



# West District News

August, 2019



## *The Lord Is Calling*

West District friends, I hope you are having a great summer, and are making big plans for the coming school year, and the fall season of church ministry that is so quickly coming.

We have at least two challenges facing us in the United Methodist Churches of the West District, and I believe the answer to both challenges will be found within our local congregations!

The first challenge is our ongoing search for a qualified **District Program Coordinator**. When Gini Christian retired at the beginning of this year, she left some big running shoes to fill. I'm very grateful to servants Amy Moore, Louise Whitson, Jill Preston, Janet Larson and others who have volunteered to pick up the slack. It is time for us to hire someone to fill this 30-hour per week position. The Program Coordinator will create a consistent connection of ministries among the churches of the West District through opportunities for leadership development, information flow, and sharing of resources, energy and ministry.

**I believe our new coordinator is currently serving within one of our West District congregations right now. Won't you please help us identify him or her?** He or she may be a volunteer or staff person at your church that needs to learn of this opportunity and to be encouraged to serve the larger church in this vital way. The Job Description is included in this newsletter, or may be obtained from Amy Moore at the district office. Amy is also receiving resumes and inquiries.

The second challenge is our Rio Texas Conference-wide **shortage of qualified clergy**, whether ordained or licensed local pastors. It is especially critical for us living and serving *way out west* to raise up new (and younger?) pastors from within our congregations. Who are the bright, gifted and called leaders in your church? Sometimes all it takes is recognition of our gifts by others, and a little encouragement, to help us to listen for God's calling. Please be that affirming and encouraging voice for someone – or several someones – within your circle of faith.

Please feel free to share this article in your local church newsletters, bulletins, message boards, social media and websites. We need each other in this work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Be encouraged.

*Andy Smith*

**Job Title:** District Program Coordinator (30 hours)

**Salary:** Negotiable, commensurate with experience

**Continuing Education:** United Methodist Lay Ministry Training

**Projected start date:** Immediately

The responsibilities of District Program Coordinator will be directed towards assessing, designing, and implementing those programs and systems that will enhance and encourage a connectional tie between ministries, communities, and churches within the West District. The goal of this position is to create a consistent connection of ministries within the West District through opportunities for leadership development, information flow, sharing of resources, and shared ministry opportunities. This position requires a working knowledge of the United Methodist Church, Biblical and Wesleyan understanding of ministry, demonstrated personal integrity, consistent work ethic, exceptional leadership, interpersonal and organizational skills, budget administration, ability to work with staff colleagues and ability to maintain confidentiality in all relationships.

### Duties

- Responsible directly to the District Superintendent.
- Work with District Superintendent to provide insights and input into ways to connect, support, and resource district churches in ministry.
- Create connections among local churches to facilitate programming through shared resources and expertise... i.e. Youth, children, senior adult, outreach, and evangelism.
- Work in developing systems for dissemination of information and opportunities for ministry through district website, social media, and personal contact.
- Enhance connectedness and involvement through the effective use of social media.
- Encourage and facilitate the opportunities and training for leadership development and ministry participation, such as: Lay Servant/Lay Speaker Ministry, Volunteer-In-Ministry (VIM), and Early Response Training (ERT).
- Create, implement, and facilitate a yearly training whose purpose is to share ideas for ministry development, as well as needed knowledge that provide area churches to function in healthy and growing ways.
- Facilitate and provide for Pulpit Supply for district churches as needed.
- Promote conference events within the district.
- Serve as Liaison to District Strategy Team, coordinate District Strategy Team meetings, and schedule the district calendar and events.
- Other duties as assigned by the District Superintendent regarding mission and outreach.

Send inquiries and resume to: West District, Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, 1315 S. Abe Street, San Angelo, TX 76903 or westamy@suddenlinkmail.com.


# Charge Conference Schedule

## NORTH—October 13—Sterling City

|                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Miles—Gary Karschner     | Odessa—Oscar Lovos               |
| Robert Lee—Cyndi Weidner | Sterling City—Glenn Luhrs        |
| Bronte—Stacy Sprinkle    | Veribest/Paint Rock—Mike Thomson |

## NORTH EAST—October 20—San Saba

Melvin—Scott Melton  
 Brady—Bun Jackson  
 Goldthwaite—John Alsbrooks  
 Star/Center City—Tim Birkner  
 San Saba—Mark Smith



Times will be  
set soon!

## WEST—November 10— Ozona

Big Lake / Barnhart—  
Susan Rang  
 Mertzson—Mark Krause  
 Ozona—Leigh Lloyd  
 Iraan—TBS  
 Rankin—John Lee  
 Eldorado—Janet Larson

## CENTRAL—November 17—TBA

Christoval / Grape Creek—Lori Jones  
 San Angelo:First—Scott Bradford,  
 Bryan Rogers, Dale Weise  
 Sierra Vista—Stan Whites,  
 Tamara Strehli, Kelly Duke  
 Wesley Trinity—Robert Marks, Jr.  
 Betel—TBS  
 St. Luke—Jim Noble

## SOUTH EAST—September 29— Mason

Menard—Judy Swarts  
 Hilda—Michael Bell  
 Art / Castell—Tim Fahrenthold  
 Mason—Peter Aguilar  
 Junction / London—  
 Stephen Curry

## SOUTH—October 6—Brackettville

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Sonora—Bill Harris             | Rocksprings / Barksdale—David Lee Murray |
| Del Rio:First—Juan Osorio      | Del Rio:Principe de Paz—Ricardo Rubio    |
| Brackettville—Cynthia Engstrom |  |

## 2020 General & Jurisdictional Delegates

Clergy:

### General Conference

Laura Merrill  
James Amerson  
Raquel Feagins  
Taylor Fuerst

### Jurisdictional Conference

Paul Escamilla  
Abigail Herrera  
Wilson Pruitt  
Amelia Beasley

### Alternate

Russell Miller  
Liliana Padilla  
Michael Mumme  
Thomas Deviney



Laity:

### General Conference

Jay Brim  
Rachel Wright  
Charles McGarity  
Ralph Thompson

### Jurisdictional Conference

Carol Loeb  
Cynthia Johnson  
Kercida McClain  
Iris Chavez

### Alternate Delegates

Priscilla Patterson  
Aislinn Deviney  
Patricia Stewart  
Abby Gutierrez

## West District Missions

Dear Pastors and Laity,

I am inviting you to participate in the development of a Missions Committee for the West District. Currently there is no organized mission effort in our district. It would be great to have volunteers from the pastors and from the laity in helping to develop and organize this committee.

The formation would look similar to the Hill Country District's structure in order to work in tandem with any mission efforts that arise. Part of the goals would be to develop strategies for handling long- and short-term mission issues that might arise not only in our own district, but that might arise in other districts, our state, our nation and our world. One example of this is the border issue. The Hill Country District has been very active in helping churches become connected with the needs and working to help meet those needs.

Pastors, your involvement is critical as connectional points of contact and support, and also in identifying those members in your congregations who have a heart for mission that would be willing to serve on this committee and help develop best practices for a West District Mission Committee.

If you or any member of your congregation is interested in serving on this committee, please contact me by phone, 512-557-4170 (c) or email [bunjackson@centurytel.net](mailto:bunjackson@centurytel.net).

Thank you  
Bun Jackson



## Lay Speaker Training September 21, 2019

First United Methodist Church  
401 S. Blackburn, Brady, TX

Courses offered & Deadlines to register:

**Basic Course – DEADLINE AUGUST 30TH**

**Advanced Courses:**

**Leading Worship – DEADLINE AUGUST 30TH**

**Leading Public Prayer – DEADLINE AUGUST 16TH**

Registration Forms are on the District website: [www.umcwayoutwest.org](http://www.umcwayoutwest.org) under the “Forms and Events” tab. Or, contact the District Office, [westamy@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:westamy@suddenlinkmail.com), for a form to be sent to you. Please note the registration deadlines above. There will be pre-course work.

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## Events offered by the Conference:

August 24<sup>th</sup> – Preaching Seminar with Perkins School of Theology Professor Dr. Wes Allen at Northern Hills UMC in San Antonio

August 26<sup>th</sup> – An Ecumenical Adaptive Leadership Seminar at Woodland Baptist Church in San Antonio (early registration costs until Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>!)

Also, mark your calendar for two Fresh Expression events in the fall. You can register for these on the Fresh Expression website or look for registration on the Rio Texas website in mid-August.

Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – Fresh Expression Vision Day at Coker UMC San Antonio

Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> – Dinner Church Encounter at Hope Chapel in Austin

# Calendar

- Aug. 6 Concho Country Emmaus Community Gathering, 6:30 p.m., Sierra Vista  
8-9 District Office Closed  
16 Deadline for Registration to "Leading Public Prayer" Advanced Course  
Pre-work is required for this course offered September 21 in Brady.  
20 Pastors and Professionals Meeting, TBD  
24 Preaching Seminar, Northern Hills UMC, San Antonio  
26 Shush-free Worship, 7:00 p.m., Sierra Vista UMC  
26 Ecumenical Adaptive Leadership Seminar,  
Woodland Baptist Church, San Antonio  
28-30 Cabinet Retreat  
30 Deadline for Registration to the Basic Course & "Leading Worship"  
Advanced Course—Scheduled September 21 in Brady.
- Sept. 2 District Office Closed—Labor Day  
9-13 Andy—Vacation  
21 Lay Speaker Training, Brady—must be pre-registered in August  
23-24 Cabinet Meeting  
26 Lay Servant Ministries Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m., District Office

## West District Rio Texas Conference United Methodist Church

1315 South Abe Street  
San Angelo, TX 76903

Phone: 325-486-1500

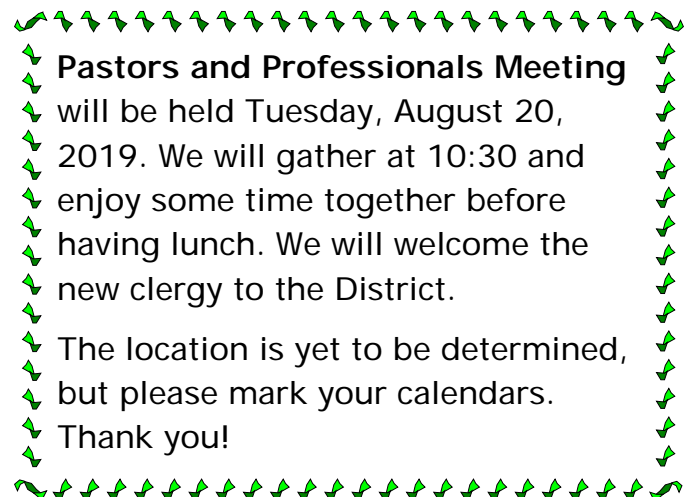
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Amy Moore, Operations Manager  
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 Pastors and Professionals Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 20, 2019. We will gather at 10:30 and enjoy some time together before having lunch. We will welcome the new clergy to the District. The location is yet to be determined, but please mark your calendars. Thank you!

**District Web-Page:**

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