JOURNAL

of the

SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

The Fifteenth Session since the Uniting Conference in 1968

of

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

held at

Central United Methodist Church
Rogers, Arkansas

July 9-12, 2024

South Central Jurisdiction
15814 Champion Forest Drive #1968
Spring, Texas 77379

Edited by Edgar L. Erwin, IV

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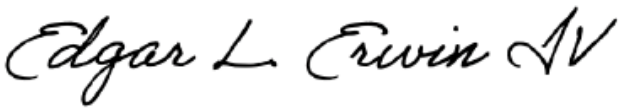
CERTIFICATION

This certifies that the following pages constitute the Official Journal of the Fifteenth Session of the South Central Jurisdiction since union in 1968, was held in Rogers, Arkansas, July 9-12, 2024. It includes the lists of delegates, officers, committees, councils, institutions, representatives of various agencies, nominations, Conference boundaries, election of Bishops, proceedings of the business sessions and other matters ordered printed by the Jurisdictional Conference.

Delores Williamston
College President



Edgar L. Erwin, IV
Conference Secretary

JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE OFFICERS

Presiding Officers
The Active Bishops of the South Central Jurisdiction

Executive Director and Conference Secretary
Eddie Erwin

Treasurer
Rev. Robert Besser
5215 Main Street
Houston, Texas 77002
rbesser@txcumc.org
713-533-3720

Sound/Video
GNTV

Office Staff
David Kelly, Financial Accountant
E. Frances Long, SCJ Archivist
Rev. Kwan Young Kim, Director of Korean Ministries

FORMAL PICTURE OF THE COLLEGE OF BISHOPS

ASSIGNMENT OF ACTIVE BISHOPS 2024-2028

Area	Name	Address	Phone/Email
Arkansas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma Indian Missionary	Laura Merrill	800 Daisy Bates Drive Little Rock, AR 72202 1501 N.W. 24th St. Oklahoma City, OK 73106	501-324-8019 bishop.merrill@arumc.org (405) 530-2025 jnunn@okumc.org
Great Plains	David Wilson	1207 SW Executive Drive Topeka, Ks 66615	785-414-4219 bishop@greatplainsumc.org
Louisiana	Delores Williamston	527 North Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70802	225-346-1646 bishop@la-umc.org
Missouri	Bob Farr	3601 Amron Ct Columbia, MO 65202	573-441-1770 rfarr@moumethodist.org
New Mexico	Carlo Rapanut	11816 Lomas Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87112	505-255-8786 bishopcarlo@nmconfum.com
Central Texas, North Texas, Northwest Texas,	Ruben Saenz, Jr.	9440 E. Boston St. Ste 160 Wichita, KS 67207	316-686-0600 bishop@ctcumc.org
Rio Texas Texas	Cynthia Fierro Harvey	5215 Main Street Houston, TX 77002 16400 Huebner Road San Antonio, TX 78248	713-533-3710 bishoptx@txcumc.org 210-408-4502 bishop@riotexas.org

ACTIVE BISHOPS IN ORDER OF ELECTION

Name	Year Elected	Episcopal Area
Cynthia Fierro Harvey	2012	Rio Texas, Texas
Ruben Saenz, Jr.	2016	Central Texas, North Texas, Northwest Texas
Robert Farr	2016	Missouri
Delores Williamston	2022	Louisiana
Laura Merrill	2022	Arkansas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma Indian Missionary
David Wilson	2022	Great Plains

RETIRED BISHOPS IN ORDER OF ELECTION

Name	Year of Election
Richard B. Wilke	1984
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
Janice Riggle Huie	1996
William Hutchinson	2000
D. Max Whitfield	2000
Robert Schnase	2004
Charles N. Crutchfield	2004
W. Earl Bledsoe	2008
Gary Mueller	2012
James Nunn	2016

RESIGNATIONS

Scott J. Jones, Michael McKee

SURVIVING SPOUSES OF BISHOPS

Mrs. Jewell Moncure (Rhymes)	3527 Maple Hill Rd.	Lithonia, GA 30038
Mrs. Marilyn Oden	3091 Mill Vista Road #1214	Highlands Ranch, CO 8012

DECEASED BISHOPS IN ORDER OF ELECTION

Name	Year of Election
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
Paul V. Galloway	1960
Aubrey G. Walton	1960
Kenneth W. Copeland	1960
W. McFerrin Stowe	1964
Noah W. Moore, Jr.	1960
Paul W. Millhouse	1960
W. McFerrin Stowe	1964
Alsie H. Carlton	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 Lobern	1976
Kenneth W. Hicks	1976
W.T. Handy, Jr.	1980
John Russell	1980
John Wesley Hardt	1980

Benjamin Oliphint	1980
Louis W. Schowengerdt	1980
J. Woodrow Hearn	1984
Walter L. Underwood	1984
William B. Oden	1988
Raymond H. Owen	1992
Rhymes H. Moncure, Jr.	2000
Ben Chamness	2000

BISHOPS ELECTED BY THE SCJ SINCE 1944

Year	Bishop/Conference	Site of Conference	Place in Delegation/ Ballot Elected	Office Held When Elected
1944	W. Angie Smith North Texas	Tulsa, OK	1st 2nd	Pastor, First Dallas, TX
1944	Paul E. Martin North Texas	Tulsa, OK	4th 11th	Pastor, Wichita Falls, TX
1948	Dana Dawson Louisiana	El Paso, TX	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	Paul V. Galloway Oklahoma	San Antonio, TX	5th 3rd	Pastor, Boston Ave., Tulsa, OK
1960	G. Walton Aubrey Little Rick, AR	San Antonio, TX	6th 6th	Pastor, First Little Rock, AR
1960	Kenneth W. Copeland W. Texas	San Antonio, TX	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 Texas	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
1972	Robert E. Goodrich, Jr. North TX	Houston, TX	4th 6th	Pastor, First UMC Dallas, TX
1972	Ernest T. Dixon, Jr. SW Texas	Houston, TX	1st 9th	General Council on Ministries
1972	Don W. Holter Kansas East	Houston, TX	3rd 10th	President, St. Paul School of Theology
1976	Monk Bryan Missouri East	Lincoln, NE	2nd 8th	Pastor, Missouri UMC Columbia, MO

1976	Kenneth Kicks Nebraska	Lincoln, NE	1st 10th	Pastor, Trinity UMC Grand Island, NE
1976	J. Chess Lobern Oklahoma	Lincoln, NE	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	Little Rock, AR	1st 3rd	District Superintendent Houston East, TX
1980	Benjamin Oliphint North Texas	Little Rock, AR	1st 5th	Pastor, First UMC Dallas, TX
1980	Louis W. Schowengerdt Missouri West	Little Rock, AR	6th 6th	Council Director Missouri West
1980	John Russell Oklahoma	Little Rock, AR	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	Lubbock, TX	1st 4th	Pastor, St. Luke's Houston, TX
1984	Richard B. Wilke Kansas West	Lubbock, TX	1st 8th	Pastor, First UMC Wichita, KS
1988	William B. Oden Oklahoma	New Orleans, LA	1st 5th	Pastor, First UMC Enid, OK
1988	Bruce B. Blake Kansas West	New Orleans, LA	1st Special	Southwestern College President Winfield, KS
1988	Dan E. Solomon Southwest Texas	New Orleans, LA	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	Ft. Worth, TX	1st 3rd	Pastor, Marvin UMC Tyler, TX
1992	Ann B. Sherer Texas	Ft. Worth, TX	7th 7th	Pastor, Westbury UMC Houston, TX
1992	Albert Frederick Mutti Missouri	Ft. Worth, TX	1st 9th	District Superintendent Kansas City, MO
1992	Raymond H. Owen Oklahoma	Ft. Worth, TX	1st 9th	Pastor, Emmanuel UMC Dallas, TX
1992	Joel N. Martinez Rio Grande	Ft. Worth, TX	2nd 9th	Pastor, Emmanuel UMC Dallas, TX

1996	Janice Riggle Huie Southwest 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	Albuquerque, NM	1st 2nd	Exec. Dir., NM Conference Methodist Foundation
2000	D. Max Whitfield N. Arkansas	Albuquerque, NM	1st 4th	District Superintendent North Arkansas
2004	Ben Chamness Texas	Corpus Christi, TX	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	Corpus Christi, TX	2nd 7th	Pastor, First UMC McAllen, TX
2004	Scott J. Jones North Texas	Corpus Christi, TX	5th 10th	McCreless Professor Perkins School of Theology
2004	Charles N. Crutchfield New Mexico	Corpus Christi, TX	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 Southwest Texas	Dallas, TX	3rd 11th	Exec Dir, New Church Dev. San Antonio, TX
2008	James Dorff North Texas	Dallas, TX	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	Oklahoma City, OK	3rd 11th	Pastor, First UMC Plano, TX
2012	Michael McKee Central Texas	Oklahoma City, OK	1st 23rd	Pastor, First UMC Hurst, Tx
2016	Ruben Saenz, Jr. Rio Texas	Wichita, KS	1st 3rd	Director Connectional Min. San Antonio
2016	Jimmy Nunn Northwest Texas	Wichita, KS	1st 21st	Congregational Excellence Lubbock, Tx
2016	Robert Farr Missouri	Wichita, KS	5th 35th	Congregational Excellence Lake Sherwood, MO
2022	Delores J. Williamston Great Plains	Houston, TX	4th 1st	Assistant to the Bishop/ Director of Clergy Excellence Topeka, KS

2022	Laura Merrill Rio Texas	Houston, TX	1st 1st	District Superintendent Capitol District Austin, TX
2022	David Wilson Oklahoma Indian Missionary	Houston, TX	1st 1st	Assistant to the Bishop Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

THE EPISCOPACY

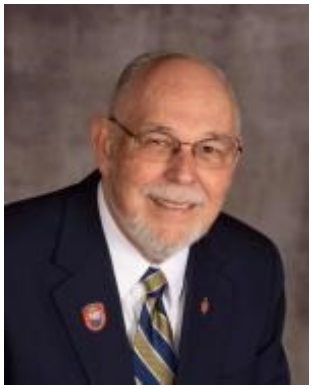
Bishop Bruce Blake
(Retired)

Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe
(Retired)

Bishop Charles Crutchfield
(Retired)

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie
(Retired)

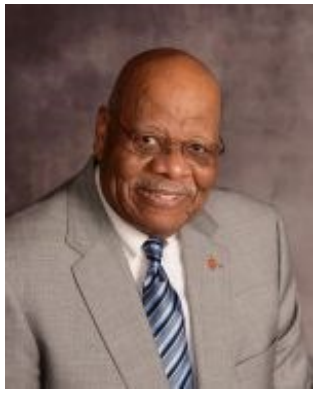
Bishop William Hutchinson
(Retired)



Bishop Joel N. Martinez
(Retired)

Bishop Laura Merrill

Bishop Albert Frederick Mutti
(Retired)

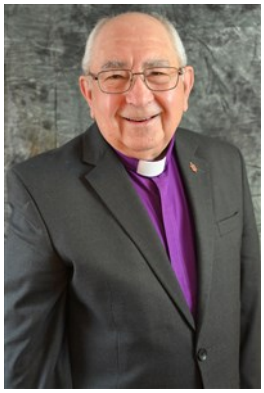


Bishop Alfred L. Norris, Sr.
(Retired)

Bishop Robert Schnase

Bishop Ann B. Sherer-Simpson
(Retired)

Bishop Dan E. Solomon
(Retired)



Bishop D. Max Whitfield
(Retired)

Bishop Richard B. Wilke
(Retired)

Bishop Joe Wilson (Retired)

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey

Bishop Gary Mueller (Retired)

Bishop Robert Farr

Bishop Jimmy Nunn

Bishop Ruben Saenz

Bishop Delores J. Williamston

Bishop David Wilson

In Memorium
Bishop & Spouses' Deaths

Bishop John Russell

Bishop John William Russell passed away Friday Sept. 2, 2022, at the Reunion Court of the Woodlands, Texas. He was 96. Bishop Russell served as the Central Texas Conference's inaugural episcopal leader when the South Central Jurisdiction split the Dallas/Ft. Worth Episcopal area and formed the Central Texas Conference in 1988 – an assignment from which he retired in 1992 – after serving as bishop of combined Dallas/Ft. Worth episcopal area from 1980-88.

Bishop Russell was born June 19, 1926, in Abilene, Texas, to Rev. Virgel Russell, a Methodist minister, and his wife Louise Hayden Russell. The family eventually moved to Oklahoma, and while attending high school in Anadarko, Oklahoma, John met Mary Jean Garrett. Following his high school graduation in 1944 and a tour in the Army serving in Japan in WWII, John and Mary Jean wed on Dec. 26, 1947. It was the beginning of a life of dedication and service to God and the Methodist Church that would span a period of more than forty years.

Bishop John Russell graduated from Oklahoma City University in 1949 with a BA Degree and in 1952 from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, with a Bachelor of Divinity Degree, whereupon he was ordained an Elder in the Methodist Church. He subsequently received a Doctor of Divinity from Oklahoma City University and a Doctor of Humanities from Texas Wesleyan University.

Zoe Wilson

Zoe Anna Wilson was born October 19, 1935, in Ft. Worth, Texas. Her earthly life ended on May 8, 2023, at 87.

Zoe lived in Marshall, Texas, from a young child through her high school graduation. She then attended Southwestern University, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Education, specializing in early childhood years. After graduation, she taught one year at the only elementary school in Georgetown, Annie Purl Elementary. At the end of that year, she married her husband, Joe, and traveled to Dallas, Texas, for his three-year Theological Education at Perkins School of Theology at SMU.

Zoe served as the spouse of her United Methodist Minister for 38 years, 30 years in United Methodist Churches, and eight years as the spouse of a United Methodist Bishop. She was not, however, defined by these roles. Zoe Wilson had her own unique ministry in every setting. She was not only a charming and gifted hostess, she brought a loving, caring involvement in, ecumenical ministries, local and global. She initiated a drive that resulted in 4,000 tennis shoes for children in United Methodist ministry's global outreach. She was honored by a scholarship that helped care for children before and after school by the United Ministries of Ft. Worth because of her tremendous community support for empowering people and building community. Her advocacy for kids is legendary. She loved being around children and affirming them. Her loving Bishop husband also described her "Carrie Nation" spirit when she confronted a drive-in grocery chain for displaying questionable magazines in a prominent place where all children could see them. She was successful in helping them "see the light".

Etta Mae Mutti

Etta Mae (McClurg) Mutti was born on July 16, 1938, the daughter of Ivan and Ruth (King) McClurg. She was the third of six children. She graduated from Hopkins High School with the Class of 1956. After high school, Etta worked for her uncle, and she then attended Northwest Missouri State.

Etta married Fritz Mutti in 1959; this union was blessed with three sons, Timothy Allen, John Frederick and Martin Kent. She was a woman of many abilities and passions; she babysat for two children, typed for doctoral students, was a den mother for all three of her sons. Etta enjoyed board games with her family, "Picture Lady" and Player tennis. Etta served as the Church Secretary, even served for Fritz. She was a Youth director and volunteer coordinator; and Cook of the Week. She enjoyed preparing the weekly church dinner, was a Lab school teacher, Co-chair of the UM Global AIDS Fund. Etta was an Advocate for LGBTQ persons and also served as a PEO member, a board member of the AIDS National Interfaith Network, and a library volunteer. She created an AIDS Quilt block for Tim and Fred and worked to eradicate HIV/AIDS.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF 2024 DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Head of Delegation = Bold *Clergy = Italics*

A -

Melba Augustine Texas General
Stephanie Ahlschwede Great Plains Jurisdiction
Darlene Alfred Central Texas General
Janet Allen Texas General
Ellen Alston Louisiana*
James Amerson *Rio Texas General*
Larry Anderson Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Zach Anderson Great Plains Jurisdiction
Sarah Argue Arkansas General
Scott Atnip Texas General

B -

Lynn Baker Arkansas
Ashley Prescott Barlow - Thompson Great Plains Jurisdiction
Brandon Bates Arkansas Jurisdiction
Edgar Bazan North Texas*
*Cheryl Bell Great Plains Genera*l
Derrek Belase Oklahoma General
Nate Berneking Missouri Jurisdiction
Randy Biggerstaff Missouri Jurisdiction
Margie Biggs Missouri Jurisdiction
Courtney Blacksten Oklahoma General
Kyle Boehr Missouri Jurisdiction
Eduardo Bousson Great Plains Jurisdiction
Scott Brewer Great Plain General
Jay Brim Rio Texas General
Nettles Brown Lousiana General
Susan Brumbaugh New Mexico General
Tim Bruster Central Texas General
Todd Burris Arkansas General
Andy Bryan Missouri General
Grace Butler Texas Jurisdiction

C -

Kylie Campbell Central TexasJurisdictional
John Cannon Louisiana Jurisdiction
Kelly Carpenter North Texas General
Rochelle Cebrun Texas Jurisdiction
Kalaba Chali Great Plains General
Emily Chapman Texas Jurisdiction
Iris Chavez Rio Texas Jurisdiction
Emanuel Cleaver Missouri General
Justin Coleman Texas Jurisdiction
Liz Collins Great Plains Jurisdiction
Eleanor ColvinTexas Jurisdiction
Jim Conner Central Texas Jurisdictional
Sally Conner North Texas Jurisdiction
John Copeland Missouri General
Stan Copeland North Texas General
Kurt Cooper Great Plains Jurisdiction
Susie Cox Louisiana Jurisdiction
Edlen Cowley North Texas Jurisdiction
Tim Crouch North Texas Jurisdiction
Colette Cummings Missouri General
KC Curry Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Andrew Crawford Great Plains Jurisdiction
Debra Crumpton Central Texas General

D -

Josephine Deere Oklahoma Indian Jurisdiction
Lauren DeLano Grosskopf Arkansas
Steve DeWilde Missouri General
Maria Dixion North Texas General
Elizabeth Duffin Texas General

E -

Dan Entwistle Great Plains General
Sid Earnheart Texas Jurisdiction
Jan Ervin Texas General
Eddie Erwin Texas General
Kate Erwin Texas Jurisdiction
Paul Escamilla Rio Texas Jurisdiction
John Esquivel Texas General

Pam Estes Arkansas Jurisdictional
Hammett Evans Arkansas Jurisdictional
Beth Evers Central Texas Jurisdictional
Patsy Eyachabbe* Oklahoma Indian
Kathy Ezell Central Texas General

F -

Raquel Feagins Rio Texas
Warren Fisher Texas Jurisdiction
Amy Forbus Arkansas Jurisdictional
MIke Ford Central Texas General
Chantelle Foster Oklahoma General
Mark Foster Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Taylor Fuerst Rio Texas General
Kent Fulton *Oklahoma* General

G -

Beatrice Garza Texas Jurisdiction
Cammy Gaston North Texas General
Linda Gastreich Missouri Jurisdiction
Anne Kiome Gatobu Great Plains General
Jon Gray Missouri Jurisdiction
*Jana Green** Arkansas
Oliver Green Great Plains General
Rachel Griffin North Texas Jurisdiction
Abby Gutierrez* Rio Texas
Charla Gwartney Oklahoma General

H -

Wayne Haglund Texas General
Michelle Hall Texas Jurisdiction
Adam Hamilton Great Plains General
Nancy Hamilton Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Kristen Harlin Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Joseph Harris Oklahoma General
Vincent Harris Texas General
Ricky Harrison North Texas Jurisdiction
Rebekah Hasty Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Deborah Hawboldt Texas Jurisdiction
Daniel Hawkins Central Texas*
Stacie Hawkins Texas General
Esther Hay Great Plains Jurisdictional
Sally Haynes Missouri General
Monica Hiller Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Sharri Hiller Oklahoma General
Randall Hodgkinson Great Plains General
Aiden Hoffmann Texas Jurisdiction
Mark Holland Great Plains General
Marissa Horbath Louisiana Jurisdiction
Brandi Horton Texas Jurisdiction
Don House Texas General
Laura Hudec* North Texas
Harold Hughes* Arkansas

I -

Daniel Irving Texas Jurisdiction

J -

Ivan James Missouri General
Kim Jenne Missouri General
Collin Johansson North Texas Jurisdiction
Abby Johnson Central Texas Jurisdictional
DeAndre Johnson Texas General
Cindy Johnson Rio Texas Jurisdiction
Margaret Johnson Oklahoma Indian Jurisdiction
Ben Jones* Great Plains
Evie Jones Arkansas Jurisdictional
*Marilyn Jones** Central Texas
Monique Jones Missouri Jurisdiction
Shayla Jordan Great Plains Jurisdiction
Todd Jordan Texas General

K -

Joel Kidwell Missouri Jurisdiction
Lynn Kilbourne Arkansas General
Don Kim *Oklahoma General*
Lindsay Kirkpatrick Texas Jurisdiction
Roy Koech Great Plains Jurisdiction
Choongho Kwon Missouri Jurisdiction

L -

Jesi Lipp Great Plains General
Amy Lippoldt Great Plains General
David Livingston Great Plains General
Jennifer Long Oklahoma Jurisdiction

M -

Tish Malloy Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Romonica Malone-Wardley Texas General

Karon Mann Arkansas General
Anne Marshall Oklahoma Indian General
Lisa Maupin Great Plains General
Kercida McClain Rio Texas Jurisdiction
Jeff McDonald Texas General
Chuck McGarity Rio Texas General
Eli McHenry *Oklahoma Indian General*
Katie McKay SimpsonLousiana General
Russell Miller Rio Texas*
Matt Miofsky Missouri General
Jessica Moffatt Oklahoma General
Deborah Moffett Texas Jurisdiction
Jenna Morrison North Texas*
Michael Mumme Rio Texas*
Natasha Murray Arkansas Jurisdictional

N -

Amy Neathery Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Mark Norman Arkansas General
Regina Norwood Arkansas General

O -

Clayton Oliphint North Texas General
Jim Oliver Great Plains Jurisdiction

P -

Tom Pace *Texas General*
Liliana Padilla Rio Texas
Linda Parks North Texas Jurisdiction
Priscilla Patterson Rio Texas
Abigail Parker Rio Texas Jurisdiction
Katie Pearce Arkansas Jurisdiction
Lisa Peterson Northwest Texas Jurisdiction
Adam Philley Louisiana Jurisdiction
Pam Phinney Central Texas Jurisdiction
Karli Pidgeon Lousiana General
Kayla Powers *Oklahoma General*
Sam Powers Oklahoma General
Wilson Pruitt Rio Texas
Katie Pryor North Texas Jurisdiction
Char Pyle Great Plains Jurisdiction

R -

Carlos Ramirez-Romero Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Matt Rawle Lousiana Jurisdiction
Philip Rhodes Central Texas Jurisdictional
Eduardo Rivera New Mexico Jurisdiction
Michael Roberts Arkansas General
Pam Rowly New Mexico General

S -

Dan Salzwedel New Mexico Jurisdiction
Todd Salzwedel Northwest Texas Jurisdiction
Adam Shahan Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Hannah Shanks Missouri Jurisdiction
Corey Shirey Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Kim Simpson Central Texas General
John Smith Lousiana Jurisdiction
Ramon Smith Central Texas Jurisdictional
Trista Soendker Nicholson Missouri General
Mary Spardlin Central Texas General
Rob Spencer North Texas Jurisdiction
John Stephens Texas General
Stacy Stepler Texas Jurisdiction
Craig Stevenson Missouri Jurisdiction
Pat Stewart* Rio Texas
*Andy Stoker** North Texas
Joshua Stueve Northwest Texas General
Randy Stutes Northwest Texas General
Jennifer Swann Lousiana General

T -

Amy Thompson Missouri General
Ralph Thompson Rio Texas General

V -

Jason Valendy Central Texas General
Jessica Vittorio North Texas General

W -

Jessie Waddell Teegarden Arkansas General
Kevin Walters Central Texas Jurisdictional
Fuxia Wang Oklahoma Jurisdiction
Margaret Washington Lousiana General
Keith Whitaker Texas Jurisdiction
Brady Whitton Louisiana General
Tracey Wolff Missouri Jurisdiction

Kenneth Wolverton North Texas General
Rachel Wright Rio Texas General
Jill Wondel Missouri General

2024 South Central Delegates By Conference

Head of Delegation = Bold *Clergy = Italic*

Arkansas

Mark Norman
Karon Mann
Michael Roberts
Todd Burris
Lynn Kilbourne
Regina Norwood
Jessie Waddell Teegarden
Sarah Argue
Natasha Murray
Brandon Bates
Hammett Evans
Amy Forbus
Katie Pearce
Pam Estes
Evie Jones
Lauren DeLano
Grosskopf*
Lynn Baker*
*Jana Green**
Harold Hughes*

Central Texas

Tim Bruster
Kim Simpson
Debra Crumpton
Darlene Alfred
Mary Spardlin
MIke Ford
Jason Valendy
Kathy Ezell
Philip Rhodes
Kylie Campbell
Ramon Smith
Abby Johnson
Beth Evers
Pam Phinney
Jim Conner
Kevin Walters
*Marilyn Jones**
*Daniel Hawkins**

Great Plains

Adam Hamilton
Oliver Green
Amy Lippoldt
Lisa Maupin
Kalaba Chali
Scott Brewer
David Livingston
Randall Hodgkinson
Cheryl Bell
Dan Entwistle
Anne Kiome Gatobu
Jesi Lipp
Mark Holland
Shayla Jordan
Eduardo Bousson
Esther Hay
Ashley Barlow
Roy Koech
Stephanie Ahlschwede
Liz Collins
Zach Anderson
Char Pyle
Andrew Crawford
Jim Oliver
Kurt Cooper
Ben Jones*

Louisiana

Brady Whitton
Jennifer Swann
Karli Pidgeon
Nettles Brown
Katie McKay Simpson
Margaret Washington
John Cannon
Adam Philley
Matt Rawle
John Smith
Marissa Horbath
Susie Cox
*Ellen Alston**

Missouri

Andy Bryan
Amy Thompson
Emanuel Cleaver
Ivan James
Kim Jenne
Jill Wondel
Matt Miofsky
Colette Cummings
Sally Haynes
John Copeland
Trista Soendker Nicholson
Steve DeWilde
Nate Berneking
Randy Biggerstaff
Choongho Kwon
Jon Gray
Joel Kidwell
Margie Biggs
Linda Gastreich
Hannah Shanks
Craig Stevenson
Kyle Boehr
Tracey Wolff
Monique Jones

Nex Mexico

Pam Rowley

Susan Brumbaugh
Eduardo Rivera
Dan Salzwedel

North Texas

Clayton Oliphint
Kelly Carpenter
Stan Copeland
Kenneth Wolverton
Cammy Gaston
Jessica Vittorio
Maria Dixion
Tim Crouch
Rachel Griffin
Katie Pryor
Ricky Harrison
Collin Johansson
Rob Spencer
Linda Parks
Edlen Cowley
Sally Conner
*Edgar Bazan**
Laura Hudec*
*Jenna Morrison**
*Andy Stoker**

Northwest Texas

Joshua Stueve
Randy Stutes
Todd Salzwedel
Lisa Peterson

Oklahoma

Joseph Harris
Don Kim
Derrek Belase
Kent Fulton
Sam Powers
Kayla Powers
Jessica Moffatt
Courtney Blacksten
Charla Gwartney
Sharri Hiller
Fuxia Wang
Chantelle Foster
Carlos Ramirez-Romero
Kristen Harlin
Tish Malloy
Rebekah Hasty
Jennifer Long
Corey Shirey
Adam Shahan
Monica Hiller
Nancy Hamilton
Larry Anderson
Mark Foster
KC Curry
Amy Neathery

Oklahoma Indian

Eli McHenry
Anne Marshall
Margaret Johnson
Josephine Deere
Patsy Eyachabbe*

Rio Texas

James Amerson
Jay Brim
Raquel Feagins
Rachel Wright
Taylor Fuerst
Chuck McGarity
Paul Escamilla
Ralph Thompson
Abigail Parker
Cindy Johnson
Wilson Pruitt
Kercida McClain
Russell Miller
Iris Chavez
Liliana Padilla
Priscilla Patterson
*Michael Mumme**
Pat Stewart*
Abby Butierrez*

Texas

Tom Pace
Don House
Romonica Malone-Wardley
Stacie Hawkins
Vincent Harris
Melba Augustine
Jeff McDonald
Eddie Erwin
Todd Jordan
John Esquivel
Elizabeth Duffin
Scott Atnip
DeAndre Johnson
Wayne Haglund
John Stephens
Jan Ervin
Keith Whitaker
Janet Allen
Eleanor Colvin
Grace Butler
Justin Coleman
Beatrice Garza
Deborah Hawboldt
Rochelle Cebrun
Pat Sparks
Warren Fisher
Emily Chapman
Deborah Moffett
Michelle Hall
Sid Earnheart
Lindsay Kirkpatrick
Kate Erwin
Daniel Irving
Stacy Stepler
Brandi Horton
Aiden Hoffmann

MISSION COUNCIL MEMBERS 2020-2024

Class of 2020

Clergy	Lay Men	Lay Women
Ouida Lee – NT	TBN– AR	Sue Burgess – OIMC
Ashley Prescott Barlow-Thompson– GP	TBN– NWTX	Letty Ortegon – Rio Texas

Class of 2024

Clergy	Lay Men	Lay Women
Terri Swan – MO	– CTX	– NM
Derrek Belase – OK	– LA	– Texas

At Large

Karli Pidgeon – LA; Romonica Malone-Wardley –TX
(The College of Bishops may choose up to four at-large for balance)

By Office

Bishop Robert Farr; Bishop Delores Williamson; Francis Long – Archives; – Rev. Robert Besser - Treasurer; Rev. Kwan Young Kim – Korean Caucus; Scott Burdin– VIM

Staff

Eddie Erwin – Executive Director; – VIM/DR; – Korean Ministries

COMMITTEES OF THE JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE ON JOURNAL

COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION

Clergy in Full Connection

Steve Jones, Missouri

Donnie Wilkinson, Louisiana

Natasha Murry, Arkansas

Sarah Marsh, Great Plains

Robert Lopez, Rio Texas

Reagan Seaton, Texas

Felicia Hopkins, NWTX

Clergy Alternates/Full Connection

Cody Collier, Missouri

Van Stinson, Louisiana

Elijah Stansell, Texas

Tish Malloy, Oklahoma

Ron Henderson, North Texas

Lay Observers

Margaret Washington, Louisiana

Jay Vaugh, Missouri

Lay Observer Alternate

Kathleen Pryor, North Texas

COMMITTEE ON APPEALS

Clergy

Elizabeth Duffin, Texas

Karli Pidgeon, Louisiana

Tony Griffin, Arkansas

Lay

Larry Fagan

Ralph Thompson

Barbara Perry

Laura Brewster, Rio Texas

Clergy Alternates

Pam Rowley, New Mexico

Lance Richards, Texas

Tracy Wolf

Local Pastor

Jo Anne Cooper

Lay Alternates

Regina Norwood, Arkansas

Ann Arnett, Texas

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Arkansas	Todd Burris, Lay
Oklahoma	Derrek Belase, Clergy
New Mexico	Karrie, Lay

COMMITTEE ON COURTESIES

Louisiana	Marissa Teasseau Horvath
Arkansas	Jessie Teegarden
North Texas	Ricky Henderson

PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Conference	Laity	Clergy
Arkansas	Sarah Argue	Natasha Murray
Central Texas	Darlene Alfred	Jason Valendy
Great Plains	Jesi Lipp	Kalaba Chali
Louisiana	Leah Brown	Matthew Rawle
Missouri	Jon Copeland	Choogho Kwan
New Mexico	Dan Salzwedel	Pam Rowley
North Texas	Jessica Vittorio	Cammy Gaston
Northwest Texas	Randy Stutes	
Oklahoma		Kent Fulton
OIMC	Josephine Deerw	Margaret Johnson
Rio Texas	Iris Chavez	Wilson Pruitt
Texas	Melba Wilson	Jeff McDonald

EPISCOPACY COMMITTEE

Area	Lay	Clergy
Arkansas	Karon Mann	Mark Norman
Central Texas	Kim Simpson	Tim Bruster
Great Plains	Lisa Maupin	Amy Lippoldt
Louisiana	Jennifer Swann	Brady Whitton
Missouri	Amy Thompson	Andy Bryan
New Mexico	Susan Brumbaugh	Pam Rowley
North Texas	Kelly Carpenter	Clayton Oliphint
Northwest Texas	Randy Stutes	Josh Stueve
Oklahoma	Don Kim	Joe Harris
OIMC	Anne Marshall	Eli McHenry
Rio Texas	Rachel Wright	James Amerson
Texas	Don House	Tom Pace

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES

Area	Laity	Clergy
Arkansas	Brandon Bates	Katie Pearce
Central Texas	Abby Johnsons	Daniel Hawkins
Great Plains	Scott Brewer	Andrew Conard
Louisiana	Adam Philley	Katie McKay Simpson
Missouri	Jill Wondel	Kim Jenne
New Mexico	Susan Brumbaugh	
North Texas	Linda Parks	Stan Copeland
Northwest Texas	Randy Stutes	Todd Salzwedel
Oklahoma	Courtney Blacksten	Charla Gwartney
OIMC	Patsy Eyachabbe	Eli McHenry
Rio Texas	Kercida McClain	Wilson Pruitt
Texas	Stacie Hawkins	Vincent Harris

NOMINATIONS

Sally Vonner	Charles McGarity	Romonica Malone-Wardley
Susan Brumbaugh	Todd Burris	Trista Soendker Nicholson
Sharri Hiller	Mike Ford	Ellen Alston
Ester Hay		Margaret Johnson

AGENDA OF THE 2024 CONFERENCE

Tuesday

8:00 Prayer Room open
Registration open

9:00 Episcopacy meets
Nominations meets - convened by Bishop Harvey

9:30 College of Bishops meets

12:00 Lunch on your own

3:00 Partners begin setting up in the Atrium

4:00 Secretarial Training - provided by Bishop Williamston
Heads of Delegations Meeting

6:00 Family Dinner for the College of Bishops

Wednesday

8:00 Prayer Room open
Registration open

9:00 Structure & Rules meets
Episcopacy meets
Nominations meets

9:30 College of Bishops

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Committee meetings
- Tellers & Pages
- Courtesies & Privileges - convened by Bishop Nunn & Eddie Erwin
- Committee on the Journal - Bishop Mueller & Eddie Erwin
- Petitions & Resolutions - convened by Bishop Williamston & Eddie Erwin
- Boundaries - convened by Bishops Harvey and Farr
- Structure & Rules
- Episcopacy
- Nominations
- College of Bishops

1:30 Rehearsal for opening and closing worship

2:00 Press Briefing - Bishop Merrill & conference communicators

2:30 Photos of Bishops

2:45 Break

3:00 Opening worship - Memorial and Communion

4:00 Break / COE meet with the College

4:30 Business Session 1 - Bishop Schnase, presiding

Organizing motions by the Secretary - Eddie Erwin

Land Acknowledgement by
- Anne Marshall, delegate from the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and
- Rev. Dan Read, chair of the Arkansas Conference Commission on Native American Ministries

Welcome and Introductions
- Ms. Carole Baker - Chair of the Jurisdictional Conference Planning Team and member of Central UMC Rogers
- Greetings - Mr. Greg Hines, Mayor of the City of Rogers
- Monitoring Introduction - Ms. Becky Posey Williams, Senior Director of Sexual Ethics and Advocacy for the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Structure and Rules Report #1 - Rev. Karli Pridgeon, Chair from Louisiana Conference

Committee on Episcopacy Report #1 - Rev. Amy Lippoldt, Chair
Committee on Boundaries - Dr. Susan Brumbaugh, Chair
Finance Report #1 - Rev. Robert Besser, Jurisdictional Treasurer
Mission Council Report - Eddie Erwin, Secretary
- *SMU Update* - Bishop Farr (3 minutes)
- *Korean Ministries* - Rev. Kwan Young Kim, Korean Ministries Director
- *UWF* - Ellen Lipsey, President of the United Women of Faith
- *UMM* - Chuck McGarity, Presiden of United Methodist Men
- *VIM/DR* - Scott Burdin, Interim Coordinator of the South Central Jurisdiction Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Recovery Coordinator
- *Global Ministries - David McCormick, Mission Advocate for South Central Jurisdiction*

Institutional Reports *(20 minutes)*
- St. Paul - Tiana Gatewood, Director of Events & Public Relations for Saint Paul School of Theology (10 minutes)

- Perkins - Andy Keck, Chief of Staff and the Assistant Dean of Communications and Marketing, ad interim for Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University (10 minutes)

6:00 Dinner
Press briefing in Chapel

Hymn Sing

Thursday

8:00 Prayer Room open
Registration open through noon

9:00 Morning Worship

Business Session #2 - Bishop Nunn presiding
Journal Report #1 - Chair

Courtesies and Privileges - Chair
Sexual Misconduct Apology - Bishop Williamston

Laity Address - Lisa Maupin, Amy Thompson, Jennifer Swan, Darlene Alfred,
Episcopal Address - Bishop Harvey

10:30 Break

10:50 Business Session #2, continued, Bishop Saenz presiding

Retirement Celebration - Celebrating Bishop Nunn & Bishop Schnase

LPI Report and Invitation to engagemen Dr. Cardoza, President of Lydia Patterson Institute, Eddie Erwin, Rev. Stephanie Alschwede

12:00 Lunch

2:00 Learning Session - LED Talks

2:00-2:05	Intro and explanation of session - Bishop Merrill
2:05-2:13	Carlos Ramirez
2:13-2:16	Break
2:16-2:24	Matt Miofsky
2:24-2:27	Break
2:27-2:35	Elizabeth McCormick
2:35-2:38	Break
2:38-2:46	Matt Rawle

2:46-2:49 Break
2:49-2:57 Lupina Villalpando-Stewart
2:57-3:00 Break
3:00-3:08 Todd Seelau

3:25-3:33 Ronnie Miller-Yow
3:33-3:36 Break
3:36-3:44 Sarah Marsh
3:44-3:47 Break
3:47-3:55 Margaret Johnson
3:55-3:58 Break
3:58-4:06 Ramon Smith
4:06-4:09 Break

4:30 Boost Break - Coffee and Chocolate

4:45 Conversation and Networking (Sanctuary)

- Name at least 3 new ideas that are sticking with you from these talks?
- Can you imagine a connection between one of the new ideas and your ministry setting?
- Do you see any potential obstacles in your setting to any of these ideas?
- What's one actionable step you can take from today?

5:30 Tentative ending time

6:00 Dinner on your own

Area Night Activities

Friday

Episcopal Area Breakfasts as desired

8:00 Prayer Room open

9:00 Morning Worship

Business Session 3 - Bishop Harvey presiding

Finance Report #2 - Rev. Terri Swan, Finance Team Chiar
Nominations report - Chair Sharri Hiller
Ballot

Committee on Episcopacy Report #2 - Rev. Amy Lippoldt, Chair

Announcing assignments
Ballot

Announce Dates and Location for Next SCJ Conference

11:00 Break

11:10 Closing Worship and Communion - Bishop Nunn preaching; Bishop Williamston Presiding

12:00 Adjournment

DAILY PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES

15th Session of South Central Jurisdictional Conference, Wednesday July 10 2024, 4 pm
Bishop Robert Schnase, presiding

Bishop Robert Schnase opened the session with a reading of Romans 12.

Bishop Robert Schnase, Rio Texas and New Mexico Conferences, called the session to order at 4:33pm. He thanked the Arkansas Conference staff and staff at Central UMC-Rogers for their hospitality.

Eddie Erwin, Secretary of South Central Jurisdictional, presented organizing motions for the conduct of business meetings.

1. The sanctuary of Central UMC Rogers with the middle two sections of seating and the platform to be the bar of the Conference
2. The Chair of each Annual Conference Delegation verify attendance of delegate of their Conference and send substitutions in writing to the Secretary of the conference
3. The agenda and changes be the official agenda of the conference and that the presiding Bishop be authorized to make necessary changes to complete the business of the conference
4. The committees of the conference, including the tellers, be duly elected as listed in the Sched app with such changes in membership as reported to the convening Bishop or committee Chair
5. Eddie Erwin, as Secretary, and the assistant secretaries Melanie Churchill, Cathy Blackwood, and Samantha Menley
6. VPoll voting system be utilized for electronic taking, counting, and reporting of votes to the Secretary and presiding officer
7. GNTV of Macon GA be utilized for video and sound services for this conference
8. Reports to be presented and individuals and groups so named in the Sched app
9. All reports duly included in the Sched app go into the record at the conclusion of the conference

All organizing motions were approved by vote of hand.

Bishop Laura Merrill, Arkansas Annual Conference and Secretary of the College of Bishops, introduced present Bishops at the conference. **Bishop Merrill** reported four retired Bishops in attendance: **Bishop Charles Crutchfield, Bishop Mike McKee, Bishop Janice Huie, and Bishop Gary Mueller. Bishop**

Merrill also introduced the eight active Bishops in attendance: **Bishop Bob Farr**, **Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey**, **Bishop Laura Merrill**, **Bishop Jimmy Nunn**, **Bishop Ruben Saenz**, **Bishop Robert Schnase**, **Bishop Delores Williamston**, and **Bishop David Wilson.** The total number of present Bishops retired and active is twelve.

Eddie Erwin then conducted a roll call of Annual Conferences and the delegates stood as their Conference was called.
Arkansas
Central Texas
Great Plains
Louisiana
Missouri
New Mexico
North Texas
Northwest Texas
Oklahoma
Oklahoma Indian Missionary
Rio Texas
Texas

Bishop Robert Schnase then invited **Anne Marshall**, delegate from the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and **Rev. Dan Read**, chair of the Arkansas Conference Commission on Native American Ministries to lead the conference in an acknowledgement of the land that once belonged to Native American peoples that Rogers, Arkansas sits on. They honored the Quapaw, Osage, Caddo, and Tunica Nations that once lived in modern-day Northwest Arkansas. They reminded the conference of the many routes of the Trail of Tears that traveled through Arkansas and other South Central Jurisdictional states. They challenged the conference to recognize that land acknowledgement is just the beginning of ways to continue to empower Native American people in local communities. They encouraged delegates to participate in Native American Sunday, partner with the Oklahoma Missionary Conference to host Native American engagement trips, and to remember September 30th as a National Day of Remembrance for the Native American Boarding School Children. **Rev. Dan Read** closed with a blessing using an eagle feather and the symbolism of carrying prayers to the Creator on their eagle's wings.

Bishop Robert Schnase invited **Ms. Carole Baker**, Chair of the Jurisdictional Conference Planning Team and member of Central UMC Rogers, to welcome the delegates to Rogers and Northwest Arkansas. She encouraged everyone to attend a Hymn Sing at 7:30 hosted by Cooper Chapel in Bella Vista. She provided logistical instructions for those attending due to limited parking. She also expressed the hope that attendees would make time to visit Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville. She also gave instructions to find the first aid station and how to have food delivered directly to the church if necessary. Finally, she introduced **Mr. Greg Hines**, Mayor of the City of Rogers to welcome attendees to the city.

Bishop Robert Schnase then invited **Ms. Becky Posey Williams**, Senior Director of Sexual Ethics and Advocacy for the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women to give an introductory monitoring report to the delegates. She also introduced **Mr. Clifton Howard,** monitor on behalf of the General Commission on Religion and Race. Together, they have monitored the Nominations Committee meetings. She reminded delegates that COSROW monitors gender inclusion, while GCORR monitors

racial inclusion She encouraged delegates to introduce themselves using their name, annual conference, lay or clergy status, gender, and racial identity to aid in this work. She introduced the guiding principles of the Interagency Sexual and Ethics Taskforce and encouraged delegates to respect each other's personal space, language and spirituality. She finished by empowering delegates to self monitor and report inappropriate behavior to the monitors.

Bishop Robert Schnase welcomed **Rev. Karli Pridgeon**, Chair of the Structure and Rules Team, Louisiana Conference to give recommendations on behalf of the team. She acknowledged that rules used by past South Central Jurisdictional Conferences have not been addressed since 1992, some of which are out of compliance with the Book of Discipline. The Mission Council recommended that the rules in place be used for this Jurisdictional Conference when applicable and that the newly elected Mission Council form a team to review the current rules and propose changes for the next Jurisdictional Conference to be held in 2028. **Rev. Pridgeon** moved that the current rules be used for this Jurisdictional Conference, in the most appropriate way possible, and then a team be created by the Mission Council to review the rules and make recommended changes to the 2028 Jurisdictional Conference.
The motion passed by a vote of hands.

Rev. Amy Lippoldt, Chair of the Committee on Episcopacy was then invited to give her initial report. She started by explaining how Episcopacy decisions are made at General Conference and the challenge facing the United States to reduce the number of total Bishops from 39 to 32. General Conference also decided that the South Central Jurisdiction would move from 7 to 6 Bishops. After continued work by the South Central Episcopacy Committee and other committees around the country to evaluate the feasibility of a transfer of Bishops to other Jurisdictions, it was determined that moving was not possible for any Bishop in the US. **Rev. Lippoldt** announced the retirement of **Bishops Nunn** and **Schnase** to accommodate this downsizing.

Rev. Lippoldt then presented the recommendations of the committee for voting.
First, the committee recommended leaving the Episcopacy position open in the New Mexico Conference. It is the committee's belief that a better leader for that Annual Conference abides outside of our Jurisdiction. She then read the recommendation of Episcopacy appointments for a vote.

New Mexico - Open
Great Plains - Bishop Wilson
Missouri - Bishop Farr
Arkansas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma Indian - Bishop Merrill
Louisiana - Bishop Williamston
Horizon Texas (North Texas, Northwest Texas, and Central Texas) - Bishop Seanz
Texas and Rio Texas - Bishop Fierro Harvey

The motion passed by standing vote with applause.

Next, **Rev. Lippoldt** shared the committee's request to create a task force that includes the College of Bishops and one member from each Annual Conference of the Jurisdiction to discuss the future of Episcopacy in the Jurisdiction. She encouraged inclusion of laity and clergy and the request that a non-Episcopal be elected chairperson of this task force.
The vote for recommendation passed by vote of hand.

Finally, **Rev. Lippoldt** made a motion to refer a question to the Jurisdictional Finance Committee about how to remove undue burden on those three conferences (Rio Texas, Oklahoma, and Oklahoma Indian

Missionary) that would be losing their Episcopal office grant money. The referral requested a recommendation by the end of this Jurisdictional conference.
The motion passed by vote of hand.

Dr. Susan Brumbaugh, Chair of the Committee on Boundaries from the New Mexico Conference, was invited to share the work and recommendations of the Boundaries Committee. She discussed the use of a Feasibility Index that was developed to help the committee understand the best ways to draw new boundaries for Episcopacy areas in the Jurisdiction. The Feasibility Index included four factors:

1. Missional Possibility and Need
2. Cultural Affinity
3. Geographic Factors
4. Financial and Human Resource Feasibility

Dr. Brumbaugh, first, brought a three part motion before the Jurisdiction for voting on the creation of the Horizon Texas Conference:

1. To approve the realignment of the boundaries of the Central Texas, North Texas, and Northwest Texas Annual Conferences to create the Horizon Texas Annual Conference with the boundaries consisting of the boundaries of the three aforementioned Conferences.
2. Authorize the three Conferences above to conduct a joint Unifying Conference prior to the formation of the Horizon Texas Conference consisting of the current voting lay and clergy of the three aforementioned Conferences
3. Authorize the Horizon Texas Conference to commence operation at the conclusion of the Unifying Conference

The motion passed by vote of hand, standing ovation, and many hugs.

Next, she presented a recommendation that the appropriate body amend the standing rules to sunset the Boundaries Committee because the work of recommending boundaries is already included in the disciplinary responsibilities of the Episcopacy Committee and the College of Bishops.

Finally, she thanked the Episcopacy Committee for requesting a Task Force be created to look at Episcopacy going forward.

Rev. Robert Besser, Jurisdictional Treasurer, Texas Conference rose to give the first Finance Committee report. **Rev. Besser** began by introducing and thanking his committee for their work so far, along with Finley and Cook Accounting that annually audits the Jurisdictional budget. He informed the delegates of their individual stipends and where to turn in reimbursement forms. The Finance committee was prepared to present a budget in this report, but due to the earlier referral of a question from the Episcopacy committee relating to Episcopacy office grant money, the committee will meet again to present a report later in the week.

Conference Secretary **Eddie Erwin,** added last minute announcements:

1. Reminder of the Hymn Sing hosted at Cooper Chapel
2. Clergy Women's Lunch to be hosted on Thursday
3. Worship will begin at 9am on Thursday morning

Bishop Schnase closed Business Session #1 with prayer at 5:53.

Thursday Business Session, July 11, 2024

Bishop Nunn presiding

Bishop Nunn, Oklahoma Annual Conference, opened the business session at 9:17am.

Joel Kidwell, Clergy, Missouri Annual Conference, gave the first journal report of the conference. The committee found the journal in order and made a motion for the body to accept the minutes as presented to the committee.
The motion passed with a vote of hand.

Bishop Williamston, Louisiana Annual Conference, read the apology issued by General Conference about sexual misconduct in the church.

Eddie Erwin, Secretary of the South Central Jurisdiction gave the Mission Council report. He reported healthy reports from various ministries and the finances of the Mission Council. He thanked Karen Distefano and Francis Long for their work with the Jurisdiction.

- Healthy reports for ministries and finances
- Karen Distefano 2019-2023
- Francies Long archivist

Bishop Farr, Missouri Annual Conference, updated the Jurisdiction on the ongoing litigation between the Jurisdiction Mission Council and Southern Methodist University.

- Litigation between SCJC Mission Council and SMU
    - Most details are confidential because the litigation is ongoing
    - July 2023 Dallas Court of Appeals found in favor of SCJ
        - SMU trustees own property not SCJ
    - SMU has filed appeal to Texas Supreme Court
        - No decision if they will hear the case
        - If not, remanded to the court of appeals for further review
    - No timeline as of now
    - No legal fees for the last three years and no charge unless SCJ pulls out of the case before litigation is over
    - Attempts by many bishops to mediate, to no success

Rev. Kwan Young Kim, Korean Ministries Director for the South Central Jurisdiction, Oklahoma Conference, rose to give the report on SCJ Korean ministries.

Ellen Lipsey, President of the United Women of Faith for the South Central Jurisdiction and the New Mexico Conference rose to give the report on SCJ United Women in Faith.

Chuck McGarity, President of the South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Men from Rio Texas rose to give the report on SCJ United Methodist Men.
David McCormick, Mission Advocate for South Central Jurisdiction from the Louisiana Conference rose to give the report on Global Ministries. He also gave the Volunteers in Mission/Disaster Response report on behalf of **Scott Burdin**, Interim Coordinator of the South Central Jurisdiction Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Recovery Coordinator for the Missouri Conference.

Bishop Harvey rose to give the Episcopal Address.

- We are called to start things that we will not see to the finish
- We are planters and seed bearers of things God alone can see
- Celebrate a feeling of newness and renewal
- Renewal is ongoing where we grow in holiness and love - John Wesley
- Keep our eyes on the future
- Legacy in people not buildings
- Encourage a commitment of the Jurisdiction to young people and future generation to come

Bishop Nunn released the Jurisdiction at 10:32am for a 20 minute break.

Business Session #2 continued at 10:55am with **Bishop Saenz** presiding.

Bishop Williamston rose to celebrate the work of **Bishop Jimmy Nunn** and **Bishop Robert Schnase** on their upcoming retirement. **Bishop Farr** rose to celebrate **Bishop Nunn**. He spoke to their friendship and his work during his Episcopal leadership. **Bishop Nunn** rose to thank his family, the Oklahoma Conference, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, the North Texas Conference, and the South Central Jurisdiction. **Bishop Merrill** rose to speak about the impact of **Bishop Schnase's** work in his Episcopal leadership. She celebrated the books he has written and his ability as a storyteller. **Bishop Schanse** rose to thank all those who impacted his ministry, the Missouri Conference, the Rio Texas Conference, the New Mexico Conference, and the South Central Jurisdiction. **Bishop Janice Huie** and **Bishop Williamston** closed the retirement celebration of the two Bishops.

Rob Spencer, Clergy, Horizon Texas Conference, rose for a point of personal privilege regarding world wide regionalization. He explained the adoption of the world wide regionalization plan at General Conference 2024. He reminded the Jurisdiction that ratification of regionalization is only possible if two-thirds of Annual Conferences around the world vote to ratify. He encouraged delegates to promote ratification in three ways:

1. Promote and participate in educational events to explain and have conversations regarding world wide regionalization and help eliminate confusion and misinformation surrounding the vote for ratification
2. Ensuring voting delegates at each 2025 Annual Conference are informed, confident, and ready to ratify world wide regionalization
3. Support the grassroots Central Conference ratification team financially through giving directly to a fund created to support the work of ratification in the Central Conferences

He concluded by encouraging delegates to invite others to give to this fund as well.

Lisa Maupin, Great Plains Conference Lay Leader, **Amy Thompson**, Missouri Outgoing Conference Lay Leader, **Jennifer Swan**, Louisiana Outgoing Conference Lay Leader, **Darlene Alfred**, Central Texas Outgoing Conference Lay Leader rose to give the Laity Address.

Eddie Erwin, gave closing announcements before lunch.

Bishop Saenz recapped the business of the session and dismissed the delegates for lunch at 12:13pm.

Return at 2:04
Bishop Robert Farr presiding
Institutional Reports

St. Paul - **Tiana Gatewood**, Director of Events & Public Relations for Saint Paul School of Theology

Perkins - **Andy Keck**, Chief of Staff and the Assistant Dean of Communications and Marketing, ad interim for Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

LPI Report and Invitation to engagement/faith formation in young people - **Dr. Cardoza**, President of Lydia Patterson Institute, **Eddie Erwin**, Board Member from the Texas Conference, **Rev. Stephanie Alschwede**, from Great Plains

Learning Session - LED Talks (Sanctuary)

2:00-2:05	Intro and explanation of session - **Bishop Merrill**
2:05-2:13	**Carlos Ramirez**
2:13-2:16	Break
2:16-2:24	**Matt Miofsky**
2:24-2:27	Break
2:27-2:35	**Elizabeth McCormick**
2:35-2:38	Break
2:38-2:46	**Matt Rawle**
2:46-2:49	Break
2:49-2:57	**Lupina Villalpando-Stewart**
2:57-3:00	Break
3:00-3:08	**Todd Seelau**
3:25-3:33	**Ronnie Miller-Yow**
3:33-3:36	Break
3:36-3:44	**Sarah Marsh**
3:44-3:47	Break
3:47-3:55	**Margaret Johnson**
3:55-3:58	Break
3:58-4:06	**Ramon Smith**
4:06-4:09	Break

Bishop Laura Merrill closed the session at 4:35pm with a prayer

Friday Business Session, July 12, 2024
Bishop Harvey presiding

Bishop Harvey opened the Business Session in prayer at 9:18am.

Joel Kidwell, Clergy, Missouri Annual Conference, rose to give the second Journal Report. He moved the approval of the July 11 minutes of the South Central Jurisdictional Conference. The motion passed by vote of hand.

Rev. Terri Swan, Finance Team Chair, Missouri Conference, rose to give Finance Report #2.

She presented the 2025 South Central Jurisdiction Budget recommended by the Finance Committee as follows:

$530,000 to Lydia Patterson Institute
$15,000 to Jurisdictional Reserves
$250,000 to Jurisdictional Administration

Total: $795,000

This is a 30.2% decrease from the previous quadrennium budget. Rev. Swan emphasized that this budget relies on each Conference to pay 100% of their South Central Jurisdiction apportionments.

The budget as presented was brought to a vote. The budget passed with a vote of hand

Rev. Robert Besser, Clergy, Texas Conference presented the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the question brought forth by the Episcopacy Committee on Wednesday, July 10 surrounding the Episcopal Office grant money that will be lost by three Episcopal Areas. The recommendation of the Finance Committee was for each of the six Conferences that will continue to receive funding to turn in that funding to the Jurisdiction Treasurer to be equally split up among all nine Conferences. That total would change the current funding of $80,845 to $53,896 to each Conference.

Tish Malloy, Clergy, Oklahoma Conference rose to ask the question surrounding calling both the Oklahoma Conference and the Oklahoma Missionary Conference as the Oklahoma Area and receiving one sum of funding for both Conferences.
The question was answered that the area only receives one grant currently, so there would be no change aside from the change in dollar amount.

The motion to approve this recommendation from the Finance Committee was brought before the body. The motion passed by vote of hand.

Rev. Besser announced that vouchers for reimbursement submitted before Friday had been processed, so applicable delegates could pick up their reimbursement check on the way out at the registration table.

Sharri Hiller, Laity, Nominations Committee Chair, Oklahoma Conference, rose to give the Nominations Report. She explained the requirements given by General Conference to fill the nominations. She showed the breakdown of gender and race as provided by the COSROW and GCORR monitors. She presented the slate of nominees recommended by the Nominations Committee. They are as follows:

Jessie Lyp, Laity, Great Plains Conference, rose to ask a question regarding the breakdown of those who identify as queer. Sharri Hiller reported that two individuals identifying as queer were nominated and apologized for the lack of breakdown in the slides. Bishop Harvey requested that breakdown be added along with the other slides to the Sched app.

The slate of nominees was brought forth for a vote. The motion passed by vote of hand.

Bishop Williamston, President of the College of Bishops, and **Bishop Wilson**, Great Plains Conference, rose to make a motion that Resurrection Church in Kansas City, Kansas host the 2028 South Central Jurisdictional Conference with dates to follow as decided by the Council of Bishops.

John Copeland, Laity, Missouri Conference, wanted to clarify that Resurrection Church is located in Leawood Kansas, not Kansas City.

With that clarification, the motion for Resurrection Church to host passed by a vote of hand.

Eddie Erwin brought forth two points of personal privilege. The first thanking the host committees, staff, and volunteers from Central United Methodist Rogers and surrounding Northwest Arkansas Churches. He then suggested delegates use their reimbursement funds to support the Arkansas Youth Service Fund booth and their commemorative merchandise for 2024 South Central Jurisdictional Conference.

Bishop Harvey took a point of personal privilege to recognize the historic moment that both Eddie Erwin and his daughter, Kate Erwin were both serving as delegates to the Conference.

Bishop Schnase closed the business session in prayer at 9:46am.

RECAP OF VOTING

No counted votes were taken at 2024 South Central Jurisdiction Conference

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions for the 2024 Jurisdictional Confernece

REPORTS TO THE JURISDICTIONAL COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

This report is submitted in accordance with ¶524.3i of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, which calls for a report of the committee decisions, activities, and recommendations to be transmitted to the successor committee and made available to delegates of the conference. In executing the committee's responsibilities to consult with bishops and review their work, and in order to prepare to make the very best recommendations for assignment of active bishops in 2024, the following activities have been undertaken:

Boundaries Report to the South Central Jurisdictional Conference

Greetings friends! In November of 2022, at the South Central Jurisdictional Conference, the Boundaries Committee that was convened began creative, spirit-filled conversations about the future of annual conferences in our Jurisdiction. We brought a motion to the floor of the Conference to allow us to continue our work through the past two years, and the Jurisdictional Conference passed that motion.

The Boundaries committee met monthly to talk about annual conference configurations for the short-term post-disaffiliation season, as well as long-term possibilities. We developed what we called a "Feasibility Index" with a plan to use data to help answer questions about how boundaries could be configured to help annual conferences be more missional and more effective for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This index considered data in four areas: Missional Possibility and Need, Cultural Affinity, Geographic factors, and Financial and Human Resource feasibility. This index, populated with the right data, has great potential for long-term visioning, and we implore future bodies of the Jurisdiction to build on our work.

We are excited to celebrate the creation of the Horizon Texas Annual Conference, and we hope this kind of collaboration is only the beginning of reimagining what The United Methodist Church could look like in the years to come.

In that spirit….

First, we bring to you a three-part motion:

(1) to approve the realignment of the boundaries of the Central, North, and Northwest Texas Conferences to form one new conference to be known as the "Horizon Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church" with boundaries coextensive with the current Central, North, and Northwest Texas Conferences;
(2) to authorize the Central, North, and Northwest Texas Conferences to conduct a joint organizational conference known as the Unifying Conference, prior to the formation of the new Horizon Texas Conference, consisting of the voting membership (lay and clergy) of the Central, North, and Northwest Texas Conferences;
(3) and, to authorize the Horizon Texas Conference to commence operations as a fully unified conference of The United Methodist Church after the completion of the joint organizational conference, in accordance with the Unification Plan UNANIMOUSLY adopted by all three conferences during their respective 2024 annual conference sessions.

Second, we recommend that the appropriate body amend the Standing Rules of the Jurisdiction to sunset the Boundaries Committee because the work of recommending boundaries is already included in the disciplinary responsibilities of the Committee on Episcopacy, in consultation with the College of Bishops. There's no reason for two groups to be trying to do the same thing, right?

Third, we are thankful to the Committee on Episcopacy for bringing the request to create a task force that this body just passed. It is our hope that, as individuals are named from each Annual Conference, the College can balance a diversity of viewpoints that ensures the inclusion of a variety of voices. We look forward to the continuation of our work through this new task force.

Bishop, this concludes our report.

FINANCE REPORT

Report #1 - The South Central Jurisdiction Financial Reports

The Finance and Administration Committee of the Mission Council is composed of four people: Rev. Terri Swan - Chair, Rev. Robert Besser, Eddie Erwin, and David Kelly. Dean Harvey, as chair of the Finance Committee for the Lydia Patterson Institute Board also contributed.

During our extended 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, PLCC 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.

We want to thank Rev. Robert Besser and Rochelle Cebrun for serving as our treasures.

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

All delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference will receive a stipend of $395. Delegates who served on committee meetings held before Wednesday of the Conference will receive an additional amount. Delegates are responsible for their room accommodations, meals, and other expenses incurred. Should an alternate delegate be seated permanently, and confirmed by the Head of their Delegation, that delegate will receive the amount. No stipend, travel, or expenses are paid to alternate delegates except as stated above.

Please complete your voucher and either return it with receipts and flight itineraries to Robert Besser or David Kelly here at the Conference or email it to admin@scjumc.org. All vouchers must be submitted by July 31, 2024.

Report #3 - Recommendations:

1. Apportionment Formula The General Council on Finance and Administration provides the Jurisdiciton with the apportionment percentages, which we apply to the approved budgets.

2. Apportionments to Agencies of the Jurisdiction. Our committee's total for 2025 budget $ 795.000, a 26.39% decrease from the approved 2023 budget.

1. The total apportionment to the Conferences is reflected in the updated decimals from the budget passed at the 2020/2024 General Conference.
2. The Mission Council recommends the following amounts, taking into account sdecrease in membership and disaffiliation.

3. Mission and Administration apportionment. $250,000

The apportionment for Mission and Administration is requested to be lowered to reflect the continued focus on efficiency and doing more with less.

4. Maintaining the Reserves of the Jurisdiction. $15,000

It has been a long-standing practice of the Jurisdiction to maintain a reserve balance to meet any potential emergency and primarily to fund a called session of the Conference if needed. Some of these reserves are custodial funds that the Jurisdiction holds for various related entities.

5. Lydia Patterson Institute. $530, 000

We rejoice in the ministry and mission of La Lydia and believe they deserve to maintain their support. In addition to their increases in the quality of staff and number of students, we celebrate their academics and spirituality.

6. We recommend that Rev. Robert Besser continues as Treasurer of the Jurisdiction.

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, 15814 Champion Forest Dr. #1968 Spring, Texas 77379

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.

The South Central Jurisdiction Finance Committee met to review the expenses of the jurisdiction and to create an appropriate budget for the 2025-2028 quadrennium.

1. We present to you today the following budget recommendation:

- $530,000 Lydia Patterson Institute
- $ 15,000 Reserves
- $250,000 Administration
- $795,000 Total for each year

2. Wednesday afternoon, the body approved a motion brought forth from Rev. Amy Lippoldt, Chair of the Committee on Episcopacy concerning the episcopal office funding. We were given the task to "explore the possibility of an additional jurisdictional apportionment or other funding mechanism to assist annual conferences that will lose their GCFA office grant." We are then to report back our findings and recommendation to the Jurisdictional Conference. The following persons met:
    1. Bishop Farr - Missouri
    2. Bishop Williamston - Louisiana
    3. Eddie Erwin – SCJ Executive Director
    4. Rev. Terri Swan – SCJ Finance Chair
    5. Rev. Karlie Pidgeon – Louisiana Conference
    6. Rev. Derrek Belase –- Oklahoma treasurer

7. Rev. Robert Besser – Jurisdictional treasurer

3. Here is our recommendation:
    1. There are a total of 9 conference offices
    2. 6 conferences will receive the GCFA grant, current amount is $80,845 each:
        i. Arkansas
        ii. Great Plains
        iii. Horizons
        iv. Louisiana
        v. Missouri
        vi. Texas
    3. 3 conferences not receiving the GCFA grant:
        i. Oklahoma/Oklahoma Indian
        ii. New Mexico
        iii. Rio
    4. Therefore the 6 conferences receiving the grant will each forward their amount received from GCFA each year to the Jurisdictional treasurer; whereby the treasurer will deposit and redistribute those funds in equal amounts to the 9 conference offices. If the current amount of $80,845 holds, X 6 = $485,070. That amount divided by 9 would be $53,896 per conference office. Each conference will need to raise the remaining amount to fund their conference office.

Nominations

AGENCY	NAME	ANNUAL CONFERENCE	ETHNICITY	CLERGY/ LAITY & GENDER	AGE and/ or DISABILITY	EXPERTISE
GCFA						
	Reggie Clemons	**TX**	**AF**	**CM**		**Elected by GC**
	John Esquivel	**TX**	**HA**	**LM**		**Elected by GC**
Connectional Table						
SCJ = 1 SHOULD						
Clergywoman	**Kim Jenne**	**MO**	**CAU**	**CW**		
GBCS						

SCJ = 3 SHOULD						
One Clergy	**Maddie Johnson**	**GP**	**CAU**	**CW**	**LGBTQ**	
One Laywoman	**Karon Mann**	**AR**	**CAU**	**LW**	**OA**	
One Layman	**Harold Hughes**	**AR**	**CAU**	**LM**	**OA, LGBTQ**	
Discipleship						
SCJ = 1 SHOULD						
Layman & racial/ethnic	**Ralph Thompson**	**RT**	**AF**	**LM**	**OA**	
GBGM						
SCJ = 3 SHALL						
Clergy	**Margaret Johnson**	**OIMC**	**NA**	**CW**	**OA**	**Currently Serving**
Laywoman	**Mimi Kubai**	**GP**	**AF**	**LW**	**YA**	
Layman	**Jon Copeland**	**MO**	**MR**	**LM**		
1of above racial/ ethnic						
GBHEM						
SCJ = 1 SHOULD						
Laywoman	**Darlene Alfred**	**CT**	**AF**	**LW**		
GBOPHB						
SCJ = 2 SHOULD						
Clergyman	**Nate Berneking**	**MO**	**CAU**	**CM**		**Currently Serving**

Laywoman	Jessica Vittorio	NT	CAU	LW		Currently Serving
UMPH						
SCJ = 1 SHOULD						
Layman racial/ ethnic	Benji Van Fleet	NWTX	CAU	CM		
UMCOM						
SCJ = 2 SHOULD						
Clergy	Daniel Hawkins	CT	CAU	CM		
Layperson	James Kim	OK	AS	CM		
GCRR						
SCJ = 2 SHOULD						
Clergywoman	Susie Puac	TX	HA	CW		
Layman	Zach Anderson	GP	CAU	CM		
1 of above racial/ethnic						
GCSRR						
SCJ = 1 SHOULD						
Clergywoman	Katrena King	LA	AS	CW		
Layman						
ACEIR						
SCJ = 2	Matt Bridges	NM	CAU	CM		

	Sam Powers	**OK**	**CAU**	**CM**		

South Central Jurisdiction Mission Council		
Class of 2028		
Clergy	**Lay Men**	**Lay Women**
Oklahoma - Derrek Belase	**Lousiana - Adam Philley**	**New Mexico - Kathy Jewell**
Great Plains - Ashley Prescott Barlow-Thompson	**Arkansas - Brandon Bates**	
Class of 2032		
Clergy	**Lay Men**	**Lay Women**
Rio Texas - Wilson Pruitt	**Texas - Scott Atnip**	**Horizon - Cynthia Rives**
OIMC - Sunrise Ross		**Missouri - Rebecca Bennett**
At Large		
1. Tiffany Postell	**2 Darlene Alfred**	
3. Paul Escamilla	**4 Dan Barrios**	
By Office		
Bishop Robert Farr	**Archives - Kent Roberts**	**Treasurer - Robert Besser**
Bishop Dee Williamston	**Korean Caucus - Kwan Kim**	**VIM/DR - Scott Burdin**
	JYMO -	**Lay Leader - Kylie Campbell**
Staff		
Executive Director - Eddie Erwin	**VIM/DR -**	**Bookkeeper - David Kelly**

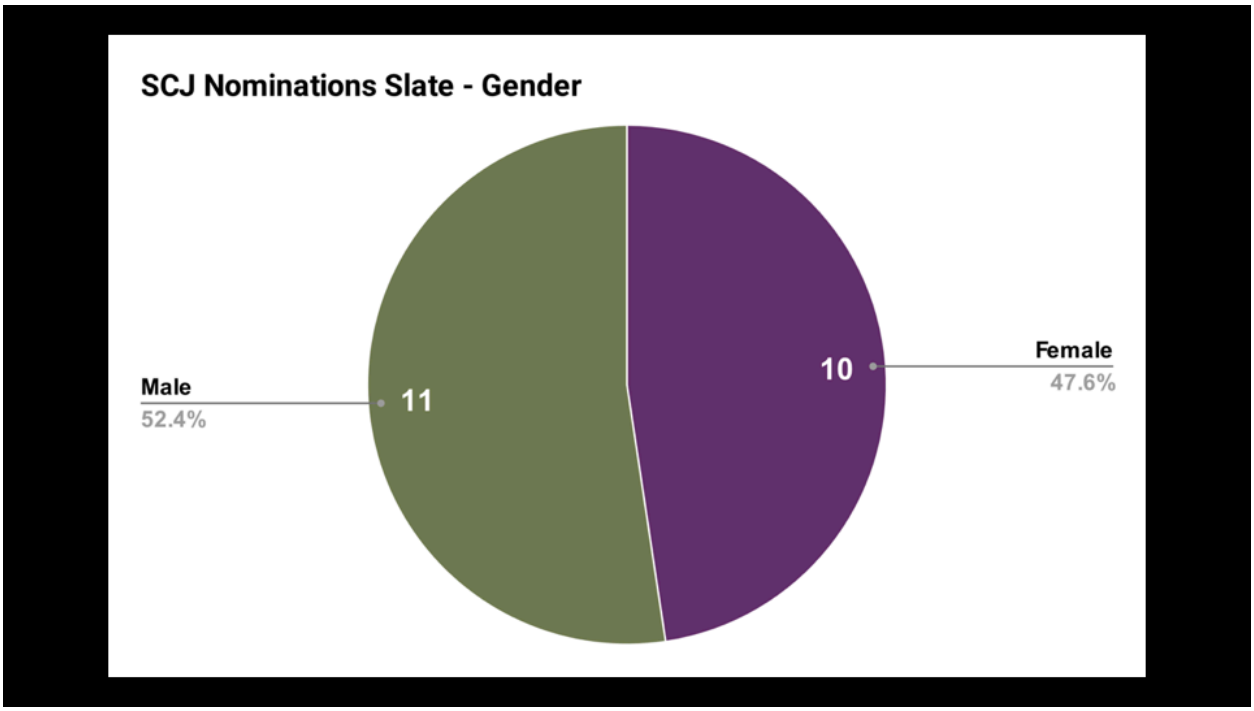
Committee on Investigation

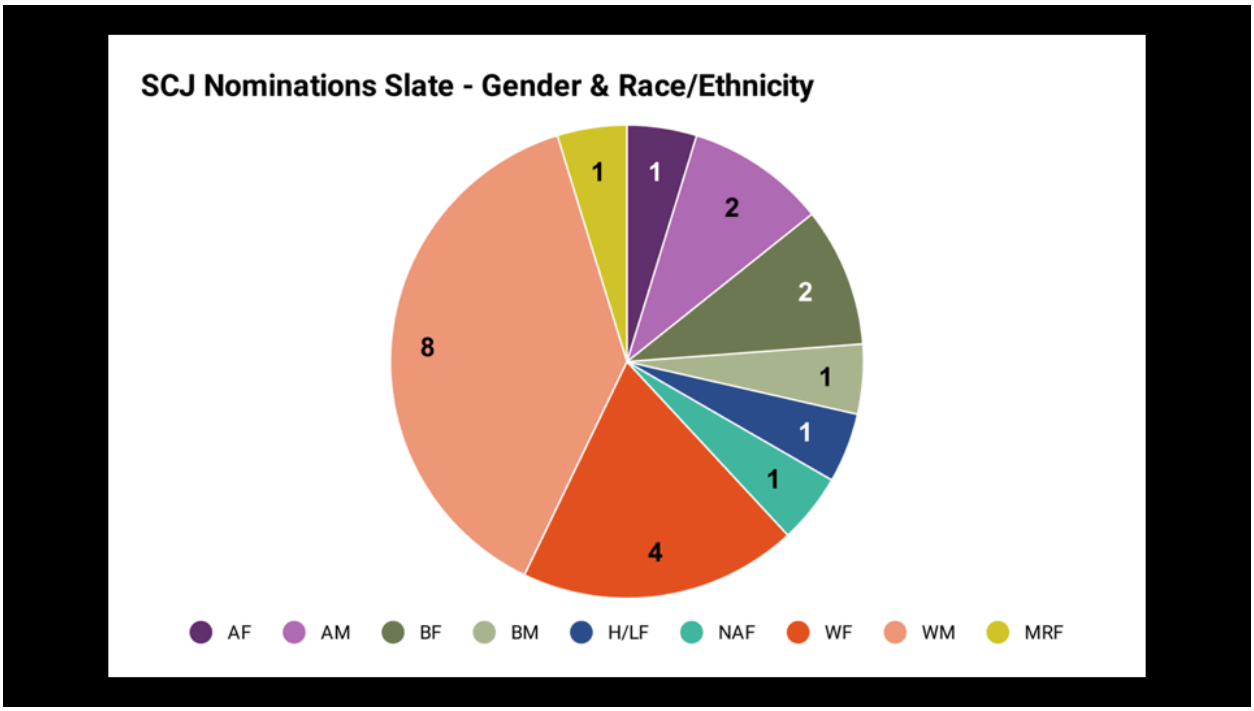
Steve Jones (MO)

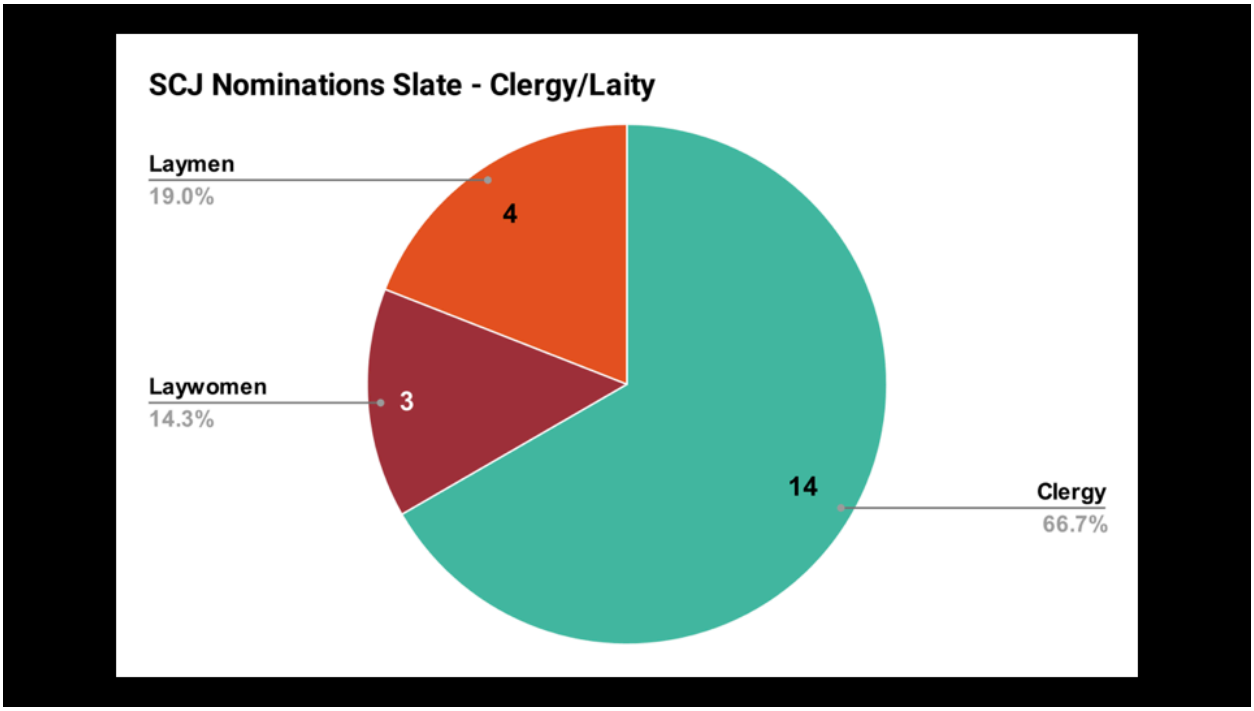
Katie McKay Simpson (LA)
Natasha Murry (AR)
Sarah Marsh (GP)
Robert Lopez (RT)
Reagan Seaton (TX)
Felicia Hopkins (HT)
Joel Kidwell (MO)
Van Stinson (LA)
Elijah Stansel (TX)
Tish Maloy (OK)
Ron Henderson (HT)
Margaret Washington (LA)
Jay Vaugh (MO)
Kathleen Pryor (HT)

Committee on Appeals
Elizabeth Duffin (TX)
John Cannon (LA)
Tony Griffin (AR)
Laura Brewster (RT)
Pam Rowley (NM)
Lance Richards (TX)
Tracy Wolf (MO)
Anne Marshall (OI)
Charles Donaldson (AR)
Kathy Pierce (GP)
Amber Miller (HT)
Jo Anne Cooper (LA)
Regina Norwood (AR)
Ann Arnett (TX)

MONITORING REPORT FROM GENERAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN







VIM/Disaster Recovery Ministries Report

Staff/Position Changes

The 2021-2024 quadrennium was active for missions in the United Methodist Church of the South-Central Jurisdiction (SCJ). This quadrennium began under the leadership of Karen Distefano from the Oklahoma Annual Conference as Director. Karen built wonderful relationships with the Volunteers in Mission Coordinators across the SCJ, and we are grateful for her efforts and heart for Mission. In December 2023, Karen accepted a full-time teaching position at the local college where she had been teaching part-time. While in her role, Karen advanced the efforts of previous leaders to continue building relationships between the Disaster Response Coordinators and 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. Some changes were implemented to strengthen the connection between Coordinators in the SCJ: The Disaster Response Coordinators are now included in semi-annual meetings. In September of 2023, Karen and her team put together the SCJ Mission Academy held at Laurel Heights UMC in San Antonio, Texas. Bishop Robert Schnase gave the opening address and led the group in several teaching times throughout the Academy.
In November of 2023, after much discussion, it was decided to postpone the next SCJ Mission Academy until after General and Jurisdictional Conferences were held and we knew more about where things stood with the UMC.

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 positions. For some, this is a role they hold in addition to other Conference or employment

responsibilities. Considering the diverse nature of the local Conference programs within the SCJ, our Director of Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response Coordinators works closely with each Conference to identify what is needed in terms of support. Because of the relationships, close network of leaders, and the work of the SCJ UMVIM and Disaster Response Coordinator, we are able to help train, and work alongside the many Early Response Team (ERT) volunteers, Long-Term Recovery (LTR) volunteers, Construction Volunteers, Educational Volunteers, Community Outreach Volunteers, as well as coordinating the Virtual Missions that was created thru the COVID year. The Director of Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response also works to maintain the relationships of our connectional system with Global Ministries, South Central Jurisdiction Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and other Jurisdictions by participating in yearly meetings and mission-related events. One of the many ways we can help teams deploy is through the SCJ Team Insurance. Anyone can buy the insurance, from Disaster Response teams, Short-Term mission teams, youth groups, and more. For $1.25/day per missioner, you can have the peace of mind of $50,000 supplemental coverage for accidents and medical (including COVID) while deployed. This has been a key piece in a team's ability to respond to those in need in times of crisis.

Mission Statistics: Disasters

If you go to FEMA.gov and look at the list of Major Disaster Declarations for 2021-2024 just in the SCJ list of states, there have been 34. This includes Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Floods, Straight Line winds, Fires, Winter storms, and yes COVID. Seventeen of these storms affected individual households with 712,097 people requesting assistance. And if that isn't staggering enough, here are the numbers: Individual assistance for those storms - $1,694,683,454 and public assistance(roads/bridges/infrastructure) for those storms - $3,053,499,743. Yes, those are Billions. These statistics do not give the full picture of the United Methodist response, however, as many undeclared disasters occurred to which the church and UMCOR responded as well. From the period of 2021-2024, there have been many VIM teams, Disaster Response teams, youth mission teams, and more helping those affected by the disaster in their conferences, in the SCJ conferences, across the U.S. and internationally. There are challenges in collecting information from each conference in the jurisdiction: 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. A goal for the next quadrennium is to develop and implement a process of data collection and reporting. This information will help us to be better stewards of limited resources, both financial and human. Partner strengthening will also be a focus of the upcoming years. The first step to completing this goal will be filling the UMVIM SCJ Director position. This is the responsibility of the SCJ Board.

Closing

The SCJ is blessed with dedicated and caring Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response Coordinators who 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 Scott Burdin UMVIM/DRC Representative for SCJ, sburdin@moumethodist.org; www.scjumc.org/mission.

ARCHIVES REPORT

KOREAN MINISTRIES REPORT

The Korean Ministries Director is a voluntary position of the South Central Jurisdiction (SCJ) and is responsible for implementing strategies for establishing new churches for Korean-speaking congregations. The director also contributes to nurturing existing Korean American churches.

I am Rev. Kwan Young Kim, an elected Korean Ministries Director by the Executive Committee in August 2023. It is a great honor and privilege to serve in this position to support Korean American congregations in the SCJ. I hope my efforts fuels the development of Korean United Methodist Churches in the jurisdiction. Following is the current status of the Korean American Church in our Jurisdiction as of June 2024:

As we all have been through the wave of heartfelt disaffiliation, the Korean churches in the SCJ were not an exception from facing this wave. Before the disaffiliation, we had twenty-nine Korean American churches and sixty-eight Korean pastors, including forty-five Korean pastors serving in cross-racial/ cultural congregations and institutes in the SCJ. After the disaffiliation, we now have fourteen Korean American churches and fifty-eight Korean pastors (including Dr. Young Ho Chun—Professor at St. Paul School of Theology, Rev. James Kim— Heartland District Superintendent, Oklahoma Conference, and Rev. Mi Hyeon Lee— North Central District Superintendent, Arkansas Conference)

Although we have the pains of disaffiliation, we firmly believe that God never ceases to work with God's people to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In that sense, we believe God will continue to use the Korean American Churches to play a unique role in God's ongoing mission in our Jurisdiction and beyond.

I am excited to present the following highlights of events of the Korean UMC in the SCJ:

- **2023 Korean UMC Pastor's Family Retreat**: July 11-14 @ Nevada & Arizona: 10 clergy families and 30 family members attended. We had a successful four-days-three-night event, which allowed all the participants to set aside their lives and focus on their spiritual reflection, rest, and renewal for the remainder of the year through this event.
- **2023 Youth and College Retreat** (YNCR) of Korean UMC: July 26-29 @ OKC, OK: 115 participated. YNCR is an annual retreat created for students from the smaller Korean UMCs in the SCJ. The mission of the retreat is to allow smaller churches to join together in worship and equip the students to ignite a passion in their local churches to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Over the years, YNCR has been a powerful tool for the Korean American church to revitalize the youth in their faith and passion for Christ.
- **2023 Korean UMC Pastors Seminar**: Dec. 4-6 @ Dallas, TX.: A total of 24 clergies and spouses participated. This event was designed to revitalize UMC Korean pastors of the SCJ. The retreat had a double effect: one was the spiritual renewal, and the other was building relationships with other pastors. This annual event fully supports the educational help for pastors and deepens their spiritual state.
- **2024 Korean United Methodist Women Spiritual Retreat**: May 3-4 @ Dallas TX.: 50 people participated. This retreat was designed for the Korean UMW in the SCJ. All participants have learned, shared, and grown together in their relationship with God and with one another through this meaningful spiritual retreat.

We have always found these events a significant opportunity to come together as the body of Christ to serve the Lord's church and fulfill our mission as His disciples, even though we are physically far from each other. We look forward to having the same excitement again next year with the full participation of the Korean American churches in our Jurisdiction.

In conclusion, the challenges have prompted us not to settle in a comfort zone but to discover new ministries and strive to grow in our mission. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we hope to find what God truly desires for us. We will seize opportunities, even in crisis, and be vulnerable to experience God's grace and love.

Your prayers and support for the Korean brothers and sisters in Christ will be greatly appreciated!

Respectfully submitted
Rev. Kwan Young Kim

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

SCJ Leadership for this Quadrennium included:

SCJ UWFaith 2020-2024 National Directors

Central Texas - Darlene R Alfred

North Texas - Cynthia Rives

New Mexico - Daryl June Joe

Great Plains - Louise Niemann

Alternates:

Arkansas – Lynn Baker

Rio Texas – Cynthia Johnson

SCJ UWFaith 2020-2024 Program Advisory Group Members

Texas - Melissa Atkins

Louisiana - Staphenae Carey

Rio Texas - Abigail Gutierrez

Arkansas - Diana Hendricks

Oklahoma – Jerrie Lindsey

Texas – Paulette Moore-Hall

Missouri – Katie Willis

Northwest Texas – Pam Zwickey

SCJ UWFaith 2020-2024 Leadership Team

- President - Ellen Lipsey
- Vice President - Cynthia Alfred Logan
- Secretary - Lynne Grandstaff
- Treasurer - Carroll Constant
- Committee on Nominations Chair - Lisa Maupin
- Committee on Nominations:
    - Terry Gregory
    - Cynthia R. Harry

This quadrennium United Women in Faith jurisdiction teams had a special program component for our work. We focused on integrating racial justice work with conferences in our jurisdictions in advance of the 2024 Jurisdiction Events, and we organized jurisdiction meetings as a testament to the action called for in the Charter for Racial Justice, updated and readopted at 2024 General Conference.

The United Women in Faith SCJ 2024 Quadrennial Event was in St. Louis, MO, June 21-23, 2024. Our theme was "Get Together" guided by scripture in John 13:34-- *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.* More than 300 participants gathered to celebrate our sisterhood and elect new leadership for the 2024-2028 quadrennium.

The meeting included Ubuntu service opportunities at National Mission Institutions in the St. Louis area and inspiring worship. Featured guest speakers were United Women in Faith CEO, Sally Vonner, who shared UWFaith's 2024-2029 Vision for Growth. Kaylen Svitak-Coleman, a member of OIMC, provided a presentation on her work with the Missing & Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) organization. Colette Pichon Battle of Taproot Earth spoke on the Six Pillars of Climate Justice.

Participants chose workshops to attend and experienced two town hall opportunities. One town hall panel included "Voices from the Field" reports from Regional Missionaries, Frieda Mwebe Mofya (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Grace Musuka (Zimbabwe), and National Mission Institution representatives, Merideth Rose (Cornerstones of Care) and Sonya Murphy (Camp Aldersgate), moderated by Sandy Wilder. During the second town hall, attendees heard from SCJ Bishops and moderator, Dr. Yvette Richards. Bishop Robert Farr, Bishop Delores Williamston, Bishop David Wilson, and Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey answered questions and shared ideas about the guidance of the Charter for Racial Justice for the United Methodist Church.

As part of the 2024 UWFaith SCJ Event gifts and pledges of donation for Mission Giving and The Legacy Endowment Fund totaled over $58,000 as members generously responded to the Gateway to Giving Challenge.

The election of 2024-2028 leadership was held on Saturday, June 22.

SCJ UWFaith 2024-2028 National Directors

Central Texas – Lynne Grandstaff

North Texas – Cynthia Harry

OIMC – Patricia Dye

Missouri – Kelly G. Loeb

Alternates:

New Mexico – Cheryll Felder

Oklahoma – Yolanda Faye Perry

SCJ UWFaith 2024-2028 Leadership Team

- President – Stacie Hawkins
- Vice President – Pamela Pinkerton-Whitley
- Secretary – Peggy Arensdorf
- Treasurer – Lela Luxen
- Committee on Nominations Chair – Shelley Lee
- Committee on Nominations:
    - Marjorie Franklin
    - Jana Miller
    - Priscilla Patterson
    - Harrietta Williams

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a report for the 2020-2024 Quadrennium with this follow-up to the November 2022 report in Houston.

Ellen Lipsey

2024 President, South Central Jurisdiction

United Women in Faith

United Methodist Men

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ, United Methodist Men in our jurisdiction are involved Prayer, Bible and book studies, civic activities, building homes and ramps for those in need, clothing the homeless, feeding the hungry, helping at our Annual Conference events. We participate in Boys and Girl Scouts and offer opportunities for fellowship, retreats and leadership training. Some of our men serve on local, district, conference, jurisdictional and national committees and it is our goal to make sure they have the tools they need to be successful.

In helping with the mission to make "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The General Commission of United Methodist Men offers training and materials, access to men's ministry specialists whose purpose is bringing men closer to Jesus Christ through training and various studies. With the rollout of our United Men's Ministry Phone App, we can easily reach those who are looking and needing information for spiritual growth.

On July 17th – 20th of 2025 the General Commission United Methodist Men and National Association of Conference Presidents will hold a National Gathering of Men and Scouts at a time and place to be announced through the General Commission of United Methodist Men's website. Information on how you can sign up to attend this event will be sent to your conference office.

We want to build a better connection with our local churches that have men's ministry groups and those that are wanting to start a men's ministry group. We believe when men and pastors work together, they can strengthen and grow congregations (in numbers and spiritually), be an asset to their families and communities and most of all be better Christians.

Our other goals are to create UMM leadership teams in conferences that do not have leadership. Support our leaders in the conferences that have UMM leadership so they can have an active part in the vision of the conferences they serve in.

Charles E. McGarity, Jr. - President
South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Men
Rio Texas Conference United Methodist Men
cmcgarity_umm@att.net

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE THE UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE 2024

Southern Methodist Southern Methodist University (SMU) has served as a nonsectarian institution of higher learning since its founding in 1911 by the citizens of Dallas and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. SMU's mission is to expand knowledge through research and teaching and to serve as an igniter and facilitator of growth in Dallas and North Texas. With continued Methodist representation on the Board of Trustees and by welcoming students of all faiths, SMU is reaching a higher level of accomplishment and global recognition as shaping world changers. Consistent with the University's appreciation of our Wesleyan heritage, SMU voluntarily submits this report to the South Central Jurisdiction Conference.

Students, faculty, and staff

SMU continues to attract academically excellent and diverse students. The Class of 2027 comprises 1,592 new first-year and 283 new transfer students. For the 2023-24 academic year, 7,115 undergraduates and 4,727 graduate students made up the total student population of nearly 12,000, representing all 50 states and 87 countries. 56% of them came from other states, 41% are Texans and 3% are international students. At May Commencement, we celebrated the successes of 3,047 new graduates. Our new alumni earned 1,666 undergraduate, 1,036 graduate, 257 professional, and 88 doctoral degree. As Mustangs for life, they join 136,000 alumni worldwide and 61,000 in DFW.

SMU's annual economic impact on the Dallas metro area exceeds $7 billion. Our faculty members, graduate students, and even undergraduates conduct research that enhances our region and world. The White House and U.S. Department of Commerce have selected SMU to lead a federally funded initiative for economic development in the semiconductor supply chain. The Texoma Semiconductor Hub is the only one of its kind in Texas among 31 hubs nationwide.

Comprehensive capital campaign and research funding

SMU's collective vision for the future of the University and Dallas is propelled by the University's comprehensive campaign: *SMU Ignited*: *Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*. As of May 2024, donors have contributed over $1.3 billion to date toward this multiyear $1.5 billion goal to attract and support outstanding students and faculty, explore new fields and cutting-edge technologies, and positively impact Dallas and the world beyond.

With our official entry into the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) on July 1, SMU is strengthening our position as an institution of athletic and academic distinction. The heightened prestige and visibility from competing in the ACC will also bolster the University's academic priority of becoming a Research One (R1) institution in the Carnegie Classification system.

For 2023, SMU reported $59.7 million in research expenditure which included external funding for

domestic and global research. Current funding agencies include the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Energy, National Institute of Justice, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), Google, and Toyota USA Foundation.

Rankins

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

- Top 20% best national universities by *U.S. News & World Report* (2024). Also, first among Dallas- area universities, a Best Value School, one of the Best Colleges for Veterans, and a Top Performer on Social Mobility among national universities by USNWR (2024).
- Among the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education in *The Princeton Review's* "Best 389 Colleges" and its ""2024 Best Southwest Colleges.""
- Top 5% best nationwide colleges (68 out of 2,238) by College Factual (2024). Also, top 1% of the U.S. best liberal arts/sciences and humanities schools for students pursuing a bachelor's degree and among the highest-paid graduates across a range of fields.
- Higher research activity" as classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
- And Perkins Chapel at No. 10 on the list of the nation's most beautiful college churches and chapels by College Rank.

Perkins School of Theology

The SMU Board of Trustees has authorized Perkins School of Theology to offer a new hybrid format for its Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Ministry degrees. Starting this fall, the new modality will ensure that Perkins continues to deliver the outstanding personal graduate education that is their hallmark and allow additional flexibility for students who may not reside in Dallas.

As Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Hugo Magallanes, serves as the school's dean ad interim, a committee continues the search for the next Leighton K. Farrell Endowed Dean. The committee includes members of SMU's Board of Trustees; the Perkins Executive Board; faculty, staff, and students from Perkins; and key University stakeholders.

SMU remains grateful for the enduring work of our Perkins School of Theology in the instruction and training of clergy for all Wesleyan traditions and other denominations. We ask for your prayers and continued support as we strive to further our mission to make a positive impact on the world around us.

Warm
regards,

R. Gerald
Turner President

Perkins School of Theology - Southern Methodist Univeristy - Dean's Report

Perkins celebrates our vital connections with the South Central Jurisdiction:

- Enrollment at Perkins for Fall 2023 totaled 284 students (all degree programs), of which approximately 54 percent are United Methodist and more than 44 percent represent minority ethnic groups. Master's degree programs comprise approximately 57 percent female and 43 percent male students with an enrollment of 111 in the Dallas program and 78 in the hybrid Houston-Galveston Extension Program.
- A total of 116 Perkins students are affiliated with an Annual Conference within the South Central Jurisdiction as of the Spring 2024 term. That breakdown is as follows:
    - Texas Annual Conference: 42 students
    - North Texas Annual Conference: 39 students
    - Rio Texas Annual Conference: 8 students
    - Central Texas Annual Conference: 7 students
    - Louisiana Annual Conference: 7 students
    - Great Plains Annual Conference: 3 students
    - Missouri Annual Conference: 3 students
    - New Mexico Annual Conference: 3 students
    - Arkansas Annual Conference: 2 students
    - Oklahoma Annual Conference: 2 students
    - Northwest Texas Annual Conference: 0 students
    - Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference: 0 students

Please note the following faculty additions and changes since 2022:

- Dr. Frederick Aquino (Ph.D., Southern Methodist University) joined the Perkins faculty as Professor of Systematic Theology in August 2023.
- Rev. Dr. April Johnson Bristow (D.Min., Houston Graduate School of Theology) joined Perkins as Associate Director of the Intern Program and Advising in June 2024. She is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church.
- Dr. Dallas J. Gingles (Ph.D., Southern Methodist University), was named Associate Professor of Practice in Systematic Theology in July 2023.
- Rev. Emily Nelms Chastain (Ph.D. candidate, Boston University), will join the Perkins faculty as Instructor in the History of Christianity in August 2024. She is an ordained deacon in The United Methodist Church.

Highlights from 2022 through 2024 include:

- In the Fall 2024 semester, launching our new hybrid program for the M.Div. and M.A.M. degrees. This new innovative hybrid model allows for over 70% of the degree program to be completed remote and online while providing immersion courses scheduled in Dallas, Houston, and other rotating cities.
- Also in the Fall 2024 semester, launching our new Master of Divinity in Spanish, as a hybrid cohort model with courses delivered in the Spanish language.
- Finally, the Fall 2024 semester also implements a new core curriculum for the M.Div., M.A.M., M.T.S., and M.S.M. degrees, concluding a comprehensive curriculum review started July 2020 and chaired by Dr. Rebekah Miles.
- CASA – the Centro de Acompañamiento, Solidaridad y Adiestramiento – represents a reimagined commitment to Hispanic ministry initiatives at Perkins School of Theology at a time when they are needed more than ever.

- Began in January 2024, Perkins is offering - in collaboration with Wesley Theological Seminary and thanks to a $5 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. - a certificate program in Spanish for pastors with no formal training, lay pastors, and others with pastoral experience.
- Adding a Preaching Excellence Certificate to our growing list of non-credit certificate programs.
- Raised $33 million toward the current capital campaign, including funding for the Perkins Scholars financial aid program through 2027.
- Recently, the Lilly Endowment awarded us a $100,000 planning grant and invitation to submit a proposal for a $2.5 million implementation grant to enhance display areas in Bridwell Library.
- Thousands of people flocked to Bridwell Library for three days in April 2023 to view the Codex Sassoon, one of the most important and influential works of global religious and cultural history. More than one thousand years gold, the codex is the earliest and most complete Hebrew Bible and after stopping at Bridwell Library, sold at Sotheby's for $38.1 million.
- The Caren and Vin Prothro Organ will be dedicated on September 30. This historic 1927 organ has been totally rebuilt and is a wonderful instrument for Perkins Chapel.
- Dr. Abraham Smith, Professor of New Testament, accepted the role of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, *ad interim* at Perkins School of Theology effective June 1, 2024.
- Ms. Christina Rhodes, who has served a variety of roles in development and enrollment management at SMU since 2017, was appointed Assistant Dean of Enrollment Management at Perkins in October 2023. As Assistant Dean, Rhodes plays a pivotal role in crafting a vision for Perkins' recruitment, admissions and scholarship aid.
- Dr. Elias Lopez was named Director of the Perkins Doctor of Ministry program in June 2023. He is a 2018 graduate of the Perkins D.Min. program and earned his Master of Divinity from Perkins in 2010. Dr. Lopez also is director of the Perkins Intern Program.

Perkins School of Theology is grateful for continued support from The United Methodist Church, individuals and foundations. I assumed the role of Dean, *ad interim* on June 1, 2024, succeeding Bishop Michael McKee, who served since January 2023. It is my privilege to further the Perkins mission to equip persons for faithful leadership and Christian ministry in a changing church and society; to educate those seeking a deeper understanding of the Christian faith; and to strengthen the church, academy, and world through service, scholarship, and advocacy.

Yours,
Hugo Magallanes
Leighton K. Farrell Endowed Dean, ad interim
Associate Professor of Christianity and Cultures

Saint Paul School of Theology

Educating tomorrow's leaders by offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning courses at a FLEXible schedule, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary serving a diverse community committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry through rigorous academic life. Grounded in the academic study of faith and ministry, theology is practiced in a traditional classroom and remote spaces. Our contextual curriculum features Ministry Collaboration Groups, Practicums, Spiritual Formation Retreats, and Seminars. Students learn from dedicated faculty, experienced pastors, and community leaders about best ministry practices, leaving our graduates with the tools and first-hand experience necessary to meet the needs of a changing world.

At the core of our mission at Saint Paul is the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry through rigorous academic life. In 2024, we are launching two exciting new programs to revitalize current pastors and preachers and prepare seminary students for music ministry. First, with the help of Lilly Endowment's Compelling Preaching grant and the leadership of Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and

Worship and Director of Contextual Education and Pause/Play Center for Preachers, Saint Paul School of Theology is creating a Center that addresses the risk of losing heart and prophetic imagination as a preacher in this divided world. The Pause/Play Center for Preachers' mission is in its name: to hold space for busy preachers to pause and play their way into a renewal of their vocation as preachers of the Good News. Second, for Fall 2024, as part of our Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) degree program, we will launch a first-of-its-kind specialization in Modern Worship Music. Saint Paul will partner with The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection and their COR Worship Collective to prepare students to write, produce, and perform modern worship music. Students will integrate a worship leaders' skills with their study of theology, the bible, history, and worship in a diverse, inclusive, and spiritually enriching environment. Lastly, we recently completed the (Theo)Logic Studio on our Oklahoma Campus. The Studio serves as a dedicated space for creating, recording, and editing digital media resources tailored to the ministries of students, staff, faculty, and alums, encompassing content development ranging from podcasts and video resources to digital graphics.

We continue to invite Saint Paul students, alums, and friends to join us in a hybrid format, where participants may join in-person or online, allowing everyone to come together as one institution from wherever they are. Saint Paul offers weekly chapel services throughout the academic year featuring students, alums, faculty, and local leaders. In addition, weekly Spiritual Formation allows attendees to engage in spiritual practices led by new Oklahoma Chapel Coordinator Rev. Alanna Ireland '23. Some practices take us outdoors or to other sacred spaces, and others have us connect with community leaders.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, we brought 41 new, faithful theologians from across the world to our learning community. International students from South Korea, Belgium, and Mexico added to the global learning environment on both campuses and online. Twenty-seven percent of incoming students identified as a race or ethnicity other than white, and 53 percent identified as female.

Saint Paul staff and faculty continue contributing to the academy, church, and society. The faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology maintains high standards of scholarship, research, publication, and engagement. Over the past year, their many activities and publications have been so numerous that space permits only sharing selected highlights:

- Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, Lindsey P. Pherigo Associate Professor of New Testament Studies and Biblical Interpretation, published *Translation as Incarnation: The Bible in the Twenty-First Century Global South* and was the featured guest speaker of our January forum.
- Dr. Joshua Bartholomew, Assistant Professor of Ethics, Church, and Society, published *Black Theology and The Black Panthers*
- Dr. Elaine Robinson, Professor of Methodist Studies and Christian Theology, published *Leading with Love: Spiritual Disciplines For Practical Leadership*
- Rabbi Michael Zedek, Rabbi-in-Residence, published *Taking Miracles Seriously: A Journey to Everyday Spirituality* and hosted a forum with Dr. Jeanne Hoeft, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care, and Franklin and Louise Cole Associate Professor in Town and Country Ministries, on The War in Israel and Traumatized Communities
- Dr. Mike Graves, Professor Emeritus of William K. McElvaney of Preaching and Worship, published *Jesus' Vision for Your One Wild and Precious Life (on Things Like Poverty, Hunger, Polarization, Inclusion, and More)*

The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year brought a change in leadership to the Seminary. Rev. Neil Blair '80 retired as President on December 31, 2023, and President Jay Simmons, formerly Vice President of Institutional Advancement, took the helm at the start of 2024. In addition, Saint Paul Board of Trustees' Chair Dr. Amy Hogan stepped down as Board Chair, with Ms. Sharon Cleaver assuming the position until the end of June

2024. Our current strategic plan is set to conclude within the coming year. Consequently, the Board of Trustees formed a task force several months ago to prepare the next iteration of our strategic plan. Members of the Seminary's Executive Leadership Team are now working with faculty and staff to refine the draft scripted by the task force. These efforts will continue over the next few months until we have a document ready for review by the Board of Trustees. While we are still too early in this effort to comment on any specific initiatives, the plan ultimately endorsed by the Board will guide all our efforts for the next several years. Therefore, this effort is critical in defining how we ensure that Saint Paul remains a vital and vigorous Seminary committed to preparing our students for creative and innovative ministry.

For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 250 individual students, including 79 new students, with approximately 600 registrations and offering 46 classes. Serving 31 Conferences, 89 Districts, 116 Full Time and 126 Part-Time Licensed Local Pastors comprised these registrations. Seventy percent of these students are taking more than one course. To help offset student costs, twenty percent of all students received aid from their conference or church. COS School continues to attract a diverse student body. One hundred eighty-eight students ranged in age from 30 to 65, and 62 students ranged in age from 66 to 82. Students self-identified across four racial/ethnic groups. Fifty-two percent were male, and forty
eight percent were female. Many COS Schoolstudents serve more than one church, many rural, with a few dozen students serving three or more churches. We helped 23 students finish the 20-course program this year, issuing them certificates of completion. With approval from GBHEM, the school has continued its course offerings in both asynchronous and synchronous online formats. Utilizing this online format, we reached students in 28 states. We continue to offer online registration completed by the student
with the ability to access their student account through Populi as used by our Seminary students. COS also uses the same learning platform, Moodle, as our Seminary students. By implementing the Course of Study School into Populi, these students share the same benefits as the Seminary, allowing them to participate in the Saint Paul experience. They have full access to the Seminary library on campus and online, with several required readings accessible as an eBook. We have invited COS School students to join our Saint Paul School of Theology Weekly Chapel Services and Spiritual Formation gatherings and other Saint Paul events.

Saint Paul is a financially healthy Seminary. We operate with a balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment that is 9-10 times the size of our annual expenses. Sustainability has been our focus over the past six years, and we have achieved our goal. Investments in our future bring exciting new opportunities for our students, staff, and faculty. As always, we continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and evolving academic programs to students. Our significant technological investments have allowed us to maintain a hybrid educational delivery model, providing a flexible working arrangement for our students.

We are continuing to enhance our partnership with Zoom and Neat. We now have Neat Bars & Neat Boards in all our classrooms. In addition, during this last year, we implemented a Neat Board in Harris Chapel on our Oklahoma Campus. We also have Neat Boards in multiple common areas to encourage ad-hoc use of the technology for breakout groups and other miscellaneous meetings between our two campuses and our remote students. One of the best features of this technology is its ability to receive automatic real-time over-the-air feature upgrades. Zoom & Neat continue enhancing our learning environment by rolling out new enhancements, including enhanced whiteboarding, noise cancellation, and AI features. Our Neat equipment continuously monitors several environmental factors within our classrooms: air quality, temperature, humidity, VOC, and CO2, as well as being able to tell if the classrooms are occupied and how many individuals are in the room. We can also monitor the audio/video quality and network connectivity in each of our classrooms, as well as the connection quality for all remote students attending the class. We are excited about the additional enhancements that will come to our classrooms from Neat and Zoom over this next year.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking to discover more and answer the call. Your advocacy for the Seminary and generous financial support have been vital in realizing our accomplishments. Many thanks for the innumerable ways you have helped Saint Paul. Your prayers and actions on behalf of the Seminary are a blessing to all of us.

Jay K. Simmons, President

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOUNDARIES 2024

ARKANSAS CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Arkansas.
CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE shall include the counties of: Bell, Bosque, Brown, Coleman, Comanche, Coryell, Eastland, Ellis (except for God's Kingdom in Ferris), Erath, Hamilton, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Limestone, McLennan, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Runnels (except for Mize), Somervell, Stephens, Tarrant, Williamson, (except for the area west of US Highway 183, Research Blvd—Bell Blvd) which shall be in the Rio Texas Conference, excluding Rockbridge UMC which is in the Central Texas Conference) and Young. Town sites include: Cross Plains in Callahan County, Mullin in Mills County, Mooseville, Perry, and Rosebud in Falls County, Wortham, Kirvin, Streetman and Lakeside in Freestone County.
GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Kansas plus Towner in Kiowa County, Colorado, and all of the State of Nebraska.
LOUISIANA CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Louisiana.
MISSOURI CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Missouri.
NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE shall include the entire State of New Mexico and the following: Counties: Brewster, Crane, Culberson, Ector, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos (except the community of Iraan), Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, Ward and Winkler. Town sites: Farwell in Parmer County. Also a fifty mile wide strip of land in the northeast corner of Arizona-New Mexico state border, on the west by a line fifty miles west of the Arizona-New Mexico State border and parallel to it, and on the south by the south border of the Navajo Indian Reservation.
NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE shall include the following: Counties: Archer, Clay, Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Franklin, Hopkins, Hunt, Jack, Kaufman, Lamar, Montague, Red River, 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, Knox, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer (except Farwell),

Potter, Randall, Roberts, Scurry, Shackleford, 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, Texas and Kansas.
RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE shall include the following counties: Aransas, Atascosa, Bandara, Bastrop, except Paige, Bee, Bexar, Blanco, Brooks, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Coke, Colorado, Comal, Concho, Crockett, DeWitt, Dimmitt, Duval, Edwards, Fayette, Frio, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hayes, Hidalgo, Irion, Jackson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Kleberg, LaSalle, Lampasas, Lavaca, Live Oak, Llano, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Mills except Mullin, Nueces, Real, Reagan, Refugio, San Patricio, San Saba, Schleicher, Starr, Sterling, Sutton, Tom Green, Travis, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Webb, Willacy, Williamson (the area west of US Highway 183 [Research Blvd-Bell Blvd] excluding Rockbridge UMC which is in the Central Texas Conference.) Wilson, Zavala, Zapata. Town sites: Palacios and Midfield in Matagorda County, Miles in Runnels County, El Campo and Louise in Wharton County and Industry in Austin County. Rio Texas shall also include the Spanish language work
in the States of Texas and New Mexico.
TEXAS CONFERENCE shall include the counties of: Anderson, Angelina, Austin (except Industry), Bowie, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Camp, Cass, Chambers, Cherokee, Falls (except Mooreville, Barclay, Rosebud and Perry), Ft. Bend, Freestone (except Wortham, Kirvin and Streetman), Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Henderson (except Aley), Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Marion, Matagorda, (except the communities of Palacios and Midfield), Milam (except Buckholtz), Montgomery, Morris, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Rains, Robertson, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Smith, Titus (except Talco), Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wharton (except the communities of El Campo, Louise and Oakman), Wood (except Winnsboro First, Forest Grove, Tinney Chapel and Shady Grove), Kosse in Limestone County and the community of Paige in Bastrop County.

Boundaries Committee
South Central Jurisdictional Conference
July 10, 2024

Members Present: Susan Brumbaugh, Kercida McClain, Scott Brewer, Andrew Conard, Patsy Eyachabbe, Courtney Blacksten, Stan Copeland, Brandon Bates, Daniel Hawkins, Jill Wondel, Kim

Jennings, Stacy Hawkins, Brandon Bates, Adam Philley, Katy McKay-Simpson, Katie Pearce, Andy Bryan (from Episcopacy Committee), Wilson Pruitt, Linda Parks, Todd Salzwedel, Randy Stutes, Vincent Harris. Members Absent: Abby Johnson

The meeting was convened at 1:06 pm with an opening prayer by Bishop Cynthia Fierro-Harvey. Bishop Bob Farr was also present for the convening of the committee. Bishop Harvey noted that our Jurisdictional Standing Rules have not been updated since 1992. Originally, the Boundaries Committee was created to address the situation of a congregation moving from one Annual Conference to another. According to the Book of Discipline, the work of setting boundaries is the work of the Episcopacy Committee. Technically, we are out of order. The Episcopacy Committee will make a recommendation for the work of setting Annual Conference Boundaries.

Their proposal is to form a task force, working under the authority of the Episcopacy Committee and in conjunction with the College of Bishops. This task force will be named by the College of Bishops. This task force will be composed of the College of Bishops and one person from each Annual Conference. The task force will not be chaired by a Bishop. Acknowledged that the previous work of the Boundaries Committee was important and will not be lost. In the next 60-90 days, the current officers need to gather this work and pass it along to this newly formed task force. Moving forward, all the decision stakeholders will be at the table.

The Boundaries Committee will still bring our report to the floor of this Jurisdictional Conference later today. Discussion was held regarding responses from our committee to the Bishops' announcement.

The recommendation for this newly formed task force will come in the Committee on Episcopacy report. Recommendation for the unification of Northwest Texas, North Texas, and Central Texas into the Horizon Texas Conference will come from this committee.

We discussed a recommendation to Committee on Episcopacy about how the newy formed task force is authorized. We recommend a vote to approve from the Jurisdictional Conference. Discussion moved to editing our report being presented later today. When the report was completed, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Charla Gwartney
Secretary

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

STRUCTURE AND RULES OF ORDER

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 I. MEETINGS

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

Section 2. The Conference shall meet at the time determined by the Council of Bishops, or its delegated committee. (The Book of Discipline—2016 ¶ 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—2016 ¶ 25, Article III)

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—2016, ¶ 522)

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

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

Section 4. There shall be a 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 of Mission and Administration shall be:

1. Serve as the primary administrative officer of the Jurisdiction to enhance the mission efforts of the Jurisdiction, its agencies, and the Annual Conferences of the Jurisdiction.
2. Promote, implement and coordinate the program of the Jurisdiction as defined by The Conference and its agencies.
3. Serve as the primary staff person of the Jurisdictional Mission Council and all other entities of the Jurisdiction as needed.
4. Serve, or assign others to serve, as the coordinator of Jurisdictional workshops, conferences, schools, and other 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 of Mission and Administration shall include:

1. Serve as the primary administrative officer of the Jurisdiction

2. Serve as the Secretary of The Conference:

a. Nominate for election by The Conference as many assistants and secretaries as may be required.

b. Nominate for election by The Conference as many tellers as may be required, provided that each Annual Conference shall have at least one teller.

c. Organize the secretarial staff of The Conference and evaluate their work.

d. Keep an official Journal of The Conference, provide for sufficient copies of the Journal as needed, 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 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 2016.

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:

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

Clergy	**Lay Men**	**Lay Women**
Missouri - Terri Swan	Central Texas - Steve McIver	New Mexico - Donna TeBrink
Oklahoma - TBN	Louisiana - Keith Kreutziger	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 of Bishops if needed to serve eight years, but must be nominated each quadrennium by the College of Bishops.

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

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

e. The South Central Jurisdiction Archivist.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2. Officers of the Council and their duties

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 3. Duties and Limitations of the Council

1. It shall be the duty of The Council to:
   a. Elect annually the Executive Director of the South Central Jurisdiction.
   b. Fix the location of the Jurisdictional office.

c. Determine the budget for the Jurisdictional office including the salary of the Executive Director, subject to the limitations set by The Conference.

d. Assign duties and responsibilities to the Executive Director. as occasion may demand.

e. Through its Personnel Committee supervise the work of and evaluate and provide appropriate support and counsel to the Executive Director.

f. Elect persons to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees/Directors of Lydia Patterson Institute, and Southern Methodist University, between meetings of The Conference and verify the same to those institutions.

g. Elect all other persons that require Jurisdictional Conference action between meetings of The Conference and verify the same to the appropriate body.

h. Receive and consider all matters of policy and proposals coming from any source calling for action by The Conference.

i. Serve as the Program Committee for The Conference, in consultation with a Host Committee at the site of the ensuing Jurisdictional Conference.

j. Serve as the Agenda Committee of The Conference in consultation with the College of Bishops.

k. Select the site of The Conference quadrennial meeting.

l. Deal with new matters and emergencies of a Jurisdictional nature between sessions of the quadrennial meeting.

m. Between meetings of The Conference shall perform all administrative and financial responsibilities not assigned to other bodies of The Conference, and have general responsibility for the budget and finances of the Jurisdiction.

n. Between meetings of The Conference, shall serve as the program and mission agency of the Jurisdiction; oversee the work of the Ministry Teams, task forces and any other program and/or mission entities of the Jurisdiction.

Section 4. Ministry Teams

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

1. There shall be a **Finance and Administration Team** whose duties shall be to:

a. Make a careful evaluation of jurisdictional administration expenses and all other causes and interests that shall be included in the total annual jurisdictional budget.

b. Recommend funds sufficient to pay the expenses of the Executive Director's office in the performance of secretarial, missional and administrative duties.

c. Recommend quadrennial budgets to The Council for its review and referral to The Conference.

d. Recommend annual budgets to The Council for its action,

e. Recommend the basis of determining the apportionment formula for each Annual Conference.

f. Give oversight to the raising of the funds for the Jurisdictional budget by the Annual Conferences

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

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

a. A Korean American member named by the Jurisdictional Korean Caucus who will meet with and have vote with the Ethnic Ministry Initiatives Team only.

b. The Jurisdictional Korean Ministries Director, ex officio without vote.

c. The Team will consult with Jurisdictional Staff to evaluate Korean Mission in the Jurisdiction; to recommend events and services of a jurisdictional nature; to develop models of mission and ministry for the Korean mission in the Jurisdiction.

Section 5. The Program Committee of The Conference

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

a. Arrange a program for The Conference that will present a challenge on behalf of the church and its worldwide mission.

b. The Program Committee shall be assisted by a Local Arrangements Task Force or Host Committee, as specified below.

c. Arrange for effective communications with the public and church media for the sessions of The Conference.

d. Confer with the College of Bishops as they arrange a memorial service for Bishops and Delegates who have died since the preceding Conference.

e. Confer with the College of Bishops on the agenda for The Conference.

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

a. The Resident Bishop(s) of the Area(s) in which The Conference will be held, one of whom shall be elected chairperson.

b. The District Superintendent(s) of the host city.

c. Three pastors and three lay persons of the host city 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 2024 Conference the designations are as follows:

Lay Women	**Lay Men**	**Clergy**
North Texas	Rio Texas	Texas
Northwest Texas	New Mexico	Arkansas
Oklahoma	Great Plains	Louisiana
Central Texas	Missouri	OIMC

The Nominations Committee, in addition to ins concern for inclusiveness with regard to ethnic minorities, male/female rations, age levels and persons with handicapping conditions, shall

insure, insofar as possible, the fair distribution of representatives shall be nominated from all geographic regions of the Jurisdiction.

Section 2. Petitions and Resolutions

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

1. The duties of the Committee shall be:

a. To receive and screen all resolutions, petitions, or other communications coming to the Conference from Annual Conferences or other agencies of the church or individuals who are members of The United Methodist Church which have been referred to it or which may be in its possession. At the beginning of each day of The Conference, the Committee shall report on all petitions, resolutions or communications in its possession, and in the event of failure to report within 24 hours of its receipt, the author, or any other delegate, shall be authorized to bring the matter to the floor of The Conference for consideration.

b. To notify The Conference by publication in the South Central Jurisdiction Advocate or otherwise, of all communications received and referred, giving the number, captions, and destination of each.

c. To refer resolutions, petitions, or other communication to other standing committees of The Conference as appropriate, providing, however that resolutions so referred to other standing committees shall be reported back to The Conference within 24 hours of its receipt. In the event of failure to report back to The Conference, the author or any sponsor thereof shall be authorized to bring the matter to the floor of The Conference for consideration.

d. To recommend non-consideration of any matter which in its judgment does not properly belong to the business of The Conference, or which does not comply with the rules thereof, provided an appeal may be taken to The Conference by any member thereof.

e. To recommend the Calendar for consideration of all matters under its jurisdiction.

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

3. The secretary of The Conference shall be a member of this committee.

Section 3. Episcopacy

There shall be a Committee on Episcopacy composed of one clergy and one lay delegate to The Conference named by the delegation from each annual conference whose duties shall be those assigned to it by The Book of Discipline (¶ 524 BOD 2016) and those assigned to it by The Conference, including but not limited to the following;

1. Review the work of the bishops and pass on their character and official administration, and report to The Conference its findings for such action as The Conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power.

2. Recommend boundaries of the Episcopal areas and the assignment of the bishops.

3. Be available to the Council/College of Bishops for consultation on matters of mutual concern.

4. Determine the number of effective bishops eligible for assignment.

5. Receive and act upon requests for possible voluntary and involuntary retirement of bishops.

6. Consult with the Annual Conference Committees on Episcopacy with respect to the needs for Episcopal leadership and how they can be fulfilled.

7. Establish a consultation process with each bishop regarding his/her Episcopal assignment.

8. Prepare a report of its decisions, activities, and recommendations to be transmitted to its successor through the office of the secretary of The Conference. The report shall be made available to delegates of The Conference prior to The Conference session.

9. Recommend to The Conference the number of bishops that should be elected.

10. Consider and recommend to The Conference, for its action, all other proposals related to the episcopacy.

Section 4. Annual Conference Boundaries

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

C. OTHER RELATED BODIES OF THE JURISDICTION

Section 1. Jurisdictional Youth Ministries Organization and Adult Coordinators of Jurisdictional Youth Ministry

1. There shall be a Jurisdictional Youth Ministry Organization (JYMO) composed of the persons specified in The Book of Discipline as members of the JYMO Convocation and such other persons as may be elected by the Legislative Assembly (JYMO) in accordance with:

a. The "Purposes and By-Laws of the Jurisdictional Youth Ministry organization.

b. The guidelines adopted by The Conference, and,

c. The Book of Discipline (¶ 533) and such others as may be assigned by the action of The Conference.

2. There shall be two Jurisdictional Youth Co-Coordinators, chosen by the "Election Process for Positions Filled by the Legislative Body" (Section III) and "Adult Representation on JYT" (Section IV) of the JYMO By-Laws. These persons shall be known as the "Adult Co-Coordinators of Jurisdictional Youth Ministry."

Section 2. United Methodist Women of the Jurisdiction

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

Section 3. United Methodist Men of the Jurisdiction

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

Section 4. Annual Conference Lay Leaders of the Jurisdiction

1. There shall be a Jurisdictional Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders to be governed by its own bylaws and electing its own officers. The South Central Jurisdiction Lay Leader shall chair the Association.

2. The SCJ Lay Leader shall be elected for the quadrennium by the Association from the immediate past Conference Lay Leaders and shall serve as a member of The Council during his/her term as specified in Article III. A. Section 1.3c.

3. Meetings of this Association shall be at the expense of the various Annual Conferences except for the Jurisdictional Lay Leader. The Jurisdiction shall provide for the expenses of the Jurisdictional Lay Leader. Such funds shall be, at the discretion of the Jurisdictional Lay Leader, used for travel and program ministries within the Jurisdiction.

D. JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEES

Section 1. Court of Appeals

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

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

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

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 TWO CONFERENCE RULES OF ORDER

The following 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 cal for the pending or previous question
f. To consider a non-debatable motion.

Rule 8. Debate on the Main Motion

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

a. To fix the time to which The Conference shall adjourn. This motion is subject to amendment, substitution, or may be laid on the table.
b. To adjourn.
c. To take a recess.
d. To order the pending or previous question. (This motion cannot be laid on the table.)
e. To lay on the table.
f. To postpone to a given time.
g. To refer.
h. To substitute.
i. To amend. (One amendment to an amendment being allowed.)
j. To postpone indefinitely.

Rule 9. Substitute Motions

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

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

Rule 10. Presentation of Committee Report

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

Rule 11. Rules of Debate

When the report of the committee is under consideration it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to ascertain when a delegate is recognized, on which side they propose to speak, and shall not assign the floor to any delegate proposing to speak in the same side of the pending

questions as the speaker immediately preceding, if any delegate desires to speak on the other side. No report shall be adopted, or question relating to the same decided without opportunity having been given for at least one speech for and one against the said proposal. Provided this right is claimed before the chairperson or duly authorized delegate presenting the committee's report or the minority report, if there is one, is presented to close the debate. When all have spoken who desire to do so, or when (and after) the pending or previous questions have been ordered, the chairperson or duly authorized delegate or delegates presenting the committee's report and the minority report, if there is one, shall be permitted to speak before the vote is taken. Unless The Conference extends the time, no speaker shall be allowed more than seven minutes.

Rule 12. Motion to Table

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

Rule 13. Order of Previous Question

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

Rule 14. Motion to Reconsider

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

Rule 15. Required Majority

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

Rule 16. Calendar

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

Rule 17. Suspension of the Rules of Order

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

Rule 18. Amendment of the Rules of Order

Rule 19. Election of Bishops

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

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

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

d. Upon recommendation of The Conference and approval by The College of Bishops an electronic (non-paper ballot) voting system may be used in the election of Bishops.

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

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

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

g. Following the report of a ballot and any ordered recess (See Rule 20) the casting of the next ballot shall be the Order of the Day.

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

Rule 20. Ordered Recess

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

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

Rule 21. Motion to Adjourn

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

a. When a question is actually put or a vote is being taken, and before it is finally decided.
b. When the pending or previous question has been ordered and action thereunder is pending.
c. When the motion to adjourn has been lost, and no business or debate has intervened.
d. When the motion to fix the time to which The Conference shall adjourn is pending.

Rule 22. Robert's Rules of Order

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

PART THREE - ADDITIONAL MATTERS

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