

West District News

February, 2021

Annual Conference 2021



Rio Texas Conference Delegates,

Our 2020-2021 Annual Conference year is in full swing, and ministry continues to impact lives and communities in the name and power of Jesus. As the Rio Texas Conference continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 virus, and the number of persons infected by the virus continues to grow, leaders from throughout the Conference have discussed the effect that this may have on conducting the 2021 Annual Conference in June. After discussions with the Uniting Table, the Cabinet, Bishop Schnase, and other district and conference leaders, it has been decided that we will hold a virtual 2021 Annual Conference. Planning is already underway. Our session will incorporate learnings and feedback from our virtual Annual Conference in October 2020, including a new voting system, improved processes for delegates to be recognized from the (virtual) floor, and opportunities for delegates to connect with one another. Information on these tools will be posted on the website and emailed to delegates as planning develops, so preparations can be made for our virtual time together.

Pray for the Rio Texas Conference as we continue our ministry in new and exciting ways. Pray for the team that is putting together our worship, teachings, workshops and business sessions for Annual Conference. Celebrate with us the opportunities all of us have to be creative in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. I look forward with eagerness to gathering, learning and celebrating in new, profound, and creative ways with you at our virtual 2021 Annual Conference in June.

In Service,
Rev. Mickey T. McCandless
Conference Secretary

Inside this issue:

<i>Miles UMC—Stew Fest</i>	2
<i>Workers' Comp Portal</i>	2
<i>Safe Gatherings</i>	2
<i>Ministry through Administration</i>	3
<i>District Committee on Ordained Ministry</i>	3
<i>Rio Texas Conference</i>	3
<i>Calendar</i>	4
<i>West District Contact Info</i>	4

Miles UMC Super Bowl Stew Fest

Date: Sunday, February 7, 2021

Location: Weatherby Hall, Miles, Tx.

Times: 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

Menu: Homemade Stew, Cornbread, and Desserts

Cost: \$8.00 per person

Worker's Compensation Reporting

In order to insure the Conference Office has properly reported all wages to the Texas Department of Insurance for the Workers' Compensation Insurance, we require all churches to report all salaries by using the "Workers' Comp Portal". **The deadline for reporting is February 3, 2021.** This reporting also includes Mother's Day Out, Dar Care, or Day School programs.

If you any questions please contact Tina Whitaker, twhitaker@riotexas.org, or (210)408-4529.

Portal: www.riotexas.org, go to "Administrative Service", then Property and Liability" and a link is provided that says "Workers' Compensation Portal".

Safe Gatherings

Safe Gatherings updated its training course last fall to address the challenges and best practices when conducting online ministry.

The module was available to currently approved users for 90 days, and it is now included as part of the Safe Gatherings training. **We heard a lot of feedback from people who did not have a chance to review the module. So, we are happy to announce that we are providing the module again, available until February 20, 2021.**

The module discusses abuse prevention considerations for conducting online meetings, technology challenges and solutions, boundary awareness situations in terms of virtual ministry, and more.##

All currently approved applicants can review the new material by logging in to their Safe Gatherings account. If you have questions, call 888.241.8258.

Ministry through Administration

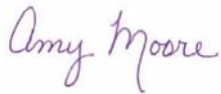
To: Administrative Staff in the West District

In the past I have gathered with those interested in the West District who are responsible for the Administrative aspect of the church. Administrative Assistants, Finance Secretaries, Office Managers, etc. that work at the churches (whether volunteer or paid) who would like to be a support group for each other. It has been too long since I have done this, and I would like to see if anyone is interested in doing this again. I know with COVID we can't gather together in person, but Zoom makes it possible to meet together in another way.

If you are interested, please contact me, westamy@suddenlinkmail.com, or 325.486.1500. I would love to hear from you either way, as I would like to get to know each of you. I speak to some on occasion, but I don't know everyone like I did before.

I hope to hear from you. Thanks!

Let's stay connected,



District Committee on Ordained Ministry

The West District Committee on Ordained Ministry will be holding annual interviews March 9, 2021 and April 13, 2021. Yes, it is different than in the past where we met 2 days in a row.

If you have not received an email with the schedule and you need to interview with the committee, please contact Amy Moore at the District Office, westdistrict@riotexas.org, or 325.486.1500. Thank you!

Rio Texas Conference

The Rio Texas Conference office is striving to provide churches different ways to move forward through the COVID-19 pandemic. One way to stay up-to-date with conference events is checking out the Rio Texas Conference website, www.riotexas.org. There are several zoom events happening.

**WEST DISTRICT
RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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The United Methodist Church

We're on the web!

www.umcwayoutwest.org

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Calendar

February:	2	Coffee with Andy
	2	Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 p.m.
	3-4	Andy—TMF DS Group
	9	Coffee with Andy
	10-11	Cabinet Meeting
	16	Coffee with Andy
	18	Cabinet Meeting
	23	Coffee with Andy
	23	Cabinet Meeting
March	1-2	Clergy Convocation, watch for more information soon
	2-3	Cabinet Meeting
	2	Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 p.m.
	9	West District Committee on Ordained Ministry Interviews
	10-11	Cabinet Meeting
	15-19	Amy—Vacation
	16	Coffee with Andy
	18	Cabinet Meeting
	23	Coffee with Andy
	24-25	Cabinet Meeting
	30	Coffee with Andy
31	Cabinet Meeting	