor, Leah</i>	Texas	Watson, Brittany	Arkansas
Temple, Chappell	Texas	<i>Watts, Ron</i>	Missouri
<i>Thomas, Pearl</i>	Ok Indian Missionary	<i>Weiss, Walter</i>	Louisiana
<i>Thompson, Amy</i>	Missouri	Welborn, Teresa	Rio Texas
<i>Thompson, Ralph</i>	Rio Texas	Wende, Steve	Texas
Thompson-Barlow, Ashley	Great Plains	<i>West, Donna</i>	Texas
<i>Tielke, Ken</i>	Texas	<i>Whitaker, Asa</i>	Arkansas
Tiger, Aaron	Oklahoma	Whitaker, Keith	Texas
<i>Tobey, Cindy</i>	Oklahoma	White, Marilyn	Texas
Tomlinson, Leslie	Rio Texas	Wier, Brenda	Central Texas
<i>Totten, Herman</i>	North Texas	<i>Wilbourn, Miller</i>	Arkansas
Trammell, Ben	Texas	<i>Wiley, Don</i>	North Texas
<i>Tullos, Bryan</i>	Texas	<i>Willard, Ken</i>	Missouri
		<i>Williams, Andrew Ponder</i>	Missouri
—U—		Williams, Guy	Texas
Underwood, Don	North Texas	<i>Williams, Leia</i>	Northwest Texas
		Wilson, David	Ok Indian Missionary
—V—		<i>Wilson, Janey</i>	Oklahoma
Valendy, Jason	Central Texas	<i>Wilson, Melba</i>	Texas
Valverde, Eradio	Rio Texas	<i>Wondel, Jill</i>	Missouri
Vaughan, Jane	New Mexico	<i>Wright, Rachel</i>	Rio Texas
Vega, Jr., Abel	Rio Texas	<i>Wussow, Tom</i>	Texas
Vickers, Jeremy	Missouri		
<i>Vonner, Sally</i>	North Texas		



2012 DELEGATES BY CONFERENCE

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Spradlin, Mary
Valendy, Jason

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Ft. Worth
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Cutlines for both
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NEW MEXICO

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Harris, Joe

Long, Bob

Seay, Jessica

Powers, Sam

Harrison, Tom

Bakeman, Brian

Tiger, Aaron

Paschal, Jr., Wade

Judkins, Matt

Jaynes, Jeffrey

Bennett, D. A.

Steele, Valerie

Wang, Fuxia

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Player, Reece

Dawson, Ahnawake

Crawford, Ray

Malloy, Tish

Broadbent, Lesly

Nichols, Sarah

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501 W Main

Box 390

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2960 Charles Page Blvd

2805 SW 140th St.

624 South 6th St.

428 W Lindsey

1109 S. Meadow Dr.

424 Lakeside Dr.

23182 S. Cedar St.

1615 HWY 88 N

2833 Stafford Rd.

922 Quail Ridge

1722 NW 20th St.

Stillwater

Norman

Oklahoma City

Oklahoma City

Ardmore

Edmond

Tulsa

Oklahoma City

Broken Arrow

Jenks

McAlester

Tulsa

Oklahoma City

Okemah

Norman

Ardmore

Altus

Claremore

Claremore

Edmond

Enid

Oklahoma City

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918-571-2183

918-813-5151

918-424-0989

918-808-1448

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JURISDICTIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAMS

MISSION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Class of 2020

Clergy

Ouida Lee—NT
Rick Just—GP

Lay Men

John Crawford—AR
Ron Enns—NWTX

Lay Women

Sue Burgess—OIMC
Letty Ortegon—Rio Texas

Class of 2024

Clergy

Kendall Waller—MO
Wendy Lambert—OK

Lay Men

Steve McIver—CTX
Keith Kreutziger—LA

Lay Women

Donna TeBrink—NM
Sue Sullivan—TX

At Large

Bill Junk—OK (The College may choose up to four at-large for balance.)

By Office

Bryan Hammons, SCJ Lay Leader; Bishop Gary Mueller; Park Kwang, Korean Min.;
Eddie Erwin, Adult Youth Coordinator; Frances Long, Archivist

Staff

Brian Bakeman, Executive Director; Linda Brinkworth, Office Manager; Audrey Phelps,
VIM/DR.; Chung Kim, Dir. Korean Ministries



HOST COMMITTEE

Bishop Scott Jones
Dan Flanagan
Dana Reinhardt
Kristie Garnes
Todd Siefert
Kim Dickerson-Oard
Dirk Hutchinson
Jim Welch

Evelyn Fisher, Chair
Cindy Watson
Eduardo Bousson
Connie Green
Bette Trumble
Mike Marion
Barb Campbell
David Severe

Linda Louderback
Mary Lou Reece
Martin Rude
Cindy Kelly
Keith Fink
Lloyd Hamrick
Nancy Lambert
Paula Severe

YOUTH OBSERVERS

Phillip Jay Clark Eddie Adams Lauren Sloan Claire Thompson Erynn Dahlke

PAGES

Rev. Nicole Conard, coordinator

Jovan Lawless
Kyle Stamper
Adam Fischer

Jesse Gichuru
Rebekah Fillmore
Kyler Ruby

Greg Reffner
Maddi Baugous
Noah Stanton

Hannah Sipes
Caleb Smith
Isaac Stanton

JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM THE SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION



COMMITTEES OF THE JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ON JOURNAL

(One person per Area, named by the College of Bishops)

Arkansas	Karon Mann	North Texas	Andy Stoker
Central Texas	Kathy Ezell	NWTX/NM	Mary Bell Harvey
Great Plains	Ashlee Barlow-Thompson	Oklahoma/OIMC	Valerie Steel—Chair
Louisiana	Ellen Alston	Rio Texas	Austin Frederick, Jr.
Missouri	Margie Briggs	Texas	Stacie Yvonne Hawkins

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Arkansas	Wes Hilliard, Clergy	North TX	Linda Parks, Lay
Central TX	Steve McIver, Lay	NWTX	Rich Jones, Clergy
GP	David Livingston, Clergy	Oklahoma	Bill Junk, Lay
Louisiana	Rob Fairly, Lay	OIMC	Pearl Thomas, Lay
Missouri	Ivan James, Lay	Rio TX	Teresa Keese, Lay
NM	Susan Brumbaugh, Lay	Texas	Kenneth Levingston, Lay

COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

(Named by the College of Bishops)

Seven Clergy in Full Connection

Steve Breon, MO
Bernadine Johnson, LA
Dede Roberts, AR
Robert Lopez, RT
Justin Coleman, TX
Holly Bandel, NT
Junius Dotson, GP

Two Lay Observers

David Holmes, CTX
Josephine Deere, OIMC

Five Clergy Alternates/Full Connection

Eduardo Rivera, NM
D. A. Bennett, OK
Burt Palmer, NWTX
Phillip Rhodes, CTX
Bill Foote, OIMC

One Lay Observer, Alternate

Leah Taylor, TX

COMMITTEE ON APPEALS

(Named by the College of Bishops)

Four Clergy

Owen Ross, NT
Dee Williamston, GP
Victor McCullough, OK
Lynn Dyke, MO

Four Clergy Alternates

Lyn Malone, LA
Kyland Dobbins, CTX
Trista Soendker Nicholson, MO
John Embrey, AR

One Diaconal
Dawn Gillard
One Full Time Local Pastor
Jeff Baker, MO
Three Laity
Reggie Clemons, TX
Aislinn Deviney, RT
Jeff Fisher, NWTX

One Diaconal Alternate
Ann Pierce Arnett
One Full Time Local Pastor, Alternate
Arturo Cadar, TX
Three Laity Alternates
Richard Hearne, NT
Reece Player, OK
Keith Olsen, GP

EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE 2016–2020

Area	Lay	Clergy
Arkansas	Karon Mann	Mark Norman
Central Texas	Tom Harkrider	Tim Bruster
Great Plains	Courtney Fowler	Amy Lippholdt
Louisiana	Carolyn Dove	Sarah Kreutziger
Missouri	Brian Hammons	Cody Collier
New Mexico	Sid Strebeck	Eduardo Rivera
North Texas	Tim Crouch	Clayton Oliphint
Northwest Texas	Ron Enns	Stan Cosby
Oklahoma	Don Kim	Linda Harker
OIMC	Josephine Deere	David Wilson
Rio Texas	Abel Vega	Laura Merrill
Texas	Reggie Clemons	Chappell Temple

COURTESIES AND PRIVILEGES

	Clergy	Lay
Arkansas	Maxine Allen	Brandon Bates
Central Texas	Brenda Wier	Kevin Gregory
Great Plains	Eduardo Bousson	Lisa Maupin
Louisiana	Juliet Spencer	Amanda Price
Missouri	Karen Hayden	Randy Biggerstaff
New Mexico	Scott Sharp	
North Texas	Joe Stobaugh	Gretchen Toler
Northwest Texas	Amy Wilson Feltz	Jeff Fisher
OIMC		
Oklahoma	Matt Judkins	Cara Nicklas
Rio Texas	Austin Frederick, Jr.	Aislinn Deviney
Texas	Ben Trammel	Tom Wussow

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

	Clergy	Lay
Arkansas	Brittany Watson	Elizabeth Fink
Central Texas	Jim Conner	Darcy Deupree
Great Plains	Zach Anderson	Shala Jordan
Louisiana	Jim Conner	Walter Weiss
Missouri	Emmanuel Cleaver III	Jill Wondel
New Mexico	Todd Salzwedel	Marybell Haney
North Texas	Lisa Greenwood	Kelly Carpenter
Northwest Texas	Stan Cosby	Murray Murphy
OIMC	Margaret Johnson	
Oklahoma	Aaron Tiger	Janey Wilson
Rio Texas	Tom Deviney	Larry Harrison
Texas	Morris Matthis	Eddie Erwin

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

Conference	Clergy	Lay
Arkansas	John Embry	Miller Wilbourn
Central Texas	Chris Hayes	Darlene Alfred
Great Plains	Mark Holland	Oliver Green
Louisiana	Lynn Malone	Olivia Pruett
Missouri	Lynn Dyke	Margie Briggs
New Mexico	Jane Vaughan	Chelsea Calderon
North Texas	Ouida Lee	Daniel Soliz
Northwest Texas	Burt Palmer	Leia Williams
OIMC	Anita Phillips	Sue Burgess
Oklahoma	Joe Harris	Herschel Beard
Rio Texas	Teresa Welborn	Byrd Bonner
Texas	Lacey Warner	Andy Hernandez

TELLERS

Arkansas	Brittany Watson	New Mexico	Chelsea Calderon
Central Texas	Kevin Gregory	North Texas	Ouida Lee
Great Plains	Nathan Stanton	NW Texas	Burt Palmer
Louisiana	Juan Carlos Huertas	Oklahoma	Matt Judkins
Missouri	Kay Kotan	Rio Texas	Cindy Johnson
Texas		Silverio Sanchez	

SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE 2012

AGENDA

All meetings in the Hyatt Hotel, unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	College of Bishops	Board Room
	Episcopacy Committee	Walnut Room
12:00 Noon	Host Committee Lunch	Osage Room
3:00 p.m.	Nominations Comm.	Maple Room
4:00 p.m.	Secretarial Training	Willow Room
	Mission Council	Osage Room
6:30 p.m.	Episcopal Family	Bishop Jones Home

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Episcopacy Comm.	Walnut Room
	Nominations Comm.	Maple Room
9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.	Bishops' Spouse Activity	
10:00 a.m.	Registration opens	
	Committee on Journal	Board Room
	Tellers Training	Osage Room
1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.	Prayer Room Opens	Oak Room
	Jurisdictional Committees:	
	*Courtesies & Privileges	Cypress A
	*Conference Boundaries	Cypress B
	*Petition & Resolutions	Red Bud A
3:30 p.m.	Page Training	Plenary

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4:00 p.m.	Orientation/ Practice voting	Plenary
	Press Briefing	Eagle F
5:30 p.m.	Rehearsal for Communion Svc.	First UMC
6:30 p.m.	Buses load for First UMC	Outside Plenary
7:00 p.m.	Holy Communion/Memorial Service	
	Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, presiding	
	Bishop Scott Jones, Preaching	
8:30 p.m.	Reception honoring Bishops	Meredith Hall
9:30 p.m.	Buses load to hotels	

Thursday, July 14, 2016

7:30 a.m.	Prayer Room Open all Day	Oak Room
8:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	Rev. Amy Lippoldt
	Eleventh Session of the SCJ	Bishop Huie
	Opening motions	David Severe
	Welcome/introductions	Bishop Jones
	Structure & Rules Report	Andrew Williams
	Episcopacy Committee	Don House
	Episcopal Ballot # 1	
	Episcopal Address	Bishop Mike Lowry
	Report of Ballot # 1	
	Recess (30 minutes)	
	Conference Session	Bishop Huie
	Ballot # 2—Report & recess	
	Ballot # 3—Report & recess	
	Ballot # 4—Report & recess	
	Laity Address	Leah Taylor
Noon	Laity Luncheon	Cypress

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2:00 p.m.	Conference Session SMU Report/elect Trustees Jurisdiction Youth (JYMO) Ballot # 5—Report & recess Ballot # 6—Report & recess Ballot # 7—Report & recess Ballot # 8—Report & recess	Bishop Lowry Dr. Turner
3:00 p.m.	Break	
3:30 p.m.	Lydia Patterson Inst. Finance & Admin Rpt. Mission Council Executive Director Intro New Dir.—Brian Bakeman Jurisdictional Treasurer Ballot # 9—Report & recess Ballot # 10—Report & recess Ballot # 11—Report – no recess	Socorro de Anda B. Junk, J. Hodgson Jim Welch David Severe Bill Junk
4:45 p.m.	Order of the day—Celebration of Disciple	
5:00 p.m.	Dinner	
7:00 p.m.	Conference Session Volunteers in Mission Finance & Admin # 2—Budget Ballot # 12—Report & recess Ballot # 13—Report & recess Ballot # 14—Report and recess United Methodist Women United Methodist Men Courtesies & Privileges Report	Bishop Schnase L. Norman, A. Phelps Edna Hickman Kenneth Tielke

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9:30 p.m. Adjournment
 Perkins School of Theology Ice Cream fest.

Friday, July 15, 2016

7:30 a.m.	Prayer Room Open all Day	Oak Room
8:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	Junius Dotson
	Conference Session	Bishop Jones
	Journal Report # 1	
	Ballot # 15—Report & recess	
	Ballot # 16—Report & recess	
	Ballot # 17—Report & recess	
	Korean Ministry	Rev. Kim
	Mission 21 Study	Bishop Lowry
	Conference Boundaries	
	Nominations Report	
	Ecumenical Representatives	Bishop Harvey
9:40 a.m.	Break—Invest. & Appeals Com. Organize	
10:00 a.m.	Order of the day—Bishops’ Retirement	
11:00 a.m.	Conference Session	Bishop Bledsoe
	Bishops’ Spouses	Don House
	Council of Bishops	Bishop Robert. Fannin
	Petitions & Resolutions	
	Ballot #18—Report & recess	
	Ballot #19—Report & recess	
	Ballot # 20—Report & no recess	
Noon	Lunch (Mission Council Lunch-Osage)	



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2:00 p.m.	Conference Session	Bishop Lowry
	Ballot # 21 Report and recess	
	Ballot # 22 Report and recess	
	Mt. Sequoyah Report	Jess Schload
	Perkins School of Theology	Craig C. Hill
	St. Paul	Neil Blair, Elaine Robinson
	Journal Report # 2	
	Ballot # 23 and recess	
	Ballot # 24 and no recess	
5:00 p.m.	Recess	
5:30 p.m.	Dinner for Bishops & Delegates	Red Bud
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.	Area Host Celebration	Century II
8:30 p.m.	Conference Session	Bishop Harvey
	Ballots as required	
	Recess after last Bishop elected.	
	Episcopacy Report	Don House
	Courtesies & Privileges Report	
	Adjournment of SCJ Business	

Saturday, July 16, 2016

7:00 a.m.	Area Breakfasts	
8:30 a.m.	Rehearsal for Consecration Svc. FUMC	
10:00 a.m.	Buses load for First UMC	
10:30 a.m.	Service of Consecration	FUMC
	Presiding—Bishop McKee	
	Preaching—Bishop Hayes	
	Reception for new Bishops	Meredith Hall
12:30 p.m.	Adjourn	
	Buses load for hotels.	



Daily Proceedings South Central Jurisdictional Conference Held at Wichita, KS

Thursday, July 14, 2012

Rev. Amy Lippoldt of the Great Plains Annual Conference opened worship. Music was led by Lacey Wheeler from McPherson, KS. Rev. Lippoldt read Deuteronomy 26:1–11 as her text.

CALL TO ORDER—Bishop Janice Riggle Huie called the 2016 South Central Jurisdiction 13th Session to order at 8:28 a.m. **Dr. David Severe** brought opening motions/organizing motions (listed on page 14 of the *Christian Advocate*). They were approved. **Dr. Severe** also made the delegation aware of instructions from the hotel in case of a tornado.

Bishop Huie announced that Martha Taylor (*Christian Reporter*) and Amy Forbus were injured in a car accident on the way to conference. **Bishop Huie** invited **Bishop Gary Muller** to offer a prayer for them.

Bishop Scott Jones welcomed the conference to the Great Plains Annual Conference. He related the journey of the GPAC in forming one conference out of the former Kansas East, West and Nebraska Annual Conferences. Bishop Jones introduced **Rev. Evelyn Fisher**, Director of Congregational Excellence. **Bishop Jones** described the altar cross created by an artisan in Marion, KS. Corn and wheat represent the two states of Nebraska and Kansas.

THE STRUCTURE AND RULES OF ORDER REPORT—Andrew Ponder Williams directed the delegation to Section III—Structure and Rules of Order for the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church beginning on page 35. He



offered the following changes: Page 37, line 11 changes to: One adult representative and 1 youth representative named by the Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization (JYMO). Page 48, line 19 add: Speeches shall be limited to 3 for and 3 against and limited to 3 minutes. **Andrew Ponder Williams** took a moment of personal privilege to offer thanks to **Dr. David and Paula Severe** for their mentoring and supporting during their eight years of work together on the Mission Council. **Report received by body and approved.**

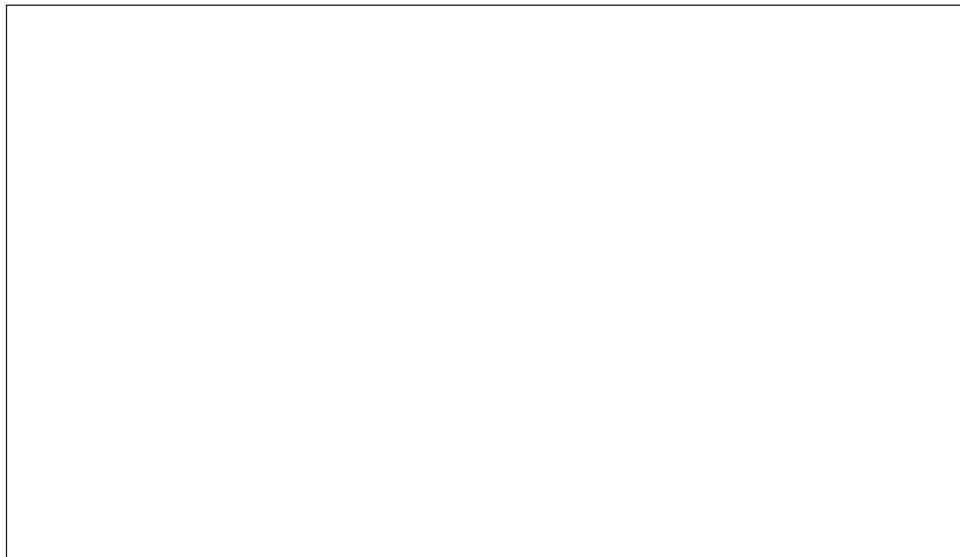
EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE REPORT #1—Don House brought forward the Report of the Episcopacy Committee on pages 52–53 in *The Christian Advocate*. He called attention to paragraphs G & H. He discussed the changes in membership numbers in the United Methodist Church. He noted that the SJC is one of the strongest jurisdictions in the UMC. He spoke of Marva Dawn’s speech at a previous SJC: “Of all the faith communities in the US the UMC is the best positioned for growth.” He spoke to the decline in worship attendance across the nation, including in the South Central Jurisdiction. Mr. House concluded, “Evangelism and church growth is a priority among some but not all. Sexuality issues are important to some, but not the people in the pews. We will have a better day.” After a vote, report was received by body.

VOTING—Dr. David Severe gave additional instructions on voting and held another practice vote. Delegates will be voting for three Bishops. 60% is required to be elected.

Information from **Keith Whittaker**: the write-in numbers on the back of the Voting Book are already allotted to candidates. **Dr. David Severe** corrected to: write-ins will be numbered 233-241. Prayer offered by **Bishop Bruce Blake**.

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 1: Bishop Huie opened Episcopal Ballot #1, selections 1-3 at 8:55 a.m. Problems with equipment were handled. Ballot closed at 8:59 a.m.

EPISCOPAL MESSAGE—Bishop Mike Lowry Central Texas and Rio Texas, opened with prayer. (Printed in the Reports Section.) Following the address, the Session greeted **Bishop Lowry** with a standing ovation.



RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #1

Time: 9:01 a.m.

Number of Ballots cast: 641

Invalid Ballots: 23

Valid Ballots: 618

Needed to elect: 125

No election

Dr. David Severe will review the vote tabulation following each ballot; names with less than 10 votes will not be read, but will be on the screen.

BREAK at 9:50 a.m., recess to caucus in preparation for Episcopal Ballot #2 (Severe: rooms are not available, find your spot in the ballroom or hallway). 30 minutes.

VIDEO—"We Are More"

RECONVENED: 10:23 a.m.



caption

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 2:

Bishop Huie opened Episcopal

Ballot #2 at 10:24 a.m. After vote for first selection, **Byrd Bonner** requested prayer;

Bishop Blake offered prayer. Ballot closed 10:31 a.m.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #2

Time: 10:35 a.m.

Number of Ballots cast: 639

Invalid Ballots: 15

Valid Ballots: 624 (Divided by 3 selections = 208 ballots of which 60% is 125)

Needed to elect: 125

No election

BREAK at 10:36 a.m.—10 minutes break accepted by body; reconvened 10:45 a.m.

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 3. **Bishop Huie** asked **Bishop Alfred L. Norris Sr.** to offer prayer. Opened Episcopal Ballot #3, at 10:46 a.m. Ballot closed at 10:48 a.m.

VIDEO—"We Are More" Subject: call to ministry.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #3

Time: 10:48 a.m.

Number of Ballots cast: 645

Invalid Ballots: 12

Valid Ballots: 633

Needed to elect: 127

ELECTION: REV. DR. RUBEN SAENZ, JR. of the Rio Texas Annual Conference was elected with 133 votes. He was escorted to the dais by **Bishop Scott Jones**, **Bishop Michael McKee** and **Bishop Joel Martinez**. A standing ovation was given and The

Session sang *The Doxology*. **Bishop Joel Martinez** lifted Bishop Saenz and his wife Maria in prayer.

BREAK at 11:00 a.m. 30-minute break required after an election by standing rules. Motion by **Chappell Temple** to suspend rules to allow a 15-minute break. Seconded. 2/3 vote required. Motion passed. Rule is suspended. Motion for 15 minutes. Seconded. Accepted.

RECONVENED at 11:15 a.m.

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 4. Bishop Huie requested **Bishop William Oden** to offer prayer. Opened Episcopal Ballot #4 at 11:17 a.m. Instructions given to vote for two only. Ballot closed at 11:19 a.m.

LAITY REPORT—Leah Taylor, (Texas Annual Conference) **SCJ Lay Leader**, and **Annual Conference Lay Leaders**. Welcome offered by Courtney Fowler, Great Plains Annual Conference Lay Leader. **Taylor** report that the roles have changed; it is beneficial to have someone other than a conference lay leader in the jurisdictional position. The revised position of Jurisdictional Lay Leader began in 2012. There have been changes in the Conference Lay Leader role. They now serve as member of Annual Conference Cabinet and travel to every District to train and meet teams. They are members of the Annual Conference Nominating Committee, lead the Annual Conference Board of Laity, and help the District Superintendents choose District Lay Leaders.

Introduction of Conference Lay Leaders: **Karon Mann** Arkansas, **Kim Simpson** Central Texas, **Courtney Fowler** Great Plains, **Carolyn Dove** Louisiana, **Brian Hammons** Missouri, **Sid Strebeck** New Mexico, **Chuck Stewart** Oklahoma, **Murray Murphy** Northwest Texas, **Jeff Bouls** North Texas, **Jim Chalkee** Oklahoma Indian Missionary, **Ralph Thompson** Rio Texas, **Stephanie Griffin** Texas (absent).

Ralph Thompson spoke about the Chappell Hill, TX church which was on the verge of closing. District laity volunteered to help the members by planning and offering worship and other pastoral duties for the church. A year later, Chappell Hill continues in its 100th year. District volunteers continue to come and help. **Chuck Stewart** told about the “It Worked For Us” award given to one church in each district annually; they are given a plaque and \$200. Then he described the Ringling Prom Dress Ministry which purchases gently used dresses, shoes, and jewelry to loan to girls in need and gift certificates for a pre-prom meal and other needs. New Haven Bus Stop Ministry which began to give students a place to wait for busses. Now meals and games are included. Several students have raised money to help the ministry and also help in cleaning after meals. 30–50 kids participate each school day representing 6 schools. There are 11 regular volunteers.

Brian Hammons (new Jurisdictional Lay



Leader) offered thanks to **Leah Taylor** for her leadership. Quoted from *The Book of Discipline*, ¶127—The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living as well as the sharing of their own faith experiences of the gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ and The United Methodist Church will fulfill its mission. He said, “That’s the key to the renewal of the United Methodist Church.” He called for living out “the witness of Laity.” Then he invited the Conference Lay Leaders for new quadrennium to stand.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #4

Two to elect.

Time: 11:23 a.m.

Number of Ballots cast: 430 (2 positions = 215 ballots cast)

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 430

Needed to elect: 129

No election

BREAK at 11:43 for 12 minutes. Reconvened at 11:55.

EPISCOPAL BALLOT# 5. Bishop Huie asked Bishop Albert Frederick Mutti to offer prayer. Delegates will hear report of ballot before lunch. Lunch will be the period of recess. **Dr. David Severe** explained why the total number of ballots dropped from 600s to 400s; was due to only needing to vote for two persons. **Bishop Huie** opened Episcopal Ballot #5 at 11:58. Ballot closed at 11:59

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #5

Time: 12:01 p.m.

Number of Ballots cast: 431

Invalid Ballots: 1

Valid Ballots: 430

Needed to elect: 129

No election

BREAK FOR LUNCH: 12:05

BISHOP ROBERT HAYES called the delegation into session at 2:00 p.m.

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 6. Bishop Hayes offered prayer. Opened Episcopal Ballot #6 at 2:04 p.m. Voting for 2 persons. Ballot closed at 2:06 p.m.

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY REPORT AND NOMINATIONS—

R. GERALD TURNER, President, reporting. 100th anniversary of SMU was celebrated in 2015–16. It was a great fundraising program, scholarships, etc. He introduced the new Dean at Perkins School of Theology, **Dr. Craig C. Hill**.

Dr. Turner presented Southern Methodist University’s 2016–2020 Board of Trustees Requirement: one-half of board must be United Methodists. The diversity of the Board is growing. Nominated were:

Gerald Byron Alley, Ruth S. Altshuler, William Armstrong, Michael M. Boone, Tucker S. Bridwell, Laura W. Bush, Richie L. Butler, Kelly H. Compton, Jeanne Cox, Katherine Crow, Gary Thomas Crum, Robert H. Dedman Jr., Antoine Dijkstra, Gerald J. Ford, Honorable Antonio Oscar Garza Jr., Juan Antonio Gonzalez Moreno, Bishop Cynthia

Fierro Harvey, Frederick B. Hegi Jr., Clark K. Hunt, Ray L. Hunt, David Sanders Huntley, Bishop Scott Jones, Peter A. Lodwick (Alumni), Paul B. Loyd, Bobby Lyle, Bishop Michael McKee, Scott McLean, David B. Miller, Frances A. Moody-Dahlberg, Connie O'Neill, Sheron Patterson, Sarah F. Perot, Jeanne J. Phillips, Caren H. Prothro, Paul Rasmussen, Carl J. Sewell, Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner (Faculty), Richard K. Templeton, Stephen Jake Torres (Student), R. Gerald Turner, Richard Ware, Royce E. Wilson. The nominations were presented for vote. **Approved.**

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #6

Time: 2:10 p.m.

Number of Ballots cast: 425

Invalid Ballots: 7

Valid Ballots: 418

Needed to elect: 125

No election

BREAK—2:15 p.m. for 5 minutes

VIDEO: “We Are More”

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 7. Bishop Hayes opened Episcopal Ballot #7 at 2:20 p.m. Voting for 2 persons. **Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey** prayed. Ballot closed at 2:21 p.m.

JURISDICTION YOUTH REPORT: LAUREN SLOAN, ERIN DAHLKE, SHAYLA JORDAN, MILLER WILBORN, CLARA THOMPSON and ERIN DAHLKE noted that the youth were invited to attend Jurisdictional Conference as observers, but only a few responded. **Shayla Jordan** and **Miller Wilbourn** reported on experiences at the General Conference and a Statement of Unity the youth crafted was presented at the end of the General Conference and was accepted. **Miller Wilbourn**

“Please listen to the prophetic voice of young people.” **Clara Thompson (youth observer Arkansas)** spoke on the youth event in Florida. **Lauren Sloan** spoke about the Oklahoma Conference’s CYME youth experience. This year at the event 16 youth accepted their call to ministry. Oklahoma has a growing number of youth attending Annual Conference. **Erin Dahlke** from Great Plains Annual Conference spoke on the One Event and the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. **Miller Wilbourn** spoke on the struggle for youth and young adults in their Annual Conference. Youth and young adults have indicated an interest in attending General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference but have been superseded by someone who has attended for years. Often youth are uninformed of the possibilities to serve. “We are sometimes at the table but we also want to eat the meal before us. We want to share the table.” “We want youth to be a model of Christ and we need to be honest where they come from. We want to help reveal the truth so we can witness to it.” Don’t just want to



fulfil an age requirement. “. . . not because we are the future of the church because we are present in the church right here and right now.”

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #7

Time: 2:22 p.m.

Number of Ballots cast: 423

Invalid Ballots: 9

Valid Ballots: 414

Needed to elect: 124

No election

BREAK: 2:41 for 5 minutes

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 8: Bishop Hayes invited prayer from **Bishop D. Max Whitfield**. **Bishop Hayes** opened Episcopal Ballot #8 at 2:50 p.m. Voting for 2 persons. Ballot closed at 2:51 p.m.

VIDEO: “We Are More” Subject: The Grace of God

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #8

Time: 2:51 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 430

Invalid Ballots: 2

Valid Ballots: 428

Needed to elect: 128

No election

BREAK: 2:56 p.m. for 5 minutes

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 9: Bishop Hayes invited prayer from **Bishop Scott Jones**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #9 at 3:02 p.m. Voting for 2 persons. Ballot closed at 3:03 p.m.

VIDEO: “We Are More” Family of Faith

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #9

Time: 3:03 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 427

Invalid Ballots: 7

Valid Ballots: 420

Needed to elect: 126

No election

BISHOP HAYES announced a reordering of afternoon: Lydia Patterson, Mission Council, Executive Director, Finance and Administration/Jurisdictional Treasurer, Order of the Day at 4:45 p.m.

BREAK: 3:09 p.m. 30 minutes. Lydia Patterson Institute Mariachi Band entertained during the break.

BISHOP HAYES reconvened the body at 3:41 p.m. **Bishop Hayes** invited **Bishop Robert Fannin** (observer from the Council of Bishops) to pray.

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 10: Bishop Hayes opened the Episcopal Ballot #10 at 3:43 p.m. Ballot closed at 3:46 p.m.

LYDIA PATTERSON REPORT—Socorro De Anda. Lydia Patterson Institute is the only school in the area with technology in all grades. LPI graduated 334 students in the last four years. 332 students are in college today—99%. In last 4 years have received \$6.7M in scholarships from United Methodist colleges and universities. In this time of distress with race, culture, language and immigrations, LPI students are there to unite and to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Abby Servantes, 2012 LPI graduate, shared the inspirational account of her life and her sister's at La Lydia. Abby is currently a Nebraska Methodist University nursing student who should graduate next year. Her sister graduated with a Respiratory Therapist degree from NMU last year. Abby's report was received with a standing ovation. Next a member of LPI's Board of Trustees, Dr. Andy Stoker, spoke about their school's story of transformation. The physical plant of La Lydia is in need of replacement. The Board has made a commitment to improve classrooms, have a redesigned cafeteria, and an updated gym and renovate the campus. The Board needs help to bring the school into the 22nd century. They need to raise \$15M to update this place of work and worship. They have raised \$5.7M to date. Brochures with talking points were given to each delegate plus a Yes card—yes for prayer for each student and teacher, yes to tell the story of LPI, yes to a pledged gift, yes to working on behalf of La Lydia. The LPI Mariachi band led the Session in singing *de Colores*.

MISSION COUNCIL REPORT (Refer to page 51 in *The Christian Advocate*)—**Jim Welch**

Jim Welch reported that an agreement had been reached between the College of Bishops, the Mission Council and the Board of Directors at Mt. Sequoyah. The new agreement reads thus:

The South Central Jurisdiction Mission Council, SCJ College of Bishops and the Mt. Sequoyah Board of Directors recommend to the South Central Jurisdictional Conference that the following steps be taken:

1. The SCJ Conference approve the Contract and Mount Sequoyah re-stated By-Laws recognizing that the Jurisdiction will no longer have any ownership interest, control or responsibility in Mount Sequoyah Center, Inc. (MSC) after the signing of these documents. Unless the MSC develops a partnership with another United Methodist entity, it will not have any relationship to The United Methodist Church.
2. The Executive Director of the SCJ Mission Council is authorized to take all steps necessary to implement this agreement.
3. MSC, Inc. will forgo all 2016 SCJ apportionment payments that are unpaid as of July 31, 2016 and no further transfers of funds will take place in 2017 or following years. Any funds for Mt. Sequoyah received in the Jurisdiction Office dated after July 31, 2016 will be returned to the Annual Conference that submitted it. The 2017-2020 SCJ budget will be adjusted by the amount originally budgeted for Mount Sequoyah.
4. Money paid to the SCJ under the terms of this contract will be given by the SCJ to Lydia Patterson Institute for either its capital campaign or for leadership development programs as part of its operating budget.

Moved acceptance of the report. Approved.

Moment of personal privilege concerning **David and Paula Severe. David Severe** completed 49 years of ministry 11 years ago. He then took on the job of leading the

Jurisdiction for 11 years, completing 60 years of active ministry in the UMC. **David** began writing his memoirs after he helped compile the history of the South Central Jurisdiction. The Mission Council recognizes the great work **David and Paula** have done. In appreciation the Jurisdiction would like to commit to help David publish the memoirs. A standing ovation of thanks was given by The Session. Jim Welch read Hebrews 6:10 to complete his honoring of Severe's service. David Severe offered a response of thanks. He introduced Brian Bakeman, his successor.

Finance and Administration Report and Jurisdictional Treasurer Report—Bill Junk (Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation Chair). Refer to page 54 in *The Christian Advocate*. He reviewed Report 1- The South Central Jurisdiction Financial Reports and Report 2—Stipend travel and expenses of the Conference. \$150 stipend will only be paid to Nominations and Episcopacy Committee members; mileage will not be paid for travel of less than 150 miles round trip. **Independent Auditors' Report**, page 59. **David Severe** offered thanks to **Bill Junk** and told of their shared history.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #10

Time: 3:07 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 419

Invalid Ballots: 13

Valid Ballots: 406

Needed to elect: 122

No election

BREAK—4:29 p.m. for 5 minutes

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 11: Bishop Hayes reconvened the body at 4:34 and offered prayer. Opened Episcopal Ballot #11 at 4:36 p.m. Voting for 2 persons. Ballot closed at 4:37 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT—Bishop Hayes. There are several ministries in South Central Jurisdictional Conference that reach out to the poor and those in need. If The Session would be willing to gather soaps, shampoos in hotel room they will be given to the poor. There will be a drop off spot named tomorrow.



RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #11

Time: 4:37 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 428

Invalid Ballots: 2

Valid Ballots: 426

Needed to elect: 128

No election

4:45 p.m. ORDER OF THE DAY—CELEBRATION OF *DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY* 30th ANNIVERSARY Video of Bishop Richard and Julia Wilke—*Disciple Bible Study* has been used by over 3M people around the world. Report given by **Rev. Dr. Paul Wilke**, son of Richard and Julia Wilke and senior pastor at Woodlawn UMC, Derby, KS. He spoke about the new *Disciple Fast Track*—adapted from the longer *Disciple Bible Study* by **Bishop Wilke and Sarah Wilke**.

Steve Wilke, director of the Richard and Julia Wilke Institute of Discipleship at Southwestern College, Winfield, KS, shared next. The Institute is the legacy of Bishop Richard and Julia Wilke's ministry. *BeADisciple.com* has online programs and continuing education. The Wilkes want this to be the home of Christian online education. Over 10M people have taken a course to date. BeADisciple Academy is for high school and college-age Christians to explore God, Self and Call. Have received \$1/2M Lily Grant to create a Student Summit for youth to explore their call.

The Institute is offering a Masters in Specialized Ministry for youth workers that is 100% online. The Wilkes have a dream of 500 youth workers in this denomination with a Masters In Youth Ministry in the coming years.

The Timothy Circle is an online resource and phone app for young people to receive resources to help young people who are seriously searching their call. Still under development. It is to help guide and cheer them on their path. Also the project will resource/train a mentor in the young person's church to work with them and mentor them.

TOM ALBIN—Dean of the Upper Room Chapel—Provided Protestant Prayer Beads for each member of The Session along with suggestions of how to use them in prayer. Over 3000 persons made the beads by hand and prayed over them. The makers are holding the same type of beads and praying over The Session as we meet. **Albin** suggested using them to pray for 7 people to come to the Church.

DISMISSAL PRAYER FOR DINNER BREAK—Bishop Hayes—5:05 p.m.

BISHOP ROBERT SCHNASE reconvened The Session at 7:03 p.m. **Bishop Schnase** read Romans 12:1–2 from Eugene Peterson's *The Message*. He called delegates attention to terrorist attacks in France and deaths of 70 persons. **Dr. Craig C. Hill**, Dean of Perkins School of Theology, offered prayer.

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 12: Bishop Janice Riggle Huie offered prayer. Opened Episcopal Ballot #12 at 7:09 p.m. Voting for 2 persons. Ballot closed at 7:12 p.m.

VIDEO: "We Are More" Beyond the Walls. **Bishop Schnase** said that this video series was created by the South Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #12

Time: 7:12 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 423

Invalid Ballots: 7

Valid Ballots: 416

Needed to elect: 125

No election

BREAK: 7:18 p.m. for 5 minutes

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 13: Bishop Schnase reconvened the delegates at 7:24 p.m. **BISHOP RUBEN SAENZ, JR.** was invited to offer prayer. Episcopal Ballot #13 opened at 7:25 p.m. Ballot closed at 7:28 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION REPORT—Larry Norman and Audrey Phelps. **Larry Norman** began by introducing Audrey Phelps and speaking about her 8 years as VIM Director in Missouri. She is known as an insightful mission teacher and trainer who knows what it means to serve those in need. **Audrey Phelps** cited 1 John 3:16. Referred to pages 62–63 of *The Christian Advocate*. South Central Jurisdiction has served in 8 states and 9 countries. She spoke about mission teams sent out from the Jurisdiction. She noted that the South Central Jurisdiction is the most active jurisdictions in disaster response. UMCOR has provided \$4.5M this last year for disaster response in the South Central Jurisdiction. The Disaster Training is now the Mission Academy. The South Central Jurisdiction Disaster Response Advance Number is #901455. She then asked for thanks for the local conference disaster coordinators.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #13

Time: 7:28 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 425

Invalid Ballots: 5

Valid Ballots: 420

Needed to elect: 126

No election

BREAK: 7:41 for 5 minutes

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 14: Bishop Schnase reconvened the delegates at 7:48 p.m. **Bishop Charles Crutchfield** prayed. Episcopal Ballot #14 opened as 7:51 p.m. Ballot closed at 7:53 p.m.

VIDEO: “We Are More” Life, Light and Freedom

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #14

Time: 7:53 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 428

Invalid Ballots: 4

Valid Ballots: 424

Needed to elect: 127

No election

BREAK: 7:58 p.m. for 5 minutes

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 15: Bishop Schnase reconvened the delegates at 8:05 p.m. **Bishop Ben Chamness** prayed. Episcopal Ballot #15 opened as 8:05 p.m. Ballot closed at 8:07 p.m.

BUDGET PORTION OF FINANCE ADMINISTRATION REPORT—Bill Junk referred to page 54. Report #3.1 Apportionments will be continued to be calculated with the same formula. The budget was adjusted after the book was published. The budget was adjusted to eliminate the apportionment to Mount Sequoyah. Total budget is \$1,139,413.

The Mission and Administration Apportionment has not been raised for 12 years, so increases were made. The need for adequate reserves was discussed. Have decreased since 2007. About \$100,000 of the reserves are restricted. The Mission Council recommends that a reserve amount be apportioned to rebuild the reserves.

Item 5 needs to be struck based on vote earlier today concerning Mount Sequoyah. The Lydia Patterson Institute highly successful mission warrants additional support. The delegation offered thanks in the form of applause for **Bill Junk**. In item #7, the discussion of honorarium of \$100/year for the Treasurer was amusing. Items 8–15 were read without further comment as are not changing. He commented that it would be good for more Annual Conferences to pay electronically so funds would be received in a timely fashion (re: #13).

Report was placed before the delegation for vote. Adopted. Appreciation again expressed to **Bill Junk** by applause.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #15

Time: 8:07 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 429

Invalid Ballots: 3

Valid Ballots: 426

Needed to elect: 128

No election

BREAK: 8:21 for 5 minutes

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 16: Bishop Schnase reconvened the delegates at 8:30 p.m.

REV. LINDA HARKER was granted a point of personal privilege. She withdrew her name and asked not to be voted for. She was acknowledged with a standing ovation.

BISHOP WILLIAM HUTCHINSON prayed. Episcopal Ballot #16 opened as 8:33 p.m. Ballot closed at 8:35 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN REPORT—Edna Hickman, South Central Jurisdiction President—Began with a historical video. UMW is celebrating 150 years of ministry. Citing Micah 6:8, **Edna Hickman** introduced: National President **Yvette Moore**, Assistant General Secretary **Sally Vonner**, **Charlotte Morrow** President-Elect of the South Central Jurisdiction UMW, and National UMW Directors present: **Stacie Hawkins**, **Karon Mann**; Programs Advisory Group Members present: **Cindy Hull**, **Cindy Johnson**, **Linda Elms**. She discussed some of the activities held during the last quadrennium. “You have given the UMW the duty to be the social arm of the UMC.” Issues chosen for 2016–2020: Economic Inequality, Climate Justice, Maternal and Child Health, Criminalization of Communities of Color. She cited John Wesley: “Works of mercy are to be preferred over works of piety.” John 3:8 was the basis of the South Central Jurisdiction meeting in Oklahoma City.

A permanent endowment has been created to support the national UMW in the future. Income is dedicated to strengthen UMW. The Legacy fund will provide tools, income and personnel. She was thanked with a standing ovation.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #16

Time: 8:35 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 428

Invalid Ballots: 2

Valid Ballots: 426

Needed to elect: 128

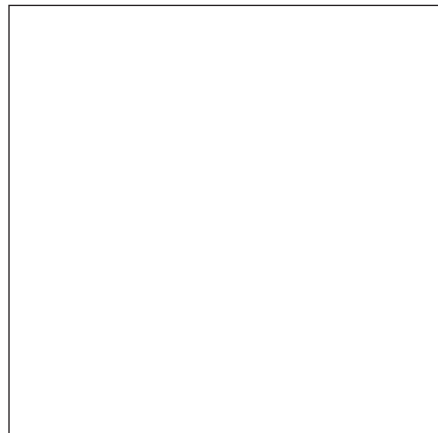
No election

TIMMY CLARK—Motion to suspend the rules concerning the time of the recesses moving back to 10 minutes. Seconded. Adopted.

BREAK—8:52 p.m. for 10 minutes.

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 17: Bishop Schnase reconvened the delegates at 9:03 p.m. **Bishop Michael Lowry** prayed. Episcopal Ballot #17 opened at 9:07 p.m. Ballot closed at 9:09 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST MEN—Kenneth Tielke President of the South Central Jurisdiction UMM. Spoke of the many accomplishments of the local fellowship groups, district and conference. He spoke of the affiliate partners: National Association of Conference Presidents of UM Men, the Society of Saint Andrew (SoSA), Strength for Service Inc. United Methodist Men Foundation. Also affiliates: Boy Scouts of America, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries (DBOM), Girl Scouts of the USA, PET International, Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY), The Upper Room Prayer Center, WesleyMen—World Fellowship of Methodist/Uniting Church Men. Their Endorsed Organizations: Camp Fire National Headquarters, Denominational Men's Ministry Leaders (DMML), The Hope of Hearing, Lead Like Jesus, Love Packages, Man in the Mirror, National Coalition of Ministries to Men (NCMM), Stop Hunger Now, The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries, Wesleyan Building Brothers. 2015 by the numbers: 19 Hunger Relief Advocates, 19 Organizations granted affiliate or endorsed relationship with GCUMM, 21 Scout leaders trained at Philmont Training Course, 37 of the 56 Conferences in the U.S. maintained or increased the number of local church charters with the GCUMM, 24 Bishop's Awards of Excellence, 75 Good Samaritan Awards, 80 Conference presidents and prayer advocates trained face to face, 220 small group e-meetings conducted from the GCUMM off, 224 Cross and Flame Awards, 303 Scouting Ministry Specialists, 5,716 PRAY awards given through UM churches, 6,500 churches with scouting units, 10,503 Scouting units in UMC churches, 20,000 New Testaments with Psalms given to Scouts at high adventure centers, \$20,980 Contributed to the Upper Room Prayer Line, 30,000 Copes of Strength for Service to God and Community printed, \$182,000 Provided by UMC Men to Meals for Millions, 272590 Prayer requests received by the Upper



Room Prayer Line, \$331000 Youth served by Scouting units in UM churches, 490,000 “Strength for Service” books printed for military troops since 2000, 820,000 Servings of food provided by UM Men through Meals for Millions.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #17

Time: 9:09 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 428

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 428

Needed to elect: 128

No election

Mark Norman—Motion for a 10 minute break. Seconded. Failed

BREAK—9:21 p.m. for 5 minutes

EPISCOPAL BALLOT # 18: Bishop Schnase reconvened the delegates at 9:32 p.m. **Bishop Gary E. Mueller** prayed. Episcopal Ballot #18 opened at 9:33 p.m. Ballot closed at 9:34 p.m.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #17

Time: 9:35 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 426

Invalid Ballots: 6

Valid Ballots: 420

Needed to elect: 126

No election

ADJOURNED 9:38 p.m.

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

Friday, July 15, 2012

REV. JUNIUS DOTSON of the Great Plains Annual Conference and General Secretary of The General Board of Discipleship opened worship. Music was led by **#Hope**, Saint Mark UMC, from Wichita, KS. Rev. Dotson used Psalm 11:3 and Jeremiah 3 as his text and spoke on the tragedies of deaths this past week. “We cannot be unmoved by the cries in the streets of our nation. Some are crying for food. Others are crying for community, comradery, companionship.” “In ways we are more isolated than ever before.” The cries for employment and healthcare. All are the cries for justice. “The cry for justice will be as pertinent as ever. We must hear the cry for justice.” He cited John Wesley: “What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace.” “We still have the power of God’s promises.” God is still in control. God is still on the throne. No matter what happens, God is still in control. “We must reclaim our prophetic witness.” We have to mix God’s words with faith in order for it to become concrete. “We must proclaim our mission field is across the street.”

CALL TO ORDER—Bishop Scott J. Jones called the 2016 South Central Jurisdiction 11th Session to order at 8:38 a.m.

Laura Merrill, Rio Texas, was granted a point of personal privilege. She withdrew. She was acknowledged with a standing ovation.

BALLOT: Bishop Jones invited prayer from **Bishop Alfred L. Norris, Sr.** Opened Episcopal Ballot #19 at 8:46 a.m. Voting for 2 persons. Ballot closed at 8:48 a.m.

CLAIR THOMPSON, youth observer, asked for a point of personal privilege. She said that the youth observers will be in silent prayer during each vote today.

VIDEO—Campus Ministries, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #19

Time: 8:48 a.m.

Number of Ballots Cast: 422

Invalid Ballots: 6

Valid Ballots: 416

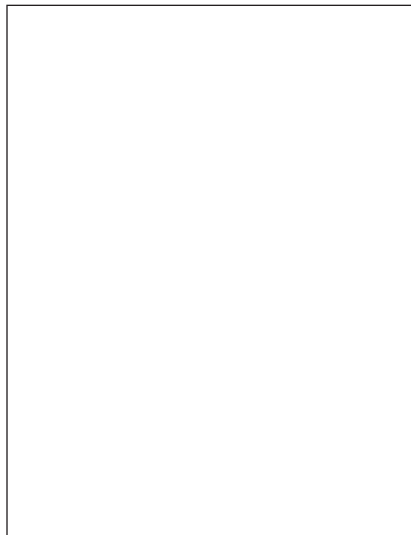
Needed to elect: 125

No election

David Severe will continue to read the election results after each vote.

BREAK—8:54 a.m. for 5 minutes

BALLOT: Bishop Jones invited prayer from **Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #20 at 9:02 a.m. Voting for 2 persons. Ballot closed at 9:04 a.m.



RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #20

Time: 9:04 a.m.

Number of Ballots Cast: 412

Invalid Ballots: 12

Valid Ballots: 400

Needed to elect: 120

No election

BREAK—9:05 a.m. for 5 minutes

BALLOT: Bishop Jones reconvened The Delegation at 9:12.

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION: Dr. David Severe

Bishop Jones invited prayer from **Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #21 at 9:15 a.m. Voting for 2 persons. Ballot closed at 9:19 a.m.

KOREAN MINISTRY—REV. CHUNG KEUN KIM, South Central Jurisdiction Korean Ministries Director, Rio Texas Conference. Brought greetings from all the congregations of the Korean American United Methodist Church South Central Jurisdiction. **Rev. Kim** read his written report from pages 64–65 in *The Christian Advocate* allowing for his challenges with the English language.

QUESTION: DEEDEE ROBERTS Arkansas Annual Conference—Did Rev. Kim include in his report the first Korean United Methodist pastor, **NAOMI ROGERS**, ordained in the Arkansas Annual Conference? Noted and celebrated by the delegates.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #21

Time: 9:19 a.m.

Number of Ballots Cast: 426

Invalid Ballots: 8

Valid Ballots: 418

Needed to elect: 126 (as calculated by **Bishop Jones**)

ELECTION: REV. JIMMY NUNN of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference was elected by 126 votes. Escorted to dais by **Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe** and **Bishop D. Max Whitefield** and **Bishop Robert Schnase**. A standing ovation was given and The Session sang *The Doxology*. **Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr.** lifted **Bishop Nunn** and his wife **Mary** in prayer.

pic of jimmy nunn

ANNOUNCEMENTS—David Severe Committee on Investigation and Committee on Appeals to meet during break.

BREAK—9:45 a.m.; 30 minutes mandated following election of a Bishop.

**ORDER OF THE DAY—SERVICE HONORING RETIRING BISHOPS,
BISHOP GARY MUELLER PRESIDING**

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Local Pastor Leo House, Missouri Annual Conference, killed in auto accident last night—wife and child hospitalized; **Local Pastor Dale Richardson** from Arkansas Annual Conference, lost his daughter Ashley Hope Richardson when she took her own life yesterday. **Bishop Scott Jones** prayed with The Session for them and their families.

RETIREMENT SERVICE FOR RETIREES BISHOPS JANIS RIGGLE HUIE AND ROBERT E. HAYES, JR. The Session was led by Lacey Wheeler in singing, “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations.” The text was read by **Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe**: Ecclesiastes 3:1–10 from the New Revised Standard Version.

Bishop Robert Schnase offered memories of **Bishop Janis Riggle Huie**. The Session offered thanks with a standing ovation. **Bishop Huie** offered a response. “Gratitude is the word of the hour. Certainly it is the word of my own heart.” She offered appreciation to her husband, Robert. “I continue to be very hopeful for the UMC. Not how she is, but how she will be.” “...less defined by a structural connection but a connection that is relationally and mission driven.” “I am hopeful because there is a next generation already among us. . . You open the doors and they emerge.” “I am hopeful because we are engaging with communities again.” “I like to think I have a little edge left. Go in peace. Be of good courage.”

Bishop Alfred L. Norris, Sr. shared memories of **Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr.** beginning with speaking about **Bishop Hayes’s** family or origin and its influence of **Bishop Hayes**. “He is saturated with the Wesleyan expression of service and witness. If

Huie

Hayes

you cut him now, he will bleed the Cross and the Flame.” Spouse: Mrs. Delilah D. Hayes. “Bishop Hayes will be remembered as a Power Preacher. . . a man of prayer . . . a man of presence . . . as a pastor . . . a man of productivity. . .He gets things done and doesn’t care who gets the credit.” He will be celebrated for his energy, keen insights and _____.

Bishop Hayes began his response by noting that he and **Bishop Huie** graduated from Perkins School of Theology at the same time. “How ironically we came in together and we go out together.” The Session offered thanks with a standing ovation. **Bishop Hayes** offered a response saying that the diary of his life and ministry have God’s fingerprints all over it. “. . . God who has blessed me, pulled me, pushed me and even carried me throughout my life.” His family was Methodist since the 1840’s. His grandfather Edward graduated college in the first generation following slavery and entered Methodist ministry in 1901. His father was also ordained and greatly influenced his son’s entry into ministry. He was a part of the old Central Conference; Bishop Noah Moore was the Bishop. He was in the balcony during the 1968 Merger creating the United Methodist Church. “All I’ve tried to do is practice the ministry of presence. . . I’ve tried to model servant leadership by being a servant first.” He thanked his wife, Dee. **Bishop Hayes** ended by reciting verse one of “Be Still My Soul.”

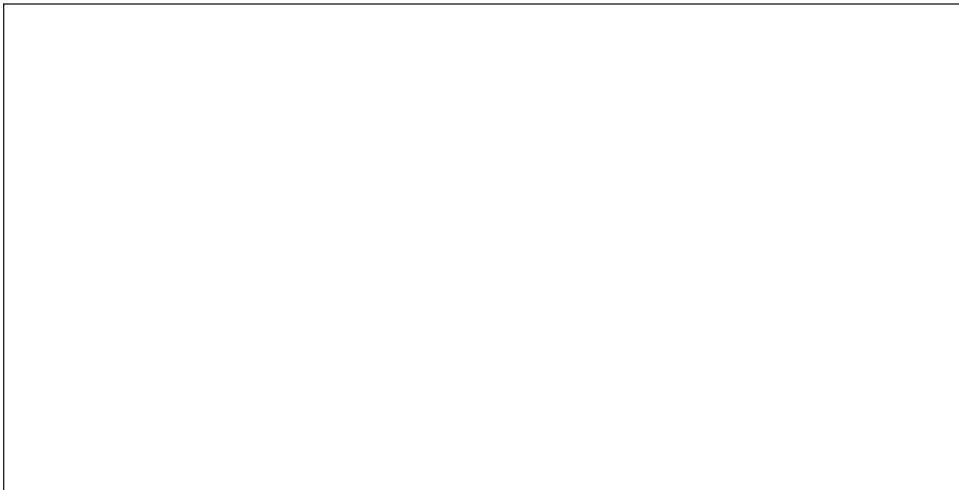
Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe said, “These are two giants of the church.” He led the responsive reading/prayer. **Bishop Gary E. Muller** offered the benediction.

BREAK: 11:12 for 3 minutes

BALLOT: **Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe** invited prayer **Murphy Murray**, Laity from the Northwest Texas Annual Conference.

JANICE GILBERT, Texas Annual Conference, was granted a point of personal privilege. She withdrew. She was acknowledged with a standing ovation.

Bishop Bledsoe opened Episcopal Ballot #22 at 11:22 a.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 11:23 a.m.



ANNOUNCEMENT—Dr. David Severe re: vouchers. Are due by noon today.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS REPORT—Susan Brumbaugh, New Mexico Annual Conference. Asked members of Nominations Committee to stand and be recognized. She talked about the diversity that was built into the report. Breakdown of nominations slate: 40% non-white; 20% youth/young adult; almost 60% laity.

QUESTION: D. B. ROBERTS, Arkansas Annual Conference. Asked how percentage of young adults this quadrennium compared to 2012. **Susan Brumbaugh** did not have those figures.

Nominations Report was Approved and Adopted.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #22

Time: 11:23 a.m.

Number of ballots cast: 214

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 214

Needed to elect: 128

No election

Tim Crouch, North Texas Annual Conference moved to extend break to 10 minutes. Seconded. Passed.

BREAK—11:30 a.m. for 10 minutes

BALLOT: Bishop Bledsoe invited prayer from **Reggie Clemens**, Texas Annual Conference. Opened Episcopal Ballot #23 at 11:42 a.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 11:43 a.m.

REPORT ON THE JOURNAL: Stacy Hawkins, Texas Annual Conference. The found the Journal in good order with the exception of future editorial changes.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY, SMU—FRANCIS LONG, Archivist. She reported that The Archives receive gifts: bits of history. They keep 2 copies of each item. “We can share them with the future. It’s not just a dry word. It’s our story”.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #23

Time: 11:43 a.m.

Number of ballots cast: 210

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 210

Needed to elect: 126

No election

BREAK—11:49 a.m. for 5 minutes

MORRIS MATTHIS, Texas Annual Conference, was granted a point of personal privilege. He withdrew. He was acknowledged with a standing ovation.

BALLOT: Bishop Bledsoe invited prayer from **Linda Parks**, North Texas Annual Conference Laity. Opened Episcopal Ballot #24 at 12:01 p.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 12:02 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr. re: donation of toiletries—to be collected upfront after lunch

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #24

Time: 12:02 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 214

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 214

Needed to elect: 129

No election

ADJOURNED for 2-hour lunch break—12:04 p.m.

BISHOP MICHAEL LOWRY RECONVENED THE SESSION at 2:00 p.m.

Bishop Earl Bledsoe offered prayer for reconvening and next ballot.

BALLOT: Bishop Michael Lowry opened Episcopal Ballot #25 at 2:05 p.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 2:08 p.m.

RETIRED BISHOP ROBERT FANNIN—Offered greetings from the Council of Bishops, the Southeast Jurisdiction and the Florida Annual Conference. “This is not a time to take a nap. This is not a time to shrink back. Seize the moment (Wesley). The challenges are there and the opportunities are greater than ever.” We are for unity and truth. “It’s time to dance or leave. . . We are the people of hope in the midst of change. The world is waiting for the UMC if we only embrace it. Accept the challenge and go back to our primary purpose: that the world may know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.”

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #25

Time: 2:08 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 213

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 213

Needed to elect: 128

No election

BREAK—2:16 p.m.—**Bishop Lowry** asked the delegates if they would prefer 5 or 10-minute break. Elected to take 5 minutes.

BALLOT: Bishop Lowry invited prayer from **Bishop Robert Fannin**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #26 at 2:25 p.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 2:26 p.m.

LYNN DYKE, Missouri Annual Conference, was granted a point of personal privilege. She withdrew. She was acknowledged with a standing ovation.

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS—REV. ZACH ANDERSON, Great Plains Annual Conference. Committee considered a motion to change the apportionment formula. After discussion, the vote was unanimous to not bring forward

A Resolution for Peace, Patience and Prayer was brought forward for action: **ERIN DAHLKE**, youth observer, Great Plains Annual Conference spoke in favor of the petition. No speeches against. Motion for Resolution passed.

Rules Change Proposed: Amend Page 42 Duties and Committees

Add letter F: Petitions submitted become the property of the Petition Committee who may reject approve or amend said petition and submit to the body.

Voice Vote—Bishop Lowry ruled Ayes have it. **Bishop Lowry** then determined to have an electronic vote. Rule changes require a 2/3 vote to pass. Vote results: For—1518 (75.24%); Against—52 (24.76%). Rules change passed.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #26

Time: 2:26 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 212

Invalid Ballots: 1

Valid Ballots: 211

Needed to elect: 127

No election

BREAK—2:33—5 minutes

BALLOT: Bishop Lowry invited prayer from **Bishop James G. Nunn**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #27 at 2:40 p.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 2:41 p.m.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #27

Time: 2:41 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 213

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 213

Needed to elect: 128

No election

REV. AMY LIPPOLDT, Great Plains Annual Conference, requested a 10-minute break. Accepted by consensus.

BREAK—2:49—10 minutes

BALLOT: Bishop Lowry invited prayer from **Bishop Ben Chamness**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #28 at 3:00 p.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 3:01 p.m.

MOUNT SEQUOYAH—JESS SCHLOAD, CEO—This is to be his first and last report to South Central Jurisdiction due to Thursday's vote. In 6 years will celebrate the 100th anniversary. A 94-year relationship ended with the vote yesterday. "It's a good thing. It's a positive thing. It's a win-win. I hope and pray that it is not the end of a relationship all together." A number of improvements have been made in recent weeks. He offered thanks to several of the Bishops for their support.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #28

Time: 3:01 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 211

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 211

Needed to elect: 127

No election

BREAK—3:09 p.m.—5 minutes

BALLOT: Bishop Lowry invited prayer from **Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #29 at 3:16 p.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 3:17 p.m.

MOTION—CARL NORD—The Mission Council and its Finance and Administration Team consider a recommendation to be brought to the 2020 South Central Jurisdictional Conference for an apportionment formula calculated using a set percentage of selected local church income as currently reported on line 62 of Table 3 of the Local Church Annual Statistical Reports.

Additional information (Supporting Data): The statistical report referred to above includes the following items:

62.a Amount received through pledges

62.b Amount received from non-pledging, but identified givers

62.c Amount received from unidentified givers

62.d Amount received from interest and dividends. Report only current year earnings used to support the annual church budgeted

62.e Amount from sale of church assets allocated to the Annual budget but do not include income from sale of church building or parsonage.

62.f Amount received for annual budget/spending plan through building use fees, contributions, and rentals

62.g Amount received through fund raisers and other sources

62 Total income for annual budget/spending plan. (Total of above items)

Rationale: Budget tied to income; if income of the Annual Conferences go down, income of Jurisdiction goes down; is missional—if churches are struggling, Jurisdiction will have similar struggles.

No speeches for or against.

Voice vote—Bishop Lowry declared ayes have it. Motion passes.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #29

Time: 3:17 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 211

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 211

Needed to elect: 127

No election

BREAK—3:23 p.m. 5 minutes

BALLOT: Bishop Lowry invited prayer from **Bishop Michael McKee**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #30 at 3:32 p.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 3:33 p.m.

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY—**Bishop Michael McKee** introduced **REV. DR. CRAIG C. HILL**, the new Dean of Perkins School of Theology. **Rev. Hill** referred to the written report in *The Christian Advocate* on pages 75–76. He highlighted the Spanish language Master of Divinity program. He then spoke to personally introduce himself. “We are partners with you. . . We have the opportunity to be the academy to the whole church in the whole world.” He believes the school can become a global resource through technology. “There is a wide open door for great work here.”

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #30

Time: 3:33 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 212

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 212

Needed to elect: 128

No election

BREAK—3:45—10-minute break

BALLOT: Bishop Lowry invited prayer from **Bishop Joel Martinez**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #31 at 4:00 p.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 4:01 p.m.

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY—**NEIL BLAIR**, President since July 1, 2016. Introduced **ELAINE ROBINSON**, Academic Dean and **NANCY HOWELL**, Interim Dean (Nominated as Executive Vice President). **Elaine Robinson**: highlighted a new strategic plan and new mission statement. Saint Paul now has online classes for MDiv and other Master’s Degrees.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #31

Time: 4:01 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 215

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 215

Needed to elect: 129

No election

AREA NIGHT DINNER AND CONCERT—**EVELYN FISHER**—Dinner will be

served in the Redbud Room at 5:30 p.m. for those with tickets for Area Night. A concert ticket for William McDowell and the mass choir is also included in the Area Night reservation.

BREAK—4:17—5-minute break

BALLOT: Bishop Lowry invited prayer from **Bishop William Hutchinson**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #32 at 4:27 p.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 4:28 p.m.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #32

Time: 4:28 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 214

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 214

Needed to elect: 128

No election

MOTION: MARK HOLLAND—Moves for The Session to receive the Mission 21 report now and after dinner have the top two candidates each make a 5-minute statement to The Session. Questions for the candidates to answer come from Adam Hamilton: What gifts do you believe you bring? What is your vision for the future of the church? Who are you? **Bishop Lowry is taking as a motion**. Seconded.

BILL JUNK—Amendment—if going to hear persons speak (in future have all of the candidates)—Include all declared candidates who have put themselves forward. Seconded.

QUESTION/ANSWER: Declared candidates are all those who have interviewed with the Annual Conferences.

QUESTION: CHAPPEL TEMPLE—is it appropriate to call the question on the motion?

POINT OF ORDER: David Livingston—call the question motion is out of order. **Bishop Lowry** agreed.

ASA WHITAKER, Arkansas Annual Conference—made speech against to motion/amendment

AUSTIN FREDERICK, Rio Texas Annual Conference—Motion to refer the initial motion and the amendment to the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee. Seconded.

MARK HOLLAND, Great Plains Annual Conference—speech against the motion to refer

QUESTION: LINDA HARTFORD, Oklahoma Annual Conference—would it be appropriate to ask if the top two candidates want to speak?

QUESTIONS: TERREL DEVILLE, Missouri Annual Conference - do we get to keep voting while the Episcopacy Committee confers? **Bishop Lowry** ruled: if vote to refer, the process is stopped. Will return to the Mission 21 report. Wait to hear report from Episcopacy when return to vote.

JAMES MITCHELL, Louisiana Annual Conference—I move to table all that is before us. Second. **Bishop Robert E. Hayes** prayed before vote. Bishop requested electronic vote. Requires 2/3 vote (page 28, *The Christian Advocate*, line 12) Yes to Table—158 (74.53%) No—54 (25.46%) **ALL MOTIONS ARE TABLED**.

BALLOT: Bishop Lowry invited prayer from **Bishop Charles Crutchfield**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #33 at 4:55 p.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 4:56 p.m.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #33

Time: 4:56 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 213

Invalid Ballots: 1

Valid Ballots: 212

Needed to elect: 127

No election

BREAK—4:59—5 minutes

BALLOT: Bishop Lowry invited prayer from **Bishop Robert Schnase**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #34 at 5:07 p.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 5:08 p.m.

BISHOP LOWRY has received a petition from the Bishops's spouses asking that in order of time we forgo the introduction of the Bishops's spouses. He asked the current Bishop's spouses to stand. In appreciation, the Session gave them a standing ovation.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #34

Time: 5:08 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 213

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 213

Needed to elect: 128

No election

BISHOP LOWRY is asking for consensus to move to another vote even though we are over time. Received.

LACEYE WARNER was granted a point of personal privilege. She withdrew. She was acknowledged with a standing ovation.

BALLOT: Bishop Lowry invited prayer from **Bishop Bruce Blake**. Opened Episcopal Ballot #35 at 5:14 p.m. Voting for 1 person. Ballot closed at 5:15 p.m.

RESULTS OF EPISCOPAL BALLOT #35

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Number of ballots cast: 212

Invalid Ballots: 0

Valid Ballots: 212

Needed to elect: 128

ELECTION: REV. ROBERT FARR of the Missouri Annual Conference was elected by 138 votes. Escorted to dais by **Bishop Albert Frederick Mutti, Bishop Robert Schnase and Bishop Michael McKee** A standing ovation was given and The Session

sang *The Doxology*. **Bishop Michael McKee**, lifted **Bishop Robert Farr** and his wife **Susan** in prayer.

ZACH ANDERSON was granted a moment of personal privilege to thank **Rev. David Wilson** for his willingness to step forward for election.

INSTRUCTIONS—at adjournment turn in your name tag.

DISMISSAL FOR DINNER AND CONCERT—5:25 p.m. To reconvene at 8:30 p.m.

BISHOP CYNTHIA FIERRO HARVEY RECONVENED—8.33 p.m. She opened with prayer.

BOUNDARIES COMMITTEE—REV. JOE HARRIS, Oklahoma Annual Conference

PETITION FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

COMMITTEE: The Annual Conference Boundaries Committee petitions the South Central Jurisdiction Conference to include the following churches in the Rio Texas Conference until a final decision by these congregations will be made regarding their future by the 2020 South Central Jurisdictional Conference.

El Divino Salvador UMC in Temple, Texas (to be included in The Capital District)

Latin American UMC in Waco, Texas (to be included in The Capital District)

Gethsemani UMC in Port Arthur Texas (to be included in The Crossroad District)

Nazareth UMC in Bay City, Texas (to be include in the Crossroads District)

El Divino Salvador UMC in Odessa, Texas (to be included in The West District)

The former Rio Grande and Southwest Texas Annual Conferences became the new Rio Texas Conference on January 1, 2015. Since then, the Rio Texas Cabinet has worked with the former Rio Grande churches located beyond the bounds of the Rio Texas Conference. To date, some of the former Rio Grande Churches have been included in other conferences, some have been discontinued, and some have become independent churches. While preliminary conversations have taken place regarding the churches listed above, we ask for more time as they prayerfully discern the future.

Motion placed before The Session. Approved.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

COMMITTEE In support of the petition submitted by the Rio Texas Conference Cabinet, the Boundaries Committee recommends: Rio TX boundaries as shown on p. 28 and 29 of the 2016 preconference workbook be amended: (following Wharton County and Industry in Austin Co.) insert **El Divino Salvador UMC in Temple Texas (to be included in The Capital District), Latin American UMC in Waco, Texas (to be include in the Capital District), Gethsemani UMC in Port Arthur, Texas (to be included in The Crossroads District), Nazareth UMC in Bay City, Texas (to be included in the Crossroads District) and El Divino Salvador UMC in Odessa Texas (to be included in The West District)** and strike ~~Rio Texas also include the Spanish language work in the State of Texas and New Mexico.~~ The motion was seconded and unanimously accepted.

Motion placed before The Session. Approved.

REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

COMMITTEE: With UNANIMOUS approval (and one abstention) the Boundaries Committee affirms the work of the Mission 21 task force and the report in the South Central Jurisdiction *Christian Advocate* that reflects their work.

No Action Required

Byrd Bonn, laity Rio Texas Conference granted a moment of privilege. Reminded Jurisdiction of their previous appearance before the South Central Jurisdiction. Thanked the South Central Jurisdiction for making the changes and allowing them to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

BISHOP JOHN WESLEY HARDT has been watching the Conference on livestream. At **Bishop Harvey**'s suggestion, The Session waved to him.

MISSION 21 REPORT—BISHOP MICHAEL LOWERY—Referenced pgs. 79–104 in *The Christian Advocate*

“The Mission 21 Task Force was mandated at the 2012 Jurisdictional Conference and is charged with examining the systematic and detailed realignment of South Central Jurisdiction resources including annual conferences and episcopal areas and making recommendations to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference.”

Bishop Lowry offered thanks to the committee and others who gave valuable assistance in gathering information and preparing the report.

Purpose of the report:

1. Provide background information on our process, including survey results.
2. Share recommendations for realignment options and facilitate a discussion of those options
3. Guide the SSCJ in making a decision regarding realignment

Bottom Line: The Mission 21 Task Force is recommending that the 2016 South Central Jurisdictional Conference (SCJC) make a decision on how to proceed with a specific realignment of episcopal areas because:

It is very likely that the SCJC will be required in 2020 to make a reduction in the number of its bishops based on expected membership declines.

The 2012 BC changed the timing to require implementation by September of the first year of the quadrennium rather than the fourth year of the quadrennium (i.e. September, 2020)

Although several groups at the general church level may potentially be looking at changes to jurisdictions, we don't yet know whether or how the recommendations coming from these groups may affect our jurisdiction.

It is imperative that the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference make decisions that allow the South Central Jurisdiction to be prepared for implementation when and if an episcopal reduction is needed.

Roles and Responsibilities

The authority to determine boundaries of annual conference and episcopal areas belongs to the Jurisdictional Conference, per Paragraph 40, as amended in 2012 (and ratified by annual conferences). Previously, the Discipline was not clear, and the authority

was given to the Colleges of Bishops through a Judicial Council decision

The role of Mission 21 Task Force was to study options and make recommendations to the 2016 SCJC. The task force will no longer exist after this meeting

Any changes to episcopal area or annual conference boundaries must be approved by the South Central Jurisdictional Conference

REV. JUAN HUERTAS—presented

Task Force Priorities

Mission is the Driver

Cultural Affinity

Creativity

Position for the Future

Episcopal Workload

Mission/Cultural Affinity/Creativity

Position for the Future

Episcopal Balance (leadership, guidance, oversight, supervision, strategy, effectiveness)

SUSAN BRUMBAUGH, Laity, Northwest Texas/New Mexico—Mission 21 Draft Report and Survey Results—pages 84–85

Three Options:

- **Comprehensive Option:** nearly 2/3 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 Recommended membership to be nominated by the College of Bishops include 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).
 - Participants preferred the ‘New Mexico State’ variation to the ‘Rio Grande Corridor’ variation 2:1

Recommended Options:

- 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
 - Our FIRST CHOICE is what we are calling the ‘**Missional Option**’ (a revised version of the ‘New Mexico State’ variation of the Hybrid Option),
- 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.
 - Our SECOND CHOICE is what we are calling the ‘**Pairing Option**’ (this was called the Base Option in the draft report.

Maps are available in *The Christian Advocate*, pages 86-93

Recommendation to Establish an Implementation Task Force named by the College of Bishops

BISHOP CYNTHIA FIERRO HARVEY—CONCLUSION

The Mission 21 Task Force recommends that the 2016 SCJC makes a contingent decision at the current 2016 South Central Jurisdiction meeting to begin implementing a specific realignment option by

1. Choosing one of the two options presented by the Mission 21 Task Force to serve as a starting point for possible future implementation, and
2. Authorizing the College of Bishops to begin working toward implementation and establish an implementation task force when/if needed

Refresher: Missional Option Advantages

- Realigns boundaries in the states of New Mexico and Texas to result in a reduction from 5 episcopal areas (6 annual conferences) to 4
- Offers a fresh opportunity to align ministry based on cultural affinities and an equitable episcopal workload with a reasonably balanced financial base for each proposed annual conference
- Builds on cooperative work that has already been done in merging the New Mexico and Texas Methodist Foundations
- Was supported as feasible by 75% of survey respondents
- Is most consistent with the priorities established by the Task Force

QUESTIONS (not speeches for or against)

Gil Hanke, Texas Annual Conference: In the option that changes boundaries in the northern areas, what happens to the pastors that are there? Do they automatically transfer to another conference?

Bishop Lowry—those are implementation questions that will not be answer at this time

Kevin Gregory, Central Texas Annual Conference: Have they considered dropping boundaries

Bishop Lowry—Task force on General Church level is considering

Able Vega, Rio Texas Conference—what is your sense of timeline now?

Bishop Lowry—Riskiest item in this—why the motions are contingent—General Conference still looking at many possibilities

How do we begin thinking about this?

Rev. Huertas—action this night sets the stage for response rather than a reaction to an immediate situation

Susan Brumbaugh—this is not something that we will have to do right now—in the next 4 months—but will help us be ready when the time comes

Bishop Harvey—conversations already beginning

Matt Idom, Texas Annual Conference—Is the assumption that we will continue to decline?

Bishop Harvey—we are already extremely close to losing a Bishop already

____ Rio Texas Annual Conference—What is the immediacy of implementing this?

Bishop Lowry—depends in part on other groups working on this; if church law stays the same, we will

Kevin, Texas Annual Conference—in 2020, along with the changes of the boundaries of the conferences, are the conferences going to be a part of a change over considering realigning districts and their organizations

Bishop Lowry—short answer is yes but depends on the various areas, conferences and districts

Donna Wiff, Texas Annual Conference—if pick either of the options will we be giving the College the ability to ‘tweak’ the boundaries a bit?

Susan Brumbaugh—we don’t know the options available yet, so do not know the

answer. Is a contingent position but need a starting point or the new team will begin on things in ways to which we don't agree

Clayton Oliphant—why not combine Dallas and Fort Worth based on the media market, affinity, etc.

Bishop Lowry—outstanding question; is listed in the alternate suggestions; was not adopted for a variety of reasons that were quite debatable. (1) that is the strongest growing area we have, seems more viable to reinforce strong episcopal areas; (2) puts excessively heavy weight on one bishop; (3) financial considerations; (4) deals with the workload of one bishop with the number of clergy—used information from 2012 and Great Plains Conference—tied more to number of clergy under supervision than geographical area. Could be reconsidered

Scott Sharp, New Mexico Annual Conference—curious about missional exception—is it possible to have a conference with a volunteer Bishop (past experience in New Mexico AC)

Bishop Lowry—a danger: if the missional exception is rejected, you are up the creek without a paddle—too late to work on an alternate option; imprudent

Point of Clarity—_____ Northwest Texas Annual Conference—question of process—will votes be up and down or with discussion?

Bishop Harvey—We will discuss each motion as The Session wishes

MOTION 1—**Susan Brumbaugh** moved: That the 2016 South Central Jurisdictional Conference approve the “Missional Option” as a starting point for realignment, so that we can be prepared when or if a reduction in the number of bishops is necessary. *1 speech for, 1 against, 3 minutes*

Eduardo Rivera, New Mexico Annual Conference—speech for but decision is not to be made lightly

Matt Idom, Texas Annual Conference—would other options be considered or are we locking in on one model?

Susan Brumbaugh—not limiting but a place to start

Rich Jones, Northwest Conference—request a 10-minute break to discuss

Bishop Harvey—checking for a speak against

Ben Trammel, Texas Annual Conference—speech against—disrupts relationships too much—for a Pairing Plan

BREAK—10:02 p.m.—10 minutes

Bishop Harvey reconvened at 10:17 p.m. Reminded The Session where they were when they went on break; **Susan Brumbaugh** restated the motion

Tom Wassow, Texas Annual Conference—Friendly amendment—change word approve to endorse. **Bishop Harvey** chose to handle as a motion. Seconded. Accepted.

Susan Brumbaugh—No objection to the change

Motion Temple Chappell—Change “Missional Option” to “a Pairing Option”—gave rationale

Rev. Amy Lippoldt, Great Plains Annual Conference spoke against the amendment

Rich Jones, Northwest Texas Annual Conference spoke for the amendment

_____ Texas Annual Conference spoke against the amendment

Keith Whittaker, Texas Annual Conference spoke in favor

Jim Connor called the question—Approved

Susan Brumbaugh gave final comments

Vote by electronic means In favor of amendment 72 Opposed 121 Failed

Vote on Motion In Favor 168 Opposed 26 Approved

MOTION 2: That the 2016 South Central Jurisdiction authorize the College of Bishops to (1) take initial steps toward implementation of the plan that the South Central Jurisdiction recommends at the time it deems necessary, (2) appoint an implementation Task Force to facilitate such implementation, and (3) report back to the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference.

Amendment: Burt Palmer, Northwest Texas Annual Conference—Requests addition of the following to Motion #2: Have one clergy and one lay person on the task force from the Annual Conferences in which boundary lines are effected

Bishop Harvey—would it be possible to add this to the motion before The Session? Yes.

Bishop Harvey—where would you place it?

Susan Brumbaugh—at time Task Force starts, they may not know what area will be affected

Vote on amendment In Favor 138 Opposed 50

Vote on motion as amended In Favor 182 Opposed 9

The Session offered thanks to the Mission 21 team

MOTION FOR A DECLARATORY DECISION—Dixie Brewster, Great Plains Annual Conference Bishop, I move that the South Central Jurisdictional Conference request a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council on the following matter: Is the nomination, election, consecration, and/or assignment as a bishop of The United Methodist Church of a person who claims to be a “self-avowed practicing homosexual” or is a spouse in a same-sex marriage lawful under *The Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church. Specifically, What is the application, meaning and effect of ¶ 304.3, ¶ 310.2d, ¶ 341.6, and ¶ 2702.1 (a), (b), and (d) in regard to the nomination, election, consecration and/or assignment as bishop of a person who claims to be a “self-avowed practicing homosexual” or is a spouse in a same-sex marriage or civil union? Further —

- Does a public record that a nominee for the episcopacy is a spouse in a same-sex marriage disqualify that person from nomination, election, consecration and/or assignment as a bishop in The United Methodist Church?
- If a jurisdictional conference nominates, elects, consecrates, and/or assigns a person who, by virtue of being legally married or in a civil union under civil law to a same-sex partner, would be subject to a chargeable offense, is the action of the jurisdictional conference null and void?
- Is it lawful for one or more of the bishops of a jurisdiction to consecrate a person as bishop when the bishop-elect is known by public record to be a spouse in a same-sex marriage or civil union?
- When a bishop, district superintendent, district committee on ordained ministry, Board of Ordained Ministry, or clergy session becomes aware or is made aware that a clergy person is a spouse in a same sex marriage or civil union of public record, does such information in effect and in fact amount to a self-avowal of the practice of homosexuality as set forth in ¶ 304.3, related footnotes and related Judicial Council Decisions?

Rationale—does not want the United Methodist Church to split. If this declaratory decision was accepted by our Jurisdictional Conference, it would prevent the split

David Livingston, Great Plains Annual Conference—speech against

_____ How do you request a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council? Can it come from an individual or a church or only from a Jurisdictional Conference?

Bishop Harvey—after discussion and vote, Bishop Harvey will submit it to the Judicial Council. Para. 2610 *The Book of Discipline* describes who can make requests for a declaratory decision.

_____ If I heard correctly there are two groups outside of the Bishops that can request a declaratory decision.

Bishop Harvey read the pertinent section of *The Book of Discipline* again

John Mills, Arkansas Annual Conference—speech for

Motion to table Andrew Ponder Williams, Missouri Annual Conference—Seconded 2/3 majority required—For 90 (46.88%) Against 102 (53.13%)

Call the question—Question is called

Point of order—North Texas Annual Conference – speeches for and against are not equal. **Bishop Harvey**—call the question supersedes

Request for Prayer—Olivia Pruett, Louisiana Annual Conference, who also prayed

Bishop Harvey—will abide by a majority

Vote on Motion Yes 109 No 84

REQUEST FOR PRAYER—**Andrew Ponder Williams**, Missouri Annual Conference

BREAK 11:14—ACTIVE BISHOPS AND SPOUSES MOVE TO A MEETING ROOM FOR DISCUSSION

RECONVENED 11:28

Motion: Report of Committee on Episcopacy—Don House

Bishop Robert Schnase—Rio Texas Annual Conference

Bishop Scott Jones—Texas Annual Conference

Bishop James Nunn—Oklahoma/OIAC Annual Conference

Bishop Bob Farr—Missouri Annual Conference (Because returning to his home conference, must receive 2/3 vote Committee on Episcopacy, majority by The Session)

Bishop Reuben Saenz, Jr.—Great Plains Annual Conference

Bishop W. Earle Bledsoe—Northwest Texas Annual Conference

Bishop Michael Lowry—Central Texas Annual Conference

Bishop Cynthia Harvey—Louisiana Annual Conference

Bishop Gary Mueller—Arkansas Annual Conference

Bishop Mike McKee—North Texas Annual Conference

Motion Passed Unanimously by voice vote. Standing ovation from The Session

BISHOP HAYES—Closing Prayer

RECAP OF VOTING

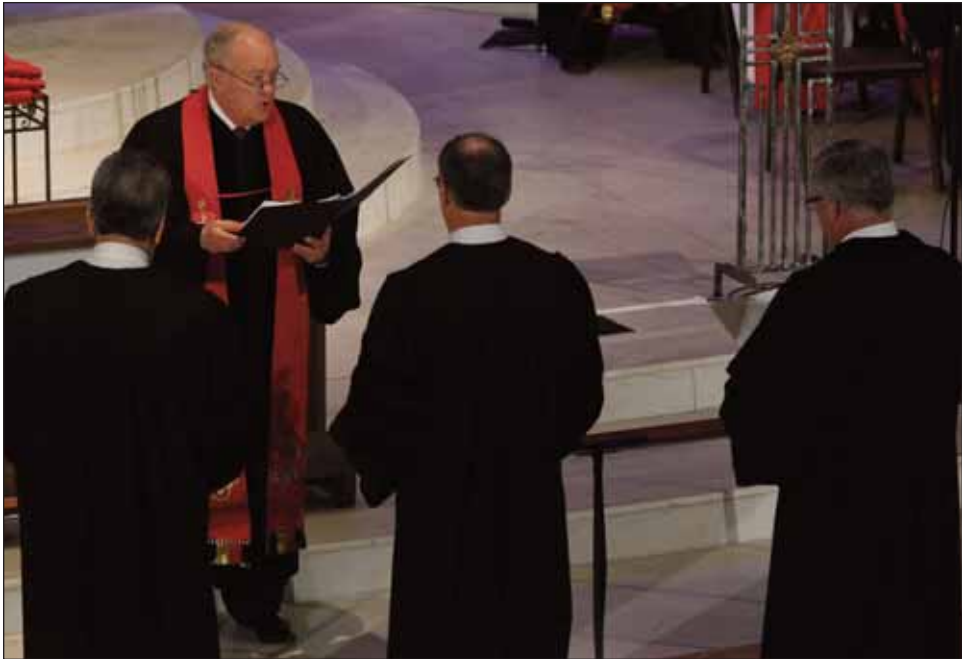
Ballot #	Date	Time	Votes Cast	Invalid	Valid	To Elect	Results	# of Votes
1	7/14/2016	9:01 a.m.	641	23	618	125	No Election	133
2		10:31 a.m.	639	15	624	126	No Election	
3		10:49 a.m.	645	12	633	127	Ruben Saenz, Jr.	
4		11:23 a.m.	430	0	430	129	No Election	
5		11:59 a.m.	431	1	430	129	No Election	
6		2:07 p.m.	425	7	418	125	No Election	
7		2:22 p.m.	423	9	414	124	No Election	
8		2:52 p.m.	430	2	428	128	No Election	
9		3:04 p.m.	427	7	420	126	No Election	
10		3:46 p.m.	419	13	406	122	No Election	
11		4:38 p.m.	428	2	426	128	No Election	
12		7:13 p.m.	423	7	416	125	No Election	
13		7:28 p.m.	425	5	420	126	No Election	
14		7:53 p.m.	428	4	424	127	No Election	
15		8:08 p.m.	429	3	426	128	No Election	
16		8:55 p.m.	428	2	426	128	No Election	
17		9:09 P.M.	428	0	428	128	No Election	
18		9:34 p.m.	426	6	426	126	No Election	
19		8:48 p.m.	422	6	416	125	No Election	
20		9:05 p.m.	412	12	400	120	No Election	126
21		9:19 p.m.	426	8	418	126	Jimmy Nunn	
22	7/15/2016	11:24 a.m.	214	0	214	128	No Election	
23		11:43 a.m.	210	0	210	126	No Election	
24		12:02 p.m.	214	0	214	129	No Election	
25		2:08 p.m.	213	0	213	128	No Election	
26		2:27 p.m.	212	1	211	127	No Election	
27		2:42 p.m.	213	0	213	128	No Election	
28		3:01 p.m.	211	0	211	127	No Election	
29		3:18 p.m.	211	0	211	127	No Election	
30		2:33 p.m.	212	0	212	128	No Election	
31		4:02 p.m.	215	0	215	129	No Election	
32		4:29 p.m.	214	0	214	129	No Election	
33		4:57 p.m.	213	1	212	128	No Election	
34		5:08 p.m.	213	0	213	128	No Election	
35		5:16 p.m.	212	0	212	128	Bob Farr	138



ABOVE:

BELOW:

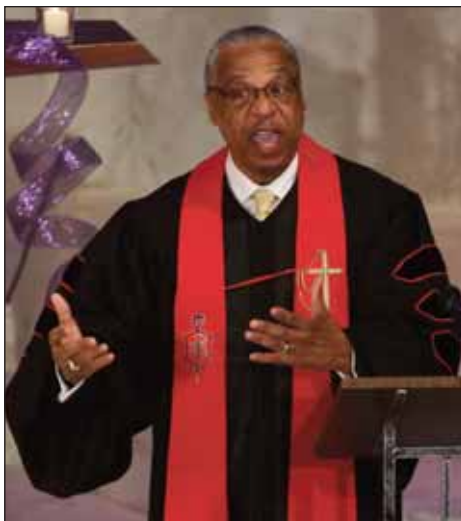




ABOVE:

BELOW LEFT:

BELOW RIGHT:





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ABOVE: Native American Youth Choir; **TOP LEFT:** Bishop Mike Lowry presides;
LEFT: Bishop Bledsoe presiding





Thursday....



Thursday....



Thursday....



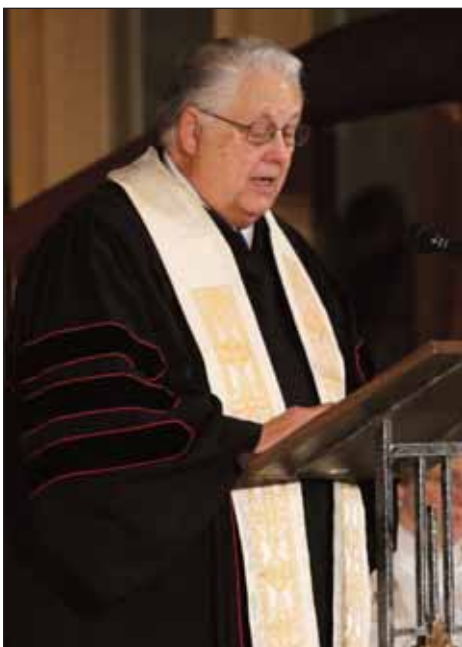
Thursday....



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CAPTION



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REPORTS TO THE JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

MISSION COUNCIL REPORT

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 reorganize 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 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. In agreement with the College of Bishops, the Board of Trustees, and the Mission Council we affirm the following contract which is the essence of the contract recorded in the Daily Proceedings of the Conference, July 14, 2016:

MOUNT SEQUOYAH

Contract

This Contract is entered between Mount Sequoyah Center, Inc., an Arkansas not for profit Religious Corporation, hereinafter referred to as “Mount Sequoyah” and the South Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, hereinafter referred to as “SCJ” on this 14th day of July, 2016 in Wichita, Kansas.

For and in consideration of the SCJ releasing all of its claims and rights to any and all assets held or titled in the name of Mount Sequoyah, Mount Sequoyah agrees:

1. To promptly refund to the SCJ any apportionments for any period after July 31, 2016, if any, received by Mount Sequoyah from the SCJ,

2. To share with the SCJ fifty percent (50%) of any revenues received less deductions for expenses paid for the calendar years of 2016 through and including 2031 or until Mount Sequoyah has distributed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) to the SCJ, whichever is first to occur. Using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, Mount Sequoyah will provide its annual calculations and payment to the SCJ no sooner than February 1 and no later than March 1 in the years 2017 and for fourteen (14) consecutive years thereafter. The parties agree contributions received from third parties and the money received in 2016 from

American Tower/Verizon for the lease of the Cell Tower Site; however treated, will not be included in calculation of revenues. No expenditures that under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles would be classified as “capital expenditures” will be included as expenses for the purpose of computing the amount by which revenue received exceeded expenses. Specifically, normal maintenance is part of the operations budget but major renovations and new construction are excluded as capital expenditures. If questions arise over what is a major renovation or what should be classified as a capital expenditure, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles will be followed and control.

3. To provide within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the report from the Accounting firm the SCJ copies of Mount Sequoyah’s Audit or Review for the years 2016 through 2031 or until \$1,000,000.00 has distributed to the SCJ. Mount Sequoyah alternates having its financial books review by an accounting firm with an Audit being performed one year and the next year a Review is performed. If requested Mount Sequoyah will give the SCJ and its representative access to discuss the Audit or Review with the Accounting firm that does the Audit or Review. In addition, if requested Mount Sequoyah will allow the SCJ, at the sole expense of the SCJ, to send an accounting firm of SCJ’s choice to review or audit the financial records of Mount Sequoyah for any period for which Mount Sequoyah is to provide an accounting to the SCJ.

4. To grant to the SCJ the right to consent to a sale of Mount Sequoyah real estate should, prior to December 31, 2031, Mount Sequoyah decide to pursue the sale of any or all of Mount Sequoyah’s real property. In such a case Mount Sequoyah will notify the SCJ of Mount Sequoyah’s intent prior to offering any real estate for sale. Until December 31, 2031, the SCJ will retain the right to consent to the sale of any or all of Mount Sequoyah’s real property; however, the right to consent only applies to a sale of real estate. Mount Sequoyah does not need the consent of the SCJ in order to pledge any or all of its real property as security for repayment of a debt to a third party should Mount Sequoyah decide to refinance or obtain financing which requires Mount Sequoyah to secure repayment of the debt with a real estate mortgage.

5. To share with the SCJ, one half of the net proceed received from the sale of any or all of Mount Sequoyah’s real estate for sales occurring prior to December 31, 2031. If prior to December 31, 2031 a sale of part of the Mount Sequoyah real property is closed, one half of the net proceeds received by Mount Sequoyah will be paid to the SCJ and the payment will result in a credit on the balance of the distribution of the \$1,000,000.00 to be made by Mount Sequoyah from excess revenue over expenses prior to December 31, 2031. If prior to December 31, 2031, Mount Sequoyah elects to sell all of the Mount Sequoyah real estate, one half of the net proceeds received by Mount Sequoyah will be distributed to the SCJ regardless of the balance remaining on the promised distribution of up to \$1,000,000.00. In addition the right of the SCJ to continue to receive distributions of revenue in excess of expenses received prior to December 31, 2031 will terminate and no other distributions will be due the SCJ from Mount Sequoyah.

6. To sever Mount Sequoyah’s affiliation and association with the SCJ and The United Methodist Church and promptly remove all symbols of The United Methodist Church. Mount Sequoyah retains the right to seek an association or affiliation with a United Methodist entity; however, prior to contacting an entity to seek an association or affiliation, Mount Sequoyah will give prior notice to the Resident Bishop of the Annual Conference and the District Superintendent of the District in which the entity is located.

For and in consideration of the Mount Sequoyah’s willingness to share and distribute

fifty percent (50%) of the excess by which its annual revenues exceed its annual expenses up to \$1,000,000.00 and fifty percent (50%) of the net proceeds Mount Sequoyah receives should Mount Sequoyah elect to sell any or all of the real estate Mount Sequoyah owns prior to December 31, 2031 and the other commitment contained herein, SCJ agrees:

1. To promptly execute a Quitclaim Deed to the real property currently titled in the name Mount Sequoyah Center, Inc.

2. The SCJ has no claim to the lease payment Mount Sequoyah received as a result of extending its lease of the Verizon cell tower site for an additional thirty (30) years regardless of the manner by which Mount Sequoyah decides to treat the payment.

3. Within 30 days from receiving a request from Mount Sequoyah that SCJ consent to a proposed sale of real estate, to execute all forms required by the Title Company selected by Mount Sequoyah to do the closing, or execute a document by which the SCJ releases SCJ's right to consent to the specific sale, or provide a written objection to the specific sale in which SCJ states specific reasons the SCJ will not consent to the proposed sale by Mount Sequoyah. SCJ commits the SCJ will not unreasonably withhold its consent. If forty-five days after receipt of the request to consent to a sale of real estate no action has been taken by the SCJ then the failure to take any action or provide any notice of its decision to consent or to object or to withhold its consent, shall be deemed by all parties, including but not limited to the purchaser, any financial institution providing purchase money financing, and any title company providing Owner's and or Mortgagee's Title Insurance coverage, involved in the real estate transaction to be the consent of the SCJ to the sale.

4. This Contract is and shall remain subject and subordinate to, all present and future mortgages, and to any and all present and future extensions, modifications, consolidations, replacements and renewals thereof. However, every such future mortgagee shall recognize the validity of this Contract in the event of a foreclosure of Mount Sequoyah's interest and shall recognize SCJ's right to fifty percent (50%) of any net proceeds, if any, received by Mount Sequoyah should a foreclosure result in the sale of any or all of the real estate owned by Mount Sequoyah. SCJ shall execute whatever instruments may reasonably be required to evidence this subordination clause. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary appearing herein, any subordination required to be given to a future mortgagor by SCJ pursuant to this paragraph shall not operate to affect SCJ's rights under the Contract.

The parties mutually agree:

1. The obligation of Mount Sequoyah to share with the SCJ fifty percent (50%) of excess revenues over expenses on an annual basis is not a debt owed by Mount Sequoyah to SCJ;

2. That once, as a result of the sharing of excess revenues over expenses and the sharing equally of any net proceeds received by Mount Sequoyah from the sale of part of its real property, the sum of \$1,000,000.00 the obligations of Mount Sequoyah to share with the SCJ fifty percent (50%) of excess revenues over expenses shall terminate; however, until December 31, 2031, the obligation of Mount Sequoyah to share and distribute to SCJ fifty percent (50%) of the net proceeds from the sale of all of the real estate owned by Mount Sequoyah shall remain in effect.

3. On or by the first business day in January of 2032, the SCJ shall execute a written Release by which the SCJ states Mount Sequoyah no longer has an obligation to share excess revenues or the net proceeds from the sale of real estate with the SCJ and releases its rights to consent to a sale of the real estate of Mount Sequoyah and all of its right pursuant to this Contract.

4. The parties shall execute a Notice of Contract, which will be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, and Ex-Officio Recorder of Washington County Arkansas by which the parties acknowledge this Contract exists and the SCJ has the right to consent to any sale of real estate owned by Mount Sequoyah but no right to consent to a pledge or mortgage of its real estate.

5. Notice when required by the Contract shall be written notice delivered personally, via the United States Postal Service, or electronically. Notice delivered electronically includes transmissions via email but may also include transmissions via facsimile or such other electronic means which now exist or may yet be developed. Notice shall be deemed delivered a) If via the United States Postal Service when deposited in the United States Postal Service in a postage prepaid envelope addressed to the intended recipient at the last address provided by the intended recipient; b) If by facsimile, when transmitted to the facsimile number provided by the intended recipient and there is electronic verification indicating the transmission was successful; and c) if given electronically (e-mail for example), such notice shall be deemed to be delivered upon transmission to the last address provided by the intended recipient or the electronic address provided for the site through which the intended recipient designated a desire for notice.

6. This Contract shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Arkansas and venue for the bringing of any lawsuit will be Washington County Arkansas since the real estate is located in Washington County, Arkansas.

7. This Contract shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their successors and assigns.

In Witness Whereof, the names of the corporation, Mount Sequoyah Center, Inc. and the South Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church have been affixed hereto by the designated representatives of each on the dates set forth herein.

Mount Sequoyah Center, Inc.

The South Central Jurisdiction of
The United Methodist

Dewitt H. Smith, III
Chair, Board of Trustees

Reverend Jim Welch
Chair, SCJ Mission Council

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 resignation 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.

Respectively 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.

During the last seven years, spouse Paula and I have worked as a team in this endeavor. 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 enjoying 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.

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. Paula is also happy to turn her job over to Rev. Linda Brinkworth, who will provide great leadership also.

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 held 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 dominant

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. End all apportionment to Mount Sequoyah as of July 31, 2017

The Mission Council, meeting in Wichita, July 12, 2016 approved a proposal from the College of Bishops to turn Mt. Sequoyah over to a local board under the following provisions:

The South Central Jurisdiction Mission Council, SCJ College of Bishops, and the Mount Sequoyah Board of Directors agree on the following contract:

1. The SCJ Conference approves the Contract and Mount Sequoyah Re-stated By-laws as found in the Reports Section of this document, recognizing that the Jurisdiction will no longer have any ownership interest, control or responsibility in Mount Sequoyah Center, Inc. (MSC) after the signing of these documents. Unless the MSC develops a partnership with another United Methodist entity it will not have any relationship to the United Methodist Church.
2. The Executive Director of the SCJ Mission Council is authorized to take all steps necessary to implement this agreement.
3. MSC, Inc. will forgo all 2016 support payments (Apportionments) that are unpaid as of July 31, 2016 from the SCJ and no further transfers of funds will take place in 2017 or following years. Any funds received in the Jurisdiction office dated after July 31, 2016 for Mount Sequoyah will be returned to the Annual Conference that submitted it. The 2017–2020 SCJ budget will be reduced by the amount originally budgeted for Mount Sequoyah.
4. Money paid to the SCJ under the terms of this contract will be given by SCJ to Lydia Patterson Institute for either its capital campaign or for leadership developmets as part of its operating budget.

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.

6. 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.

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

8. 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.

- 9. 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.**
- 10. 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.**
- 11. 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.**
- 12. 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.**
- 13. 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.**
- 14. That the Jurisdictional Office is instructed to forward all accrued monies received to the respective agencies of the Jurisdiction each month.**

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APPORTIONMENT DECIMAL 2017-2020

CONFERENCE	DECIMAL	ADMIN.	RESERVES	LPI	CONF. TOT
		\$380,000	\$54,413	\$705,000	\$1,139,413
ARKANSAS	7.61	\$28,918	\$4,141	\$53,650	\$86,709
C. TEXAS	7.51	\$28,538	\$4,086	\$52,945	\$85,569
GREAT PLAINS	13.85	\$52,630	\$7,536	\$97,643	\$157,809
LOUISIANA	6.35	\$24,130	\$3,455	\$44,767	\$72,352
MISSOURI	10.99	\$41,762	\$5,980	\$77,480	\$125,222
NEW MEXICO	2.31	\$8,778	\$1,257	\$16,286	\$26,321
NORTH TEXAS	10.34	\$39,292	\$5,626	\$72,897	\$117,815
NW TEXAS	3.61	\$13,718	\$1,965	\$25,451	\$41,134
OIMC	0.12	\$456	\$66	\$846	\$1,368
OKLAHOMA	9.11	\$34,618	\$4,957	\$64,226	\$103,801
RIO TEXAS	7.78	\$29,564	\$4,233	\$54,849	\$88,646
TEXAS	20.42	\$77,596	\$11,111	\$143,960	\$232,667
	100	\$380,000	\$54,413	\$705,000	\$ 1,139,413

SCJ APPORTIONMENTS 2017-2020

	ADMIN.	RESERVES	LPI	MT. SEQ.	TOTAL
2004-2016	\$323,163		\$690,000	\$165,000	\$ 1,178,163
2017	\$380,000	\$54,413	\$705,000	\$ -	\$1,139,413
2018	\$380,000	\$54,413	\$705,000	\$ -	\$1,139,413
2019	\$380,000	\$54,413	\$705,000	\$ -	\$1,139,413
2020	\$380,000	\$54,413	\$705,000	\$ -	\$1,139,413
Reserves History					
2007	\$863,085				
2014	\$336,644				
Reduction	\$525,441				



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, 2015 and 2014, 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)

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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, 2015 and 2014, 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.

Finley & Cook, PLLC

Shawnee, Oklahoma
July 27, 2016

**SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<i>December 31,</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2014</i>
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 242,262	248,292
Certificates of deposit	223,179	220,739
Investments	109,951	59,432
Apportionments receivable from the Conferences	208,352	244,606
Equipment, net	58	141
Other assets	5,120	500
Total assets	<u>\$ 788,922</u>	<u>773,710</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accrued expenses	\$ 6,739	8,000
Custodial funds	145,416	182,947
Total liabilities	<u>152,155</u>	<u>190,947</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	161,386	186,686
Board-designated	415,712	336,644
Total unrestricted	<u>577,098</u>	<u>523,330</u>
Temporarily restricted	6,686	6,450
Permanently restricted	52,983	52,983
Total net assets	<u>636,767</u>	<u>582,763</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 788,922</u>	<u>773,710</u>

See Independent Auditors' Report.
See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2015

	Unrestricted		Temporarily	Permanently	
	Undesignated	Board-Designated	Restricted	Restricted	Total
Revenues and other support:					
Apportionments	\$ 295,959	-	-	-	295,959
Contributions and program fees	-	18,239	-	-	18,239
Grants	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Interest income	2,722	-	476	-	3,198
Total revenues and other support	318,681	18,239	476	-	337,396
Distributions and expenses:					
Programs:					
Youth ministries (JYMO)	-	6,355	-	-	6,355
VIM network	7,565	258	-	-	7,823
Episcopacy	26,442	-	-	-	26,442
Korean ministry	21,054	242	-	-	21,296
Other programs	1,531	28,316	240	-	30,087
Total programs	56,592	35,171	240	-	92,003
Management and general:					
Salaries and benefits	116,069	-	-	-	116,069
Meeting	24,993	-	-	-	24,993
Professional fees	15,396	-	-	-	15,396
Travel	6,734	-	-	-	6,734
Office rent	13,440	-	-	-	13,440
Telephone and internet	6,762	-	-	-	6,762
Supplies	920	-	-	-	920
Postage	664	-	-	-	664
Depreciation	83	-	-	-	83
Other	6,328	-	-	-	6,328
Total management and general	191,389	-	-	-	191,389
Total distributions and expenses	247,981	35,171	240	-	283,392
Transfers	(96,000)	96,000	-	-	-
Change in net assets	(25,300)	79,068	236	-	54,004
Net assets, beginning of year	186,686	336,644	6,450	52,983	582,763
Net assets, end of year	\$ 161,386	415,712	6,686	52,983	636,767

See Independent Auditors' Report.
See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES, CONTINUED

Year Ended December 31, 2014

	Unrestricted		Temporarily	Permanently	
	Undesignated	Board-Designated	Restricted	Restricted	Total
Revenues and other support:					
Apportionments	\$ 284,464	-	-	-	284,464
Contributions and program fees	-	63,528	-	-	63,528
Grants	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Interest income	2,414	-	474	-	2,888
Total revenues and other support	306,878	63,528	474	-	370,880
Distributions and expenses:					
Programs:					
Youth ministries (JYMO)	7,771	41,598	-	-	49,369
VIM network	6,525	1,785	-	-	8,310
Episcopacy	21,049	-	-	-	21,049
Korean ministry	20,104	-	-	-	20,104
Other programs	1,612	43,239	240	-	45,091
Total programs	57,061	86,622	240	-	143,923
Management and general:					
Salaries and benefits	104,383	-	-	-	104,383
Meeting	25,759	-	-	-	25,759
Professional fees	15,183	-	-	-	15,183
Travel	3,017	-	-	-	3,017
Office rent	13,044	-	-	-	13,044
Telephone and internet	6,231	-	-	-	6,231
Supplies	595	-	-	-	595
Postage	507	-	-	-	507
Depreciation	1,823	-	-	-	1,823
Other	5,957	-	-	-	5,957
Total management and general	176,499	-	-	-	176,499
Total distributions and expenses	233,560	86,622	240	-	320,422
Transfers	(76,256)	76,256	-	-	-
Change in net assets	(2,938)	53,162	234	-	50,458
Net assets, beginning of year	189,624	283,482	6,216	52,983	532,305
Net assets, end of year	\$ 186,686	336,644	6,450	52,983	582,763

See Independent Auditors' Report.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

2017–2020 MISSION COUNCIL BUDGET

ANNUAL

INCOME

			90% PAY OUT
Apportionments	\$	380,000	\$ 342,000
Grants (GBGM)			\$ 20,000
Interest			\$ 2,200
			\$ 364,200

ANNUAL

EXPENSES

Accrual

Jurisdictional Conference	\$	100,000
Host Committee Expense	\$	10,000
Episcopacy Committee	\$	30,000
	\$	140,000

Administration

Professional Fees	Audit	\$	17,000
Computer		\$	4,000
Equipment Purchase		\$	500
Security System		\$	400
Liability Insurance		\$	2,200
Office Supplies		\$	900
Postage		\$	600
Bank Fees		\$	150
Web site		\$	1,400
Rent		\$	16,000
Salaries		\$	97,500
Phones		\$	3,000
Executive Director Expenses		\$	7,000
VIM Director Expense		\$	7,200
VIM Director Pension		\$	7,200
VIM Director Health Ins.		\$	6,500
Korean Minister Expenses		\$	15,000
Archives and History Director		\$	1,000
Korean Ministry Program		\$	5,000
SCJ VIM Coordinators Expenses		\$	2,500
SCJ Lay Leader Expenses		\$	2,000
JYMO (Youth)		\$	6,000
Mission Council Expenses		\$	20,000
		\$	223,050

Total		\$	363,050
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ARCHIVES DEPOSITORY REPORT

**SUBMITTED BY: FRANCES LONG
ARCHIVIST
July, 2016**

Bishop and delegates to the conference. The archives of the SCJ, at Bridwell Library, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, the official repository for the records of the SCJ, is committed to the acquisition, preservation and dissemination of the archival records of the SCJ.

Among those archives you will find the story of the United Methodist Church and all its branches since 1939.

With the help of Jean Traster, past archivist for the SCJ, I have been able to learn the procedure of taking care of the archives. They are up to date and available for research.

It is interesting to see how through the years the names of groups, committees, organizations with the church have changed. We are lucky to have some records that apply to most of these groups. As needs have arisen or changed over the years, so have the names.

My primary goal is to keep the records up to date and in working order for those that are interested in or want to know the history of the SCJ and want to use them. That is what the archives are there for, to answer questions and to learn why we as Methodist are where we are today and may be tomorrow.

The SCJ does not maintain personal records, or records of congregations, but we are always willing to help anyone that has a question about the procedure of what happens to special collections.

The permanent records collection of the SCJ shall retain no more than two copies of any item. Excess copies of an item, above two, shall be made available for distribution to annual conference archives depositories and annual conference offices of the SCJ, or shall be disposed of according to standard archival procedures.

In closing I would like to say, remember that before archiving your material, remove straight pins, paper clips, rubber bands, wrapping material, old folders, and sticky notes. Taking care of the past gives direction for the future.

Thank You
Frances Long
South Central Jurisdiction Archivist

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 Manila, 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.

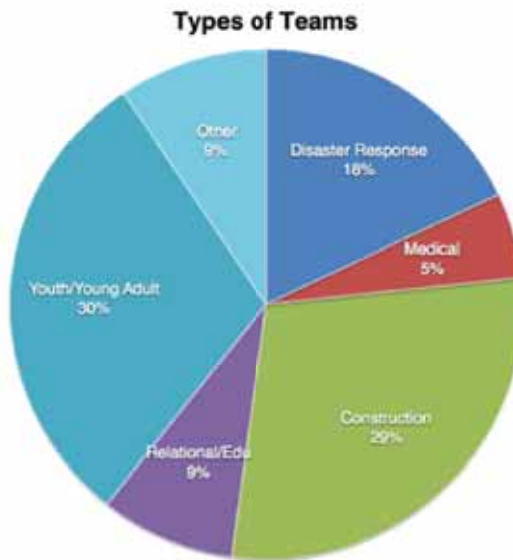
Mission Statistics

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 missionaries; 56 Disaster training events to 944 missionaries; and 10 other mission-related events to more than 3,300 missionaries (see line graph).

Statistic Notes: Data from previous years is unavailable. Challenges exist in interpreting these statistics: 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

* Statistics based on 2014 reports from 7 Conferences & 2015 reports from 8 Conferences.

KOREAN MINISTRIES REPORT

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.

Pastor: Rev. Joohyang Kim. District Superintendent: Rev. Kibum Kim

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.
 - B. St. Luke UMC in Central Texas Conference purchased a church building for expansion of church facility. Location: 2027 East Rancier Ave. Killeen, TX 76543 Size and Price: 22,000 sq ft Lot 17.8 acres \$1,350,000. Closing date: 6/18/2015
 - C. Hope Korean UMC in Arkansas Conference purchases a business building for expansive location change of the church after renovation. Location: 915 North St. Little Rock, AR 72201 Size and Price: 7,350 sq ft Lot 17.8 acres \$335,000. Closing date: 6/18/2015
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
2. Korean American churches on 9 occasions.

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.

Leah Taylor
SCJ Lay Leader

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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 missionary 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 quadrennium.

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 Tielke,
President

LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE

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 \$1million 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 38,850¹ 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,

¹ 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.

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 deigned 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 thorough 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.

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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 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.

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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:

Eligibility

Dewitt Smith	Arkansas	2016-2020
Margaret Whillock	Arkansas	2016-2020
Rev. Shane Pair	Arkansas	2016-2028
Dr. William O. (Bud) Reeves	Arkansas	2016-2028
Kathy Retzlaff	Arkansas	2016-2028
Mike Ross	Arkansas	2016-2028
Mary L. Brooks	Great Plains	2016-2024
Rev. Eric Folkerth	North Texas	2016-2024
Doug Foss	Great Plains	2016-2024
Randy Hollums	Northwest Texas	2016-2024
Rev. Richard (Rick) Mang	Central Texas	2016-2024
Marvin Morgan	Great Plains	2016-2024
Jason Oswald	Great Plains	2016-2024
Dick White	Texas	2016-2024

BY VIRTUE OF OFFICE:

Rev. Stephen Coburn, Northwest Arkansas District Superintendent

Emeritus Trustees:

Dr. Earl B. Carter	Dr. Ron Gilbert
Treva Hall	Bishop Kenneth Hicks
Dr. Ed Matthews	Jack Meadows
Rev. Larry Norman	Allen Tuten

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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.

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

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY DEAN'S REPORT

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: 3 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

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT SMU

SAINT PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

2016 South Central Jurisdiction Nominations Report

Connectional Table

Name	Annual Conference	Race/ Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
Pete Aguila	LA	Hispanic American	LM	Older Adult	Re-elected
Emanuel Cleaver	MO	African American	CM	Adult (30–64)	
Josephine Deere	OIMC	Native American	LW	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected
Beverly Jones	NM	White/Anglo	CW	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected
G. Miller Wilbourn	AR	White/Anglo	LM	Young Adult	

Division of Ministry with Young People

Name	Annual Conference	Race/ Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
Adult Worker with Young People					
Sarah Nichols	OK	White/Anglo	LW	Young Adult	
Young Adult					
Shayla Jordan	GREAT PLAINS	White/Anglo	LW	Young Adult	

General Board of Church and Society

Name	Annual Conference	Race/ Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
Chelsea Calderon	NM	Hispanic American	LW	Young Adult	Re-elected
Rich Jones*	NWTX	White/Anglo	CM	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected
Cynthia Johnson*	RIO TX	Hispanic American	LW	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected
Cindy Karges	GREAT PLAINS	White/Anglo	CW	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected
Sara Martin	OK	White/Anglo	LW	Youth	
James Mitchell	LA	White/Anglo	CM	Adult (30–64)	
Cara Nicklas	OK	White/Anglo	LW	Adult (30–64)	
Danny Soliz*	NTX	Hispanic American	LM	Adult (30–64)	
Sharon Stewart	RIO TX	African American	CW	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected
Chap Temple	TX	White/Anglo	CM	Adult (30–64)	
Pearl Thomas	OIMC	Native American	LW	Older Adult	

* Member of Nominating Committee

General Board of Discipleship

Name	Annual Conference	Race/ Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
Kim Simpson	CTX	Native American	LW	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected

General Board of Global Ministries

Name	Annual Conference	Race/ Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
Tom Junk	OK	White/Anglo	LM	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected
Oscar Garza	TX	Hispanic American	LM	Adult (30–64)	
Kelly Murray- Norman	AR	African American	v		

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Name	Annual Conference	Race/ Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
Jessica LaGrone	TX	White/Anglo	CW	Adult (30–64)	

General Board of Pensions and Health Benefots/Wespath

Name	Annual Conference	Race/ Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
John Goodwin	NM	White/Anglo	LM	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected
Stacie Hawkins	TX	African American	LW	Adult (30–64)	
Bill Junk	OK	White/Anglo	LM	Adult/Disabled	Re-elected
Bob Long	OK	White/Anglo	CM	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected

United Methodist Publishing House

Name	Annual Conference	Race/ Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
Class of 2020					
Ellen Alston	LA	White/Anglo	CW	Adult (30–64)	Previously elected
Class of 2024					
Todd Burris	AR	White/Anglo	LM	Adult (30–64)	Previously elected
Class of 2028					
Randy Biggerstaff	MO	White/Anglo	LM	Adult (30–64)	

General Commission on Communication/UMCOM

Name	Annual Conference	Race/ Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
Courtney Fowler	GREAT PLAINS	Native American	LW	Adult (30–64)	
Don Mowery	MO	White/Anglo	LM	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected
Rodney Steele	AR	White/Anglo	CM	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected

General Commission on Religion and Race

Name	Annual Conference	Race/Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
Vince Gonzales	NWTX	Hispanic American	LM	Adult (30–64)	Re-elected
Clifton Howard	CTX	African American	CM	Adult (30–64)	

General Commission on Status and Role of Women

Name	Annual Conference	Race/Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
Mark Norman	AR	African American	CM	Adult (30–64)	

General Council on Finance and Administration

Name	Annual Conference	Race/Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
Reggie Clemons	TX	African American	LM		Elected by General Conf.
Dustin Petz	GREAT PLAINS	White/Anglo	CM		Elected by General Conf.

Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns

Name	Annual Conference	Race/Ethnicity	Clergy/Lay & Gender	Age & Disability	Notes
Vincent Harris	TX	African American	CM	Adult (30–64)	
Byrd Bonner	RIO TX	White/Anglo	LM	Adult (30–64)	

South Central Jurisdiction Mission Council

Class of 2020

Clergy	Lay Men	Lay Women
North Texas—Ouida Lee	Arkansas—John Crawford	OIMC—Sue Burgess
Great Plains—Rick Just	Northwest Texas—Ron Enns	Rio Texas—Letty Ortegon (newly elected)

Class of 2024 (newly elected)

Clergy	Lay Men	Lay Women
Missouri—Kendall Waller	Central Texas—Steve McIver	New Mexico—Donna TeBrink
Oklahoma—Wendy Lambert	Louisiana—Keith Kreutziger	Texas—Sue Sullivan
At large		
Bill Junk (Oklahoma)		

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES 2016

ARKANSAS CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Arkansas

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE shall include the counties of: Bell, (with the exception of El Divino Salvador UMC in Temple that shall be assigned to the Rio Texas Conference), Bosque, Brown, Coleman, Comanche, Coryell, Eastland, Ellis (except for God's Kingdom in Ferris), Erath, Hamilton, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Limestone, McLennan, (with the exception of Latin American UMC in Waco), 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 in 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.

MISSIOURI 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 (with the exception of El Divino Salvador in Odessa which shall be assigned to the Rio Texas Conference), 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-extending from the 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, Rockwell, 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.

NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE shall include the following: Counties: Andrews, Armstrong, Bailey, Baylor, Borden, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Collingsworth, Cottle, Crosby, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Gaines, Garza Glasscock, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Hardeman, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Hockley, Howard, Hutchinson, Jones, Kent, King, Know, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer (except Farwell), Potter, Randall, Roberts, Scurry, Shackelford, Sherman, Stonewall, Swisher, Taylor, Terry, Throckmorton, Wheeler, Wilbarger, and Yoakum. Town Sites: Clyde and Baird in Callahan 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, Kansas, Missouri, and Texas.

RIO TEXAS shall include the following counties: Aransas, Atascosa, Bandera, 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 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 churches, El Divino Salvador UMC in Bell County, Latin American UMC in McLennan County, Getsemani UMC in Jefferson County, Nazareth UMC in Matagorda County, and Divino Salvador UMC in Ector County.

TEXAS COUNTY 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, (except Nazareth UMC which shall be in the Rio Texas Conference), 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.

Mission 21 Report on SCJ Episcopal Area Realignment

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.

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 Conference—Amend ¶40 as indicated:

¶ 40. Article IV.

~~Changes in 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.²

Figure 3 shows statistics associated with these conferences.

Figure 2. The South Central Jurisdiction (right)

South Central Jurisdiction UMC
Conferences



² The 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.

Figure 3. South Central Jurisdiction Statistics

Conference	Sq. Miles	Churches	Worship	Apportionment	Pop. 2020	Race by % 2020				
Arkansas	53,122	665	51,058	\$14,366,588	3,088,659	A1	B14	H7	W75	O3
Great Plains	159,285	1,038	89,022	\$17,444,712	4,936,497	A2	B5.5	H10	W80	O3
Central Texas	22,003	301	48,403	\$10,198,935	4,245,709	A3	B12	H23	W59	O2
Louisiana	52,524	493	40,875	\$8,181,548	4,768,772	A1.5	B31	H4	W61	O2
Missouri	69,565	825	79,430	\$13,755,368	6,212,929	A2	B11	H4	W82	O2
New Mexico	165,178	154	14,417	\$4,015,532	3,377,202	A1	B2	H55	W32	O9
North Texas	16,281	300	59,638	\$11,939,604	5,490,559	A6	B14.5	H26	W51	O2
Northwest TX	63,656	214	19,381	\$7,146,243	1,424,721	A1.5	B5	H33	W59	O2
Ok/OK Indian Missionary	69,793	595	55,886	\$16,751,159	4,017,030	A2	B7	H9	W69	O13
Rio Texas	83,600	363	47,407	\$10,175,876	7,467,248	A2	B4.5	H57	W35	O1
Texas	46,882	678	104,412	\$21,978,478	9,712,524	A5	B16.5	H29.5	W47	O2

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 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).

Annual Conference	Representative	Status
Arkansas	Justin Ledbetter	clergy
Central Texas	Darlene Alfred	lay
Great Plains	Lisa Maupin	lay
Louisiana	Juan Huertas	clergy
Oklahoma/Oklahoma Indian Missionary	Carlos Ramirez	clergy
Missouri	Robin Roderick	clergy
North Texas	Pavielle Jenkins	lay
Northwest Texas/New Mexico	Susan Brumbaugh	lay
Río Texas	Carl Rohlf	clergy
Texas	Jim Welch	clergy

The Task Force was also assisted by David Severe (SCJ Executive Director), Paula Whitbeck (General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits), Peter Wernett (Mission In-site), Pattie Wood (Bishop Lowry's executive assistant), J. Vance Morton (the Communications and IT Director for the Central Texas Annual Conference), and Mary Brooke Casad, who originally represented the North Texas Annual Conference on the Task Force but later transitioned into a consultant role.

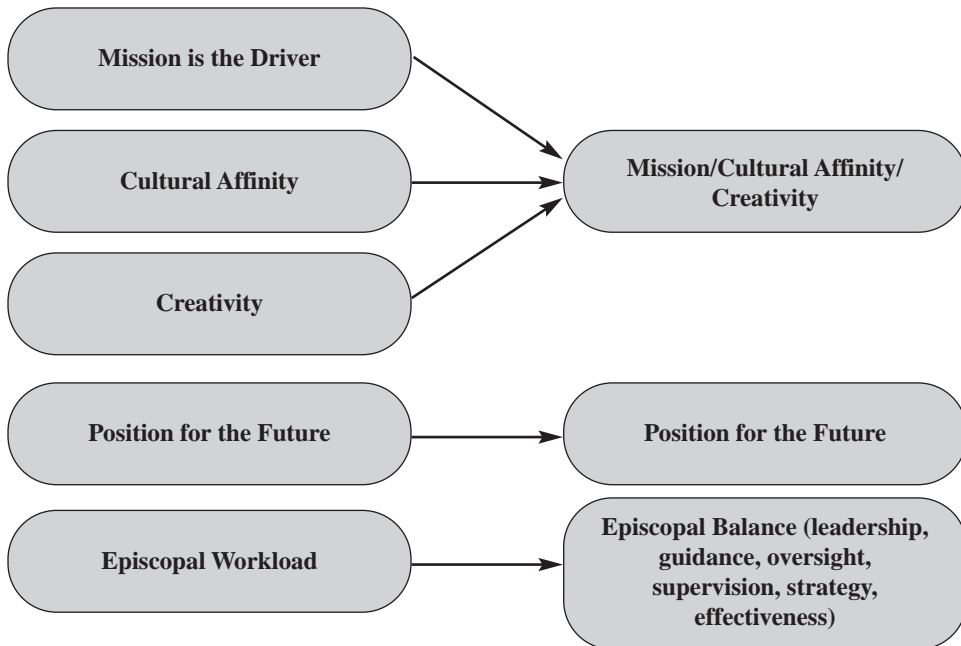
Mission 21 Task Force Activities

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 4. Mission 21 Task Force Priorities for Recommending Changes to Annual Conferences and Episcopal Area Boundaries for the South Central 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 members³
- 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).⁴ 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 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.⁵ 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

³ One 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).

⁴ Several 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.

⁵ One 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.

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.⁶ 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 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

⁶ All 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.

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.

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 Rio 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.

Note: 15 respondents chose not to disclose their annual conference affiliation.

Figure 5. Annual Conference Participation in the Mission 21 Survey

Answer Choices	Responses	
Arkansas	4.17%	5
Central Texas	19.17%	23
Great Plains	5.00%	6
Louisiana	10.00%	12
Missouri	5.00%	6
New Mexico	10.00%	12
North Texas	11.67%	14
Northwest Texas	5.83%	7
Oklahoma	9.17%	11
Oklahoma Indian Missionary	0.83%	1
Rio Texas	8.33%	10
Texas	10.83%	13
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total		120

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.

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).⁷ The Missional option would realign annual conference boundaries within the states of New Mexico and Texas to result in a reduction from five

⁷ In 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.

episcopal areas (six annual conferences) to four.⁸ 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).⁹ This option also offers a reasonably balanced financial base for each of the resulting annual conferences (see **Figure 7** for the statistics).¹⁰

Figure 6. The Missional Option (Mission 21 Task Force First Choice)



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 fu-

⁸ Local 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.

⁹ Final recommendations on annual conference boundaries could be made by the implementation task force and approved by a future South Central Jurisdictional Conference.

¹⁰ Based 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.

Figure 7. Statistics resulting from the Missional Option

Conference	Sq. Miles	Churches	Worship	Apportionment	Pop. 2020	Race by % 2020					
1	38,140	494	90,672	\$19,141,333	8,815,219	A6	B17	H31	W45	O2	
2	26,100	500	75,236	\$15,197,622	6,670,266	A5	B14	H24	W54	O2	
3	134,432	538	65,617	\$14,506,108	10,161,171	A2	B5	H54	W37	O2	
4	207,029	476	60,769	\$16,391,778	6,253,801	A2	B7	H33	W52	O6	

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

ture, 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, Free-stone, 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 affinities 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.

Figure 8. The Missional Option: Conference 1



Conference 2

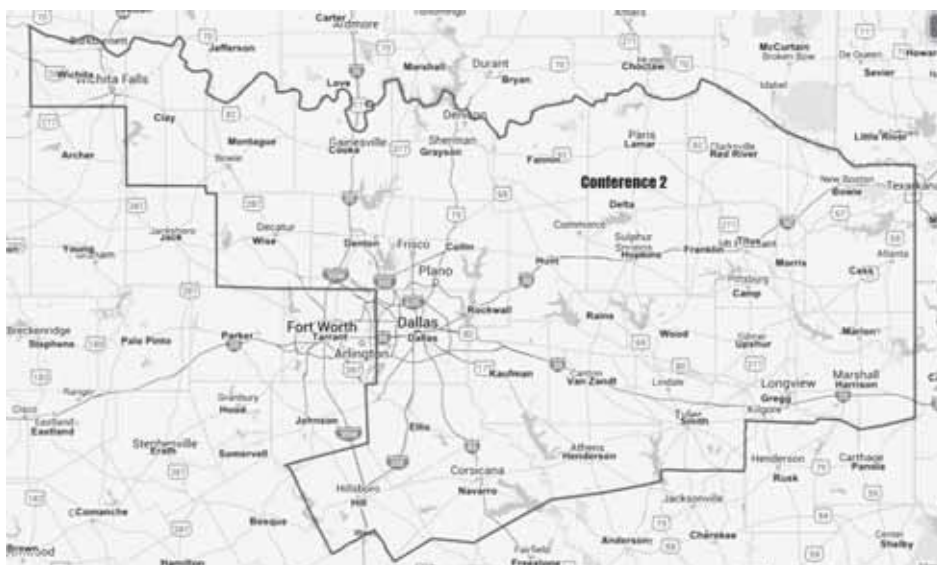
Conference 2 (see the map in **Figure 9**) includes the Texas counties of Bowie, Camp, Cass, Clay, Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Franklin, Grayson, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hill, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Lamar, Marion, Montague, Morris, Navarro, Rains, Red River, Rockwall, Smith, 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:

Figure 9. The Missional Option: Conference 2



- 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);

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, McMullen, 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;

Figure 10. The Missional Option: Conference 3



- 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.

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,

Figure 11. The Missional Option: Conference 4



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.

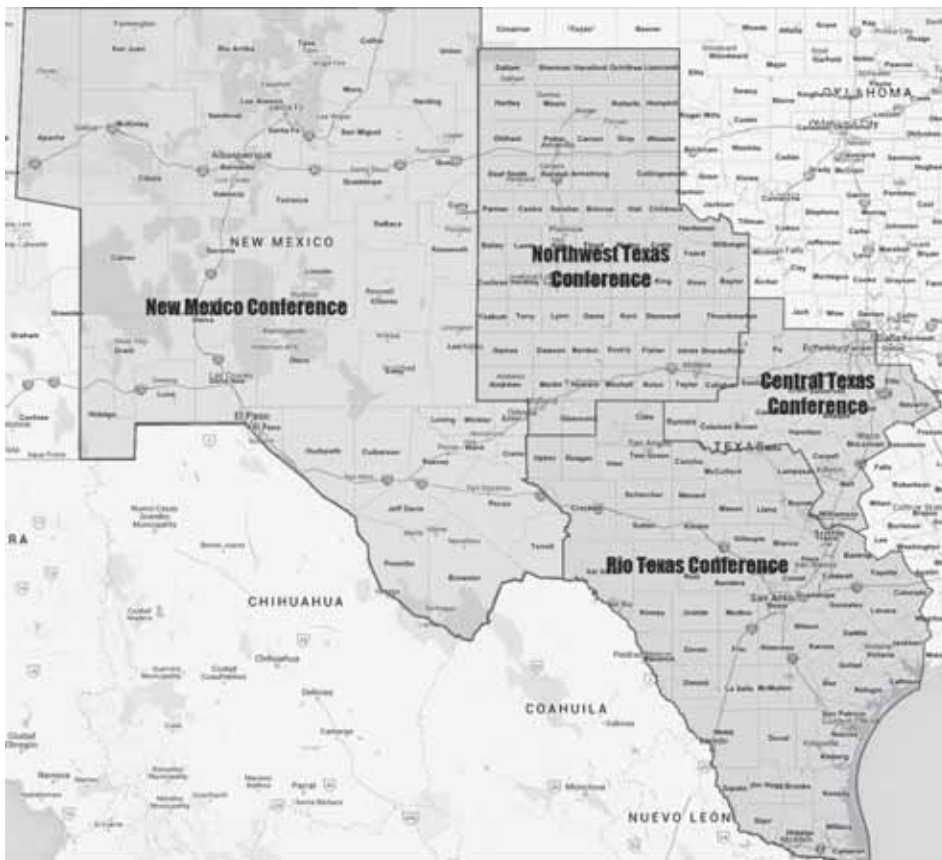
Alternate Choice: The Pairing Option

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

The following map (**Figure 12**) illustrates the territory covered by these proposed

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



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

Figure 13. Statistics resulting from the Base Option

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

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

annual conferences could develop some combined positions such as the Dean of the Cabinet or Assistant to the Bishop.

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.

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:

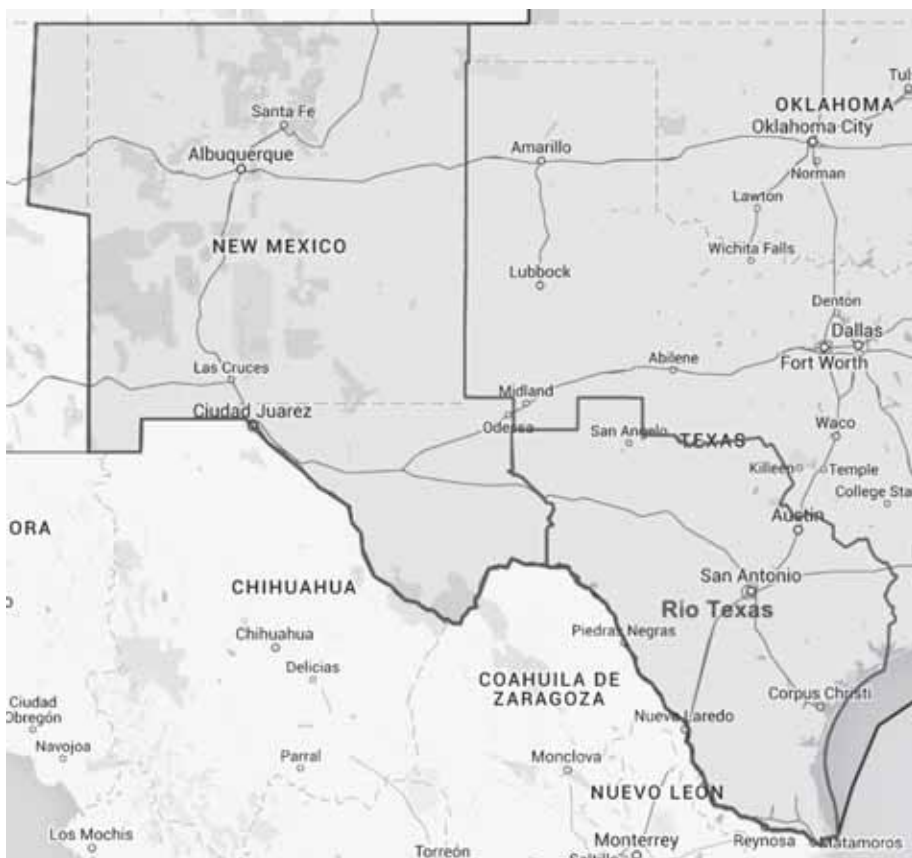
Figure 14. The Pairing Option (Alternate Choice): Pairing Northwest Texas and Central Texas



- 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

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

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



- 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)?¹¹

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

¹¹ One survey respondent suggested a new Episcopal office at a midpoint such as El Paso.

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.”

**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.

Appendix B: Issues around Episcopal Leadership

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 re-configure 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—including 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.”

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.

Figure A–1. Information about current SCJ episcopal areas

Conf.	Annual Conf.	Sq. Miles	Churches	Worship	Major Cities	Major Roadways	Airports
Arkansas	1	53,122	665	51,058	Little Rock Texarkana Fort Smith Jonesboro Fayetteville	I-40 I-30 Hwy 65	Bill and Hillary National
CTX	1	22,003	301	48,403	Fort Worth Arlington Corsicana Waco Killeen Temple Georgetown Round Rock Brownwood	I-20 I-30 I-35 Hwy 67/377 Hwy 281 Hwy 121/183 Hwy 70 Hwy 174 Hwy 83	DFW Int'l Austin-Bergstrom (adjacent)
Great Plains	1	159,285	1,038	89,022	Wichita Topeka Kansas City Dodge City Salina Manhattan Omaha Lincoln Grand Island North Platte	I-35/1-335 I-70 I-80 Hwy 335 Hwy 77 Hwy 83 Hwy 81 Hwy 136 Hwy 183 Hwy 26	Wichita Dwight D Eisenhower Int'l Kansas City Int'l Omaha Eppley Airfield
Louisiana	1	52,524	493	40,875	Shreveport Lafayette Baton Rouge New Orleans Lake Charles Monroe	I-20 I-49 I-10 Hwy 165	Louis Armstrong New Orleans Baton Rouge Metro Alexandria Int'l Shreveport Regional
Missouri	1	69,565	825	79,430	Kansas City Jefferson City/ Columbia Springfield St. Louis	I-44 I-55 I-70 I-49 I-29 Hwy 36 Hwy 60	Kansas City Int'l Springfield-Branson Lambert-St. Louis

Figure A–1. Information about current SCJ episcopal areas (Cont.)

Conf.	Annual Conf.	Sq. Miles	Churches	Worship	Major Cities	Major Roadways	Airports
NM/NWTX	2	228,834	368	33,798	Albuquerque Las Cruces Santa Fe El Paso Odessa Lubbock Amarillo Abilene	I-40 I-25 I-10 Hwy 64 I-20 I-27	Albuquerque Int'l Roswell Int'l El Paso Int'l Midland Int'l Lubbock Preston Smith Int'l Rick Husband Amarillo Int'l
NTX	1	16,281	300	59,638	Dallas Plano Irving Denton Wichita Falls Sherman/ Denison Paris McKinney Greenville	I-30 I-35 Hwy 287 Hwy 75 I-635 Hwy 121 Hwy 175 Hwy 271 Hwy 82 Hwy 281	DFW Int'l Dallas Love Field
Oklahoma/ Oklahoma Indian Missionary	2	69,793	595	55,886	Oklahoma City Tulsa Lawton	I-44 I-35 I-40 Hwy 75 Hwy 81	Will Rogers World Tulsa Int'l
Río Texas	1	83,600	363	47,407	Austin Midland Del Rio Laredo Brownsville Corpus Christi Victoria	I-20 I-10 Hwy 277 Hwy 83 Hwy 90 I-35 I-37 Hwy 281 Hwy 77 I-410 Hwy 87	San Antonio Int'l Austin-Bergstrom Brownsville/ South Padre Island Del Rio Valley Int'l McAllen-Miller
Texas	1	46,882	678	104,412	Tyler Marshall Longview Nacogdoches Huntsville Beaumont Galveston Houston College Station	Hwy 79 I-45 I-20 Hwy 259 Hwy 69 Hwy 96/59 Hwy 271 Hwy 59 I-10	Houston Bush Intercontinenta l Houston Hobby Jack Brook's Regional Airport

Churches and Worship is 2012 data from GCFA

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 con-

ference 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.

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 effi-

Figure D-1. Comprehensive Option Map



Figure D-2. Statistics resulting from the Comprehensive Option

Conference	Sq. Miles	Churches	Worship	Apportionment	Pop. 2020	Race by % 2020
1	61,052	409	35,547	\$6,910,538	4,607,174	A2 B28.5 H6 W61 O2
2	59,075	709	51,770	\$14,055,316	3,247,204	A1 B16 H6 W75 O2
3	41,322	799	116,080	\$24,133,231	9,807,899	A4.5 B16 H23 W54 O2
4	104,375	718	132,348	\$27,810,200	6,253,801	A2 B7 H33 W52 O6
5	267,742	509	43,889	\$13,459,262	5,534,403	A1 B3 H45 W44.5 O6

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

cient, 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

Figure D-3. The Missional Option—Rio Grande Corridor variation



Figure D–4. Statistics resulting from the Missional Option—Rio Grande Corridor variation

Conference	Sq. Miles	Churches	Worship	Apportionment	Pop. 2020	Race by % 2020				
1	38,410	494	90,672	\$19,141,333	8,815,219	A6	B17	H31	W45	O2
2	22,519	471	72,503	\$14,527,907	6,378,868	A5	B15	H25	W53	O2
3	209,714	542	68,598	\$14,948,449	11,521,007	A2	B5	H53	W36	O4
4	135,557	502	60,398	\$16,596,880	5,032,724	A3	B8	H29	W58	O2

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

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.



South Central Jurisdictional Conference Episcopal Address

The Trumpet Call®

July 14, 2016
Wichita, Kansas

By Bishop Mike Lowry

Out of the confused, chaotic context of our conflicted culture we gather once again to hear a trumpet call from our Lord. Leviticus 25:9 “Then have the trumpet blown on the tenth day of the seventh month. Have the trumpet blown throughout your land on the Day of Reconciliation.”¹ The ancient trumpet blast signifying the Jubilee Year of our Lord summons us again to holy living.

As I stand before you to offer an episcopal address on behalf of my colleague bishops, I am painfully aware of the context which assaults us. The tragedies of St. Paul, Minnesota, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Dallas, Texas and Orlando, Florida tear at our collective soul and scar our nation. The list is longer than simply the aforementioned places and wider by far than simply our nation or jurisdiction.

And yet, like Esther, we are called for such a time as this. The blows calling us to action. The Lord God challenges us to confront and confess our racism, intolerance and sinful love of violence. In gathering at the trumpet call of the Lord, we rise collectively to reject idolatrous solutions to the problems which so vex our church, society and larger world. We gather with assiduity of purpose to assert that black lives matter! We come together with ardent conviction to insist that blue lives matter! We coalesce as people with soul-anchored intensity to emphatically proclaim that all lives matter to the God who “loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life.”²

The avocational historian in me recalls an incident that took place almost eighty years ago. “It was early morning on May 23, 1939. Thirty-three U.S. sailors sat trapped on the icy seafloor off the New Hampshire coast in 243 feet (74 meters) of water in a disabled, half-flooded submarine called *Squalus*. Wet, cold, and low on oxygen, they were keenly aware that nobody had ever survived such a predicament, and that 26 of their shipmates were likely dead.”³

After releasing a rescue buoy broadcasting their position, they waited in fear-filled hope. At last one of her sister submarines, the *Sculpin*, reached the site and sent divers down. They listened intently for signs of life, and legend has it that they heard a faint knocking in Morse code coming from instead the stricken boat. “Is there any hope?”

This Jurisdictional Conference gathers metaphorically in not too different a situation. In my 42 years of ordained ministry, the United Methodist Church has demonstrated consistent significant numerical decline. (I refer you to Bishop Schnase’s outstanding SCJ

¹ Leviticus 25:9

² John 3:16

³ http://www.nationalgeographic.com/k19/disasters_detail3.html

Episcopal Address in 2012.) We continue to wrestle with serious issues that vex us as a church and our larger society. Taken as a whole, we meet as a divided church amid a fractured society. The caterwauling political debate and concomitant cultural angst seeps into our most noble efforts to be a people of faith who are supposedly in but not of the world. Cynicism drips from the walls of modern society while anger and arrogance audition as knowledge and wisdom. Add now the larger, global, crisis of our age which is clothed with war and festooned with terrorism stalks the entire globe. It is into this modern conflagration of hopes and fears that the Lord God Almighty issues a trumpet call to us to share the gospel by both word and deed.

Is there any hope? Why yes, as a matter of fact there are great reasons for hope.

“Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.”⁴

Please, I bid you, step with me carefully into the new future God is even now leading us to. This is not the stuff of Pollyanna dreams nor still an ostrich like head-in-the-sands denial of reality. It is the stuff of our faith. Here we find our footing in these turbulent times on the solid rock of Christ as Lord and Savior.⁵ “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the LORD.”⁶

It is worthy of an aside to note that the *Squalus* disaster turned into one of the greatest submarine rescues in history. Thus, by analogy, a bloated, bureaucratically bound church captive to the culture is being slowly and steadily transformed once again into a missional enterprise reaching out to a bruised and battered world. I, along with I dare assert virtually all of my colleagues, can point to new signs of health and vitality in our Conferences. We can tap places of faithfulness and fruitfulness which portend a vastly different future before us. There is concrete evidence of a reason for hope. We are experiencing a new spring of faithful congregational vitality budding around us. A new church is being birthed out of the old, and in some places marvelously in the old!

To what shall we point? How shall we now set our course as the faithful body of Christ? We need look no further than the gnawing spiritual hunger of our times. I cannot help but recall the oft quoted comment of Mother Teresa when she visited America in the late 1980s. After a lecture in the Buffalo area, a reporter asked her to comment about

⁴ Isaiah 40:28–31, NRSV

⁵ Matthew 7:24–25

⁶ Jeremiah 29:11–14a

what she saw in the United States. She is purported to have said, “I’ve never seen a people so spiritually hungry.” It is as if the culture is saying to us, like young children to their parents, feed me! I’m yours!

We live in a sin-sick soul-ravaged age. Examine the cultural setting in which our ministry is playing out. Moral relativism parades as a virtue amid a wasteland bereft of common core values. Greed is palmed off as success. Selfish indifference is seen as a right. Vituperative public anger has been married to self-righteous indignation. Our political culture models the worst of behavior. Fear-soaked mean-spirited bigotry against those of another religion, race, sexual preference, or nation is not the Christian faith. We ought to be ashamed that it is so represented by some in public life.

Our answer is not more political activity. Our answer is to live the gospel gracefully & to courageously follow Christ. The trumpet of the Lord blows; it is a call for courage. I recently shared with the Central Texas Conference my conviction that we need once again to embrace the words of Hymn Number 514 “Stand up, Stand up for Jesus.” Dwell with me on the second verse:

“Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;
Forth to the mighty conflict, in this his glorious day.
Ye that are brave now serve him against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.”⁷

This gnawing spiritual hunger is our God given opportunity. Even more, it represents a clarion call from the Lord who came, lived, died and rose again that all might have life and have it more abundantly! We are called for such a time as this!

We must come to this calling confessionally for we too, in the words of one scholar, have “been drinking deeply from the poisoned wells of a market driven, consumeristic, commodified church.”⁸ Morally speaking, we in the church, along with much of the world, have embraced the hedonism of personal preference and pleasure far above a sense of duty or honor. The sovereign Lord of the universe created us for more than merely our own pleasure; great living lies beyond our preferences and far exceeds our enfeebled notions of the Kingdom of God. We are well reminded of the phrase, “he or she who marries the present age will be a widow or widower in the next.”⁹

To what shall we point? How shall we now set our course as the faithful body of Christ? There is much, far too much in the time allowed, to say. But I lift three central convictions for our consideration. We must theologically re-engage as a church with a theology centered on Christ. We must fully embrace the biblical task for making disciples of Jesus Christ; committed, disciplined followers who embrace the Christ-led way of holiness both personally and socially. We must once more embrace the all but forgotten evangelistic task to which the Lord of life calls us.

First, if we are to begin confessionally, as I believe we must, then our course must be set firmly and resolutely toward the one we confess. Jesus Christ! A first order business of critical importance must be the recovery of our theological core gospel and necessary concomitant confession of Christ.

[I have wrestled with how to say this. The word I prefer to use is orthodoxy, and I have written extensively about how orthodoxy is yoked inseparably with orthopraxy. A trusted friend has recently reminded me that some hear the word orthodoxy as inseparably linked

⁷ “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus,” Hymn No. 514, *The United Methodist Hymnal*

⁸ Timothy Tennent, “My charge to the Asbury Theological Seminary Graduating Class of 2016, posted May 25, 2016

⁹ A paraphrase of the original which is attributed to C. S. Lewis

with a rigid loveless literalism. Such a reading is a tragic misuse and deadly abuse of a perfectly good term. Orthodoxy means “right belief.” And orthopraxy means “right practice.” The terms by their very nature cut across and indeed obliterate our conventional notions of liberal and conservative, progressive and evangelical, traditional and modern; etc....and I could go on. Let me be clear. If you think because you are conservative or evangelical that you own the term orthodoxy, you are wrong. If you think because you are progressive or liberal, you can control the meaning of the term orthodox. You are wrong. Historically speaking the term judges us; we don’t judge it. Nevertheless, to avoid any mistaken understanding of my meaning, I will use the term “core gospel” to describe what I take to be the non-negotiable theological core of Christian faith which slices across all our theological and political labels.]

At the heart of the gospel, the good news of salvation, is Christ as Lord and Savior. Folks, we are in a theological crisis that transcends our fighting over human sexuality, our travails over elections, (whether Trump vs Clinton or who gets elected bishop), and our wrangling over financial resources. In far too many of our pulpits the essential message is a three point sermon. 1) God loves you. 2) Love each other. 3) Come on you all, try harder to love each other. This bruised and battered world needs more than a thin gruel of vague spiritual pabulum. It needs Christ!

Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, a United Methodist Elder teaching at Princeton School of Theology, has noted in her outstanding book *Almost Christian* that much of what passes as Christian theology today isn’t really the gospel. Building on the work of Christian Smith and Melinda Denton, Dr. Dean labels it Moralistic Therapeutic Deism and outlines the content of this false gospel thusly:

1. “A god exists who created and orders the world and watches over life on earth.
2. God wants people to be good, nice and faith to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
4. God is not involved in my life except when I need God to resolve a problem.
5. Good people go to heaven when they die.”¹⁰

She comments further about a fault line running through American churches: “An adherence to a do-good, feel-good spirituality that has little to do with the Triune God of Christian tradition and even less to do with loving Jesus Christ enough to follow him into the world.”¹¹

Folks, we have work to do theologically. We have to rediscover the heart of the Christian faith, the core of the gospel. Do you remember how Paul starts his great 15th chapter on resurrection in his first letter to the Corinthians? “Brothers and sisters, I want to call your attention to the good news that I preached to you, which you also received and in which you stand. ² You are being saved through it if you hold on to the message I preached to you, unless somehow you believed it for nothing. ³ I passed on to you as most important what I also received: Christ died for our sins in line with the scriptures, ⁴ he was buried, and he rose on the third day in line with the scriptures.”¹² Hear the words as hammer blows. You received. In which you stand. You are being saved. As most important. Christ died for our sins.

This isn’t negotiable. These aren’t casual asides that we might by-the-way mention.

¹⁰ Kenda Creasy Dean, *Almost Christian*, p. 14

¹¹ Dean, *IBID*, p. 4

¹² I Corinthians 15:1-4

This is central core stuff! Often our preaching is weak and of no account because we have forgotten the core gospel. We've settled for a pale imitation of the real thing. Recall how Paul reaches to this heart of the matter at the start of the letter. "When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I didn't come preaching God's secrets to you like I was an expert in speech or wisdom. ²I had made up my mind not to think about anything while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and to preach him as crucified."¹³

We preach the gospel of doing good. Some, God forbid, have focused on the Republican or Democratic Party's caricatures of the gospel. We've preached anti-colonialism; we've preached the prosperity gospel. We've babble enough folk wisdom to float a battleship. We preached and acted as if a British monk named Pelagius was right, that we can save ourselves by our good works. We can't! Only Jesus Christ can save. The great Methodist theologian Albert Cook Outler argues that one of Wesley's favorite passages was I Corinthians 1:30. "It is because of God that you are in Christ Jesus. He became wisdom from God for us. This means that he made us righteous and holy, and he delivered us."¹⁴ Now read on yet one more verse – verse 31 of I Corinthians 1. "This is consistent with what was written: *The one who brags should brag in the Lord!*"¹⁵ We have to get back to a core gospel that unashamedly offers Christ. Let us brag in the Lord!

I keep remembering that old faded children's sermon where the pastor calls the kids to the front and excitedly proclaims that he has something new to share with them. Smiling, cheery faces greet the pastor. "What," he exclaims, "is small and furry; has a big tail that often goes straight up and runs around the yard gathering nuts?" One attentive little boy timidly raises his hand. "Yes Jimmy," says the Pastor. "Well," Jimmy hesitantly begins, "I know the answer is Jesus but it sure sounds a lot like a squirrel."

The kid is right. The answer is Jesus. But we have made it sound a lot like a squirrel. No one joins a church to keep the institution going. People come to church to meet the living God. They want to walk with Christ. They hunger to experience life in the Spirit. They want to help transform this battered and broken world. Unfortunately we are often running around the yard picking up nuts. The goal here is not to build the institution but to advance the Kingdom of God. In doing so, the church as the body of Christ, a colony of heaven, will thrive. This is God's promise; "the gates of Hell" will not prevail against it¹⁶.

Now, too quickly to do it justice, let me assert that the recovery of a working doctrine of salvation will not be built on bashing other religions but rather on understanding the full implications of what it means to confess Jesus Christ as Lord. (In fact, the phrase "Jesus is Lord" was the earliest Christian affirmation of faith.) Salvation is intimately tied to a claim of radical allegiance to Jesus Christ as Lord; as our Master and Commander. Salvation teeters on the brink of such a confession and takes flight on the wings of His grace not our goodness. We must be ever asking ourselves, where is our highest allegiance? Is Jesus our Lord!?

Embracing again a deep theological core will involve the reclaiming of a doctrine of sin – both personally and corporately. One way to think of sin is as addiction. We are addicted to our pleasure, greed, preferences, prejudices, and plans. The list could go on but you get the drift. Ask yourself, when is the last time you heard a sermon on sin and

¹³ I Corinthians 2:1–2

¹⁴ I Corinthians 1:30; Wesley preached on it some 72 times!, Albert Cook Outler, *Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit*, p. 45

¹⁵ I Corinthians 1:31

¹⁶ Matthew 16:19

righteousness which got beyond blaming others and came close enough to cause confession and self-examination. Do you get the salvation connection that sin is anything that would replace Christ as Lord? There is more here theologically, much more, but for the sake of time I move on.

Now if the compass points us back to Christ and living a core faithfully triune theology, we need to get serious about making disciples; teaching and nurturing Christian discipleship. I submit that we have it right in our mission statement. Based on Matthew 28, the Great Commission, we are to go and “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” It is time to stop fiddling around and get deeply into the business of making disciples—committed discipline followers of Jesus Christ. Casual Christianity will never cut it!

[With apologies to the Central Texas folks present, I repeat some parts of my recent episcopal address to that Conference.] We now have solid research that indicates that a congregation (including the pastor(s) and key lay leaders) which can articulate a clear coherent path to discipleship is significantly more fruitful in all five major areas of congregational vitality (worship attendance, professions of faith, small group development, missional outreach with the poor and those in need, and extravagant generosity through Connectional Mission Giving and second mile offerings).

Discipleship formation is not linear. One size emphatically does not fit all! People are unique—duh! And yet! The clear delineation of a path to discipleship (holiness of heart and life following Christ) is crucial to learning and growth in discipleship.

We’ve discovered that a clearly articulated path to discipleship, even if overly simplified, is vastly superior to the alternative of being unable to cogently and briefly (in an elevator speech) summarize the elements of your and your church’s path to discipleship. We need to trust the laity to figure it out and adapt. They will learn the true joy of the Way of Christ (discipleship) through both doing and being. (And who knows, in the miracle of God’s providence maybe we as clergy will learn as well.)

A second element in making disciples focuses strategically on the importance of small group development. The key is that it is not just any old small group but much more specifically about small groups that develop spiritual depth and muscle. The central element to the rise of early Methodism was class meetings (small groups) that watched “over one another in love.”

I don’t care if we call them life groups or discovery groups or reunion groups or the original Methodist class meeting or the even more original initial Christian small group experience put together by Jesus and the 12 apostles. What we need to do is rediscover their essence and get intensely insistent on re-engaging this central component of the original Methodist movement. The Christian church from bible times onward has never sustained discipleship growth without such an emphasis.

Remember what Mr. Wesley said, “Never omit meeting your Class or Band ... These are the very sinews of our Society; and whatever weakens, or tends to weaken, our regard for these, or our exactness in attending them, strikes at the very root of our community.”¹⁷

Dr. Kevin Watson in his insightful book, *The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience* comments, “I am worried that our approach to Christian discipleship is too often like a person who prepares to run a marathon by buying shoes without actually running in them. Please don’t misunderstand me; just as good running shoes are essential for long-distance running, the Bible and the church are

¹⁷ Kevin Watson, *The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience*, p. 19

essential for discipleship. Discipleship, however, is about a way of life, not only the life of the mind. Disciples follow Jesus. They are sent out in ministry by Jesus. They heal the sick. They feed the poor. They tell people about Jesus and what he has done.”¹⁸

A strategic third element involves a relentless focus on mission through a concomitant focus on continuing a nascent recovery of the evangelism impulse. We have to relearn how to engage in evangelism. This is not optional. It is biblical and practical. We won’t be here if we don’t! Obviously, I think the issue is tied to the reassertion of a core Christian theology. Lovett Weems’ “more people, younger people, and more diverse people” is prophetically accurate. If we evangelize more people they will by definition be younger and if they are younger they will by definition be more diverse. Praise God!

One of the issues is that generations of clergy were taught how to do pastoral care but not how to engage in evangelism. Gil Rendle’s comment sticks in my mind, “I was taught how to change people’s affiliation not how to change their lives.” If we are honest, real evangelism is foreign to most clergy and often scary. We tend to hide behind a theology that says the Holy Spirit does the converting, we don’t. This is true as far as it goes but fails to recognize that the Holy Spirit often intends to use us as instruments for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. The word evangelism itself means “tactics for sharing the good news” of Jesus Christ. Our failure to engage in evangelism is largely driven by fear, work avoidance and at times masks our theological poverty. It is time, well past time, to learn again how to engage in a critical core work of the gospel.

Alan Hirsch has got it right. “The desperate, prayer-soaked human clinging to Jesus, the reliance on his Spirit, and the distillation of the gospel message into the simple, uncluttered message of Jesus as Lord and Savior is what catalyzed the missional potencies inherent in the people of God.”¹⁹ It has happened before. It is happening again!

In Central Texas I quoted a Roman phrase, “*Audentes Fortuna Iuvat*,” variously translated from Virgil it means “fortune (or history) favors the brave.” It is no mistake that biblically often the first word from the Lord is “fear not.” It is the angelic message ringing out to the shepherds in their field on Christmas Eve. “Fear not” is the clarion call of the angelic messengers at Easter Sunrise. “Fear not” is the word the Lord speaks to us this day.

The Greeks had a saying: “When Cicero spoke we said, ‘How well he speaks.’ But when Demosthenes spoke we said, ‘Let us march.’”²⁰ Friends, the trumpet calls. The risen Christ stands this day and says again to us, let us march! “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”²¹

MAY IT BE SO!

¹⁸ Watson, *IBID*, p. 60

¹⁹ Alan Hirsch, *The Forgotten Ways*, p. 86

²⁰ <https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Demosthenes>

²¹ Acts 1:8

Section III—Structure and Rules of Order

For the South Central Jurisdiction

of the United Methodist Church

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 1. 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 preside over the sessions of The Conference.

Section 3. The President of the Conference shall decide all questions of law that have been presented 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 jurisdiction staff person called the Executive Director of Mission and Administration. **Hereinafter called Executive Director.** This is a half-time position.

A. The duties of the Executive Director 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 meetings of a jurisdictional nature.
 5. Serve as an ex officio Trustee, with vote, Lydia Patterson Institute, 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 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 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.
 8. Perform other administrative duties assigned by the Mission Council.
 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—Letty Ortegon

Class of 2024 (Beginning their eight year tenure.)

Clergy

Arkansas—Kendall Waller
Oklahoma—Wendy Lambert

Lay Men

CTX—Steve McIver
Louisiana—Keith Kreutziger

Lay Women

New Mexico—Donna TeBrink
Texas—Sue Sullivan

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 if needed to serve eight years, but must be nominated each quadrennium by the College.
 - c. The designated Jurisdictional Lay Leader of the Jurisdictional Association of Conference Lay Leaders.
 - d. One adult representative and one youth, named by 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, 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.
 - 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 amendable 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 without 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 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.
 - b. 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 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 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 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 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 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 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.
 - e. Nominate annually to The Council a person to serve as the Executive Director.
 - 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.

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 Executive Director shall inform the Annual Conferences of the appropriate category in the rotation. For the 2020 Conference the designations are as follows:

<u>Lay Women</u>	<u>Lay Men</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
Arkansas	New Mexico	Central Texas
Great Plains	North Texas	Louisiana
NW Texas	OIMC	Missouri
Texas	Rio Texas	Oklahoma

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. Petitions submitted become the property of the Petitions and Resolutions Committee, who may reject, approve, or amend said petitions and submit the same to the body.
4. 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-Coordination 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.

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 upon receipt of an itemized statement, supported by proper vouchers. Such statement shall be 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 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 TWI, 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
- h. Calendar, under the direction of the Committee on Petitions and Resolutions.
- i. Miscellaneous Business.
- j. Recess.
- k. Committee Meetings.

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.

Rule 3. Method of Introducing Business.

- 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 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.

Rule 7. Non-Debatable Motions.

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 a 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. Speeches shall be limited to three (3) for and three (3) against and limited to three (3) 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 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 shall 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 III—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 upon publication.

APPENDIX A

BALLOT RESULTS

BALLOT ONE

Bishops to elect—3—Ballots cast 641—Invalid 23—Valid 618—Needed to elect 125. There was no election. Ruben Saenz Jr., 101, David Wilson, 71, Jimmy Nunn, 70, Eradio Valverde, 67, Lynn Dyke, 62, Morris Matthis, 60, Bob Farr, 43, Janice Gilbert, 31, T. Lynn Malone, Jr., 9, Linda Harker, 8, Mark Norman, 7, Cheryl Jefferson Bell, 5, Emanuel Cleaver III, 5, Ron Henderson, 5, Eduardo Rivera, 5, Chappell Temple, 5, Amy Lippoldt, 4, Clayton Oliphint, 4, Maxine Allen, 3, Cody Collier, 3, Raquel Cajini Feagins, 3, Ouida Lee, 3, Laura Merrill, 3, Matt Miofsky, 3, Jessica Seay, 3, Jeremy Vickers, 3, Thomas Deviney, 2, Junius Dotson, 2, Chris Hayes, 2, Clifton Howard, 2, Laceye Warner, 2, Ron Watts 2, The following received one vote: Edgar Avitia, Andy Bryan, Austin Frederick, Jr, Adam Hamilton, Karen Hayden, Jeff Jaynes, Rick Just, Kenneth Livingston, David Livingston, Robert Lopez, Trista Soendker Nicholson, Tom Pace, Rob Renfroe, Carl Rohlfs, Scott Sharp, Mary Spradlin, Nathan Stanton, Andy Stoker, Kendall Waller, Steve Wende.

BALLOT TWO

Bishops to elect—3—Ballots cast 639—Invalid 15—Valid 624—Needed to elect 126. There was no election. Ruben Saenz, Jr., 120, Jimmy Nunn, 76, David Wilson, 75, Lynn Dyke, 74, Morris Matthis, 67, Eradio Valverde, 66, Bob Farr, Janice Gilbert, 32, T. Lynn Malone, Jr., 9, Linda Harker, 7, Mark Norman, 5, Cheryl Jefferson Bell, 4, Ron Henderson, 4. The following received 3 votes each: Emanuel Cleaver III, Cody Collier, Amy Lippoldt, Ron Watts. The following received 2 votes each Matt Miofsky, Clayton Oliphint, Eduardo Rivera, Chappell Temple, Jeremy Vickers, Kendall Waller. The following received 1 vote each. Stephanie Ahischwede, Maxine Allen, Junius Dotson, Raquel Cajini Feagins, Karen Hayden, Clifton Howard, Jessica LaGrone, Laura Merrill, Wade Paschal, Jr., Rob Renfroe, Nathan Stanton, Jason Velendy.

BALLOT THREE

Bishops to elect—3—Ballots cast 645—Invalid 12—Valid 633—Needed to elect 127. **There is an election. Ruben Saenz, Jr. is elected with 133 votes at 10:49 a.m.** Jimmy Nunn, 85, David Wilson, 80, Lynn Dyke, 77, Morris Matthis, 66, Eradio Valverde, 58, Bob Farr, 56, Janice Gilbert 29, T. Lynn Malone, Jr., 12. Linda Harker 6, Mark Norman, 4. The following received 3 votes: Cody Collier, Amy Lippoldt, Ron Watts. The following received 2 votes: Cheryl Jefferson Bell, Ron Henderson, Matt Idom, Jeremy Vickers. The following received 1 vote: Maxine Allen, Emanuel Cleaver III, Raquel Cajiri Feagins, Karen Hayden, Chris Hayes, Clifton Howard, Jessica LaGrone, Matt Miofsky, Nathan Stanton, Chappell Temple.

BALLOT FOUR

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 430—Valid—430—Needed to elect 129. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 84, David Wilson, 82, Lynn Dyke, 79, Morris Matthis, 55, Bob Farr, 47, Eradio Valverde, 27, T. Lynn Malone, Jr., 6, Linda Harker, 4, Cheryl Jefferson

Bell, 3. The following received 2 votes each: Emanuel Cleaver III, Raquel Cajiri Feagins, Amy Lippoldt, Mark Norman, Ron Watts. The following received one vote each: Maxine Allen, Steve Breon, Cody Collier, Clifton Howard, Rich Jones, Trista Soendker Nicholson, Eduardo Rivera, Chappell Temple, Jeremy Vickers.

BALLOT FIVE

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 431—Invalid 1—Valid 430—Needed to elect 129. There was no election. David Wilson, 93, Jimmy Nunn, 89, Lynn Dyke, 77, Morris Matthis, Bob Farr, 43, Janice Gilbert, 30, Eradio Valverde, 16, T. Lynn Malone, Jr., 5, Clifton Howard, 3, Ron Watts, 3. The following received 2 votes, Cheryl Jefferson Bell, Raquel Cajiri Feagins, Linda Harker, Amy Lippoldt, Chappell Temple. The following received one vote: Steve Breon, Emanuel Cleaver III, Mark Norman, Eduardo Rivera, Kendall Waller.

BALLOT SIX

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 425—Invalid 7—Valid 418—Needed to elect 125. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 91, David Wilson, 89, Lynn Dyke, 73, Morris Matthis, 57, Bob Farr, 41, Janice Gilbert, 27, Eradio Valverde, 16, Clifton Howard 9. The following received 2 votes each: Cheryl Jefferson Bell, Raquel Cajiri Feagins, T. Lynn Malone, Jr., Eduardo Rivera. The following received one vote each: Emanuel Cleaver, III, Cody Collier, Linda Harker, Amy Lippoldt, Chappell Temple, Ron Watts, Brenda Wier.

BALLOT SEVEN

Bishops to elect – 2 – Ballots cast 423 – Invalid 9 – Valid 414 – Needed to elect 124. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 96, David Wilson, 89, Lynn Dyke, 76, Morris Matthis, 58, Bob Farr, 37, Janice Gilbert, 24, Eradio Valverde, 11, Clifton Howard, 9, Ron Henderson, 2, T. Lynn Malone, Jr., 2. The following received one vote each: Cheryl Jefferson Bell, Emanuel Cleaver III, Junius Dotson, Raquel Cajiri Feagins, Laura Merrill, Trista Soendker Nicholson, Eduardo Rivera, Ron Watts, Brenda Wier, Guy Williams.

BALLOT EIGHT

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 430—Invalid—2—Valid 428—Needed to elect 128. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 102, David Wilson, 91, Lynn Dyke, 80, Morris Matthis, 62, Bob Farr, 35, Janice Gilbert, Eradio Valverde, 10, Clifton Howard, 3, Cheryl Jefferson Bell, 2. The following received one vote each: Pat Day, Junius Dotson, Raquel Cajiri Feagins, Linda Harker, Rick Just, Laura Merrill, Scott Sharp, Jeremy Vickers, Laceye Warner, Ron Watts, Keith Whitaker.

BALLOT NINE

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 427—Invalid 7—Valid 420—Needed to elect 126. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn 108, David Wilson, 86, Lynn Dyke, 75, Morris Matthis, 58, Bob Farr, 39, Janice Gilbert, 24, Eradio Valverde, 8, Clifton Howard, 5, Ron Henderson 4. The following received two votes each; Cheryl Jefferson Bell, Raquel Cajiri Feagins, T. Lynn Malone, Jr.. The following received one vote each: Maxine Allen, Junius Dotson, Adam Hamilton, Linda Harker, Rebekah Miles, Scott Sharp, Ron Watts.

BALLOT TEN

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 419—Invalid 13—Valid 406—Needed to elect 122. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 103, David Wilson, 89, Lynn Dyke, 72, Morris Matthis, 63, Bob Farr, 38, Janice Gilbert, 21, Eradio Valverde, 6. Ron Henderson, 5, Clifton Howard, 4. The following received one vote: Cheryl Jefferson Bell, Justin Coleman, Adam Hamilton, Eduardo Rivera, Ron Watts.

BALLOT ELEVEN

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 428—Invalid 2—Valid 426—Needed to elect 128. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 107, David Wilson, 90, Lynn Dyke 78, Morris Matthis, 70, Bob Farr, 33, Janice Gilbert, 21, Ron Henderson, 6, Eradio Valverde, 6, Clifton Howard, 4, Eduardo Rivera, 2. Nine others received one vote.

BALLOT TWELVE

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 423—Invalid 7—Valid 416—Needed to elect 125. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 104, David Wilson, 92, Lynn Dyke, 73, Morris Matthis, 58, Bob Farr, 46, Janice Gilbert, 22, Linda Harker, 3, Eradio Valverde, 3, Ron Henderson, 2, Clifton Howard, 2. Twelve others received one vote.

BALLOT THIRTEEN

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 425—Invalid 5—Valid 420—Needed to elect 126. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 103, David Wilson, 94, Lynn Dyke, 73, Morris Matthis, 52, Bob Farr, 44, Janice Gilbert, 27, Linda Harker, 4, Ron Henderson, 4, Eradio Valverde, 4, Clifton Howard, 2. Fourteen others received one vote.

BALLOT FOURTEEN

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 428—Invalid 4—Valid 424—Needed to elect 127. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 109, David Wilson, 98, Lynn Dyke, 68, Morris Matthis, 52, Bob Farr, 45, Janice Gilbert, 27, Linda Harker, 7, Eradio Valverde, 4, Ron Henderson, 3. Eleven others received one vote.

BALLOT FIFTEEN

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 429—Invalid 3—Valid 426—Needed to elect 128. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 109, David Wilson, 93, Lynn Dyke, 65, Bob Farr, 49, Morris Matthis, 40, Janice Gilbert, 33, Linda Harker, 23,. Nine others received fewer than five votes.

BALLOT SIXTEEN

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 428—Invalid 2,—Valid 426—Needed to elect 128. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 111, David Wilson, 96, Lynn Dyke, 64, Bob Farr, 51, Morris Matthis, 44, Janice Gilbert, 37, Mark Norman, 9, Eradio Valverde, 5. Eight others received fewer than five votes.

BALLOT SEVENTEEN

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 428—Valid 428—Needed to elect 128. Jimmy Nunn, 110, David Wilson, 90, Lynn Dyke, 59, Bob Farr, 55, Morris Matthis, 36, Janice Gilbert,

31, Laura Merrill, 17, Mark Norman, 6, Andy Stoker, 5. Twelve others received fewer than five votes.

BALLOT EIGHTEEN

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 426—Invalid 6—Valid 420—Needed to elect 126. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 109, David Wilson, 80, Laura Merrill, 51, Bob Farr, 46, Lynn Dyke, 45, Morris Matthis, 33, Janice Gilbert 31, Ron Henderson 8. Nine others received fewer than five votes.

BALLOT NINETEEN

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 422—Invalid 8—Valid 416—Needed to elect 125. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 111, David Wilson, 85, Lyn Dyke, 68, Bob Farr, 56, Morris Matthis, 40, Janice Gilbert, 29, Cheryl Jefferson Bell, 6. Twelve others received fewer than five votes.

BALLOT TWENTY

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 412—Invalid 12—Valid 400—Needed to elect 120. There was no election. Jimmy Nunn, 110, David Wilson, 84, Lynn Dyke, 67, Bob Farr, 54, Morris Matthis, 36, Janice Gilbert, 25. Fourteen others received fewer than ten votes.

BALLOT TWENTY ONE

Bishops to elect—2—Ballots cast 425—Invalid 8—Valid 418—Needed to elect 126. **There is an election. Jimmy Nunn with 126 votes is elected at 9:19 a.m.** David Wilson 82, Bob Farr, 75, Lynn Dyke 73, Janice Gilbert, 25, Morris Matthis, 21. Nine others received fewer than ten votes.

BALLOT TWENTY TWO

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 214—Valid 214—Needed to elect 128. There is no election. David Wilson, 78, Bob Farr, 50, Morris Matthis, 45, Lynn Dyke, 36. Four others received fewer than ten votes.

BALLOT TWENTY THREE

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 210—Valid 210—Needed to elect 126. David Wilson, 86, Bob Farr, 63, Morris Matthis 36, Lynn Dyke, 24. One other person received one vote.

BALLOT TWENTY FOUR

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 214—Valid 214—Need to elect 129. There was no election. David Wilson, 104, Bob Farr, 99, Lynn Dyke, 10. One other person received one vote.

BALLOT TWENTY FIVE

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 213—Valid 213—Needed to elect 128. There was no election. Bob Farr, 98, David Wilson, 96, Eradio Valverde, 12. One other person received fewer than ten votes.

BALLOT TWENTY SIX

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 212—Invalid 1—Valid 212—Needed to elect 127.

There was no election. Bob Farr, 104, David Wilson, 88, Eradio Valverde, 18. One other person received one vote.

BALLOT TWENTY SEVEN

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 213—Valid 213—Needed to elect 128. There was no election. Bob Farr, 108, David Wilson, 92, Eradio Valverde, 13.

BALLOT TWENTY EIGHT

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 211—Valid 211—Needed to elect 127. There was no election. Bob Farr, 103, David Wilson, 91, Eradio Valverde, 16. One other person received one vote.

BALLOT TWENTY NINE

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 211—Valid 211—Needed to elect 127. There was no election. Bob Farr, 97, David Wilson, 86, Eradio Valverde, 22. Three others received fewer than ten votes.

BALLOT THIRTY

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 212—Valid 212—Needed to elect 128. There was no election. Bob Farr 100, David Wilson, 80, Eradio Valverde, 19. Four others received fewer than ten votes.

BALLOT THIRTY ONE

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 215—Valid 215—Needed to elect 129. There was no election. Bob Farr, 91, David Wilson, 69, Ron Henderson, 21, Laceye Warner, 12. Seven others received fewer than ten votes.

BALLOT THIRTY TWO

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 215—Valid 215—Needed to elect 129. There is no election. Bob Farr, 91, David Wilson, 69, Ron Henderson, 21, Laceye Warner, 12. Seven others received fewer than ten votes.

BALLOT THIRTY THREE

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 213—Invalid 1—Valid 212—Needed to elect 128. There was no election. Bob Farr, 106, David Wilson, 66, Laceye Warner, 32. Five others received fewer than ten votes.

BALLOT THIRTY FOUR

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 213—Valid 213—Needed to elect 128. There was no election. Bob Farr, 124, David Wilson, 65, Laceye Warner, 24.

BALLOT THIRTY FIVE

Bishops to elect—1—Ballots cast 212—Valid—212—Needed to elect 128. **There is an election. Bob Farr with 138 votes is elected at 5:16 p.m.** David Wilson 72. Two others received one vote.

