

West District News

July, 2021



Ordained to Serve

We have just finished our 2021 Annual Conference session, and a new conference year has begun. I am happy to be appointed by Bishop Schnase for my *fifth* year as District Superintendent of the West District. This year marks the end of my *30th* year under full-time appointment in the United Methodist Church. *Thirty years!* Lord, have mercy.

It was a good Conference, with inspired worship, great teaching and preaching, and wonderful reports of the life-changing ministries of the Rio Texas Conference. I loved Bishop Schnase's "Bishop's Message", in which he listed things he doesn't know and does know, and gave us hope for the future. Conference Treasurer Kendall Waller also gave an inspirational talk urging churches, as we face the "new normal", to embrace more of the *NEW* than the normal.

** (You may view the Bishop's Message, the Ordination service, and other parts of Annual Conference by visiting riotexas.org and clicking on the large Fall Afresh on Me logo.)*

The high point of Annual Conference for me was Saturday's Service of Commissioning and Ordination. I was one of the few allowed to participate in the worship service in person, and it was wonderful to see so many lay and clergy friends gathered together. It increased my longing to gather with you again. Hopefully, we will be able to do so soon.

Of course, the greater joy of the service was being present for the commissioning and ordination of our own West District pastors: Kristie Crisp (commissioned as a provisional elder), Kelly Duke (ordained as a deacon), and Janet Larson & Susan Rang (ordained as elders). Praise the Lord!

The Commissioning and Ordination liturgy does a good job of reminding the church that all Christians share a common ministry of love and service, so that as we celebrate those set aside by God for ordained ministry, we remember that we are all called to be ministers.

I celebrate with joy the ministry of Kristie, Kelly, Janet, Susan, and the 22 other pastors (26 total!) who were affirmed and empowered to serve the gospel of Christ among us; and I give thanks for my own thirty years of full-time servant ministry.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Andy

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Notes from Ken



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
Matthew 11: 28

Summer is in full swing. Often during this time, we are busier than the rest of the year. Social events, family events, vacations, gardening, and everything else builds up upon us. But this is the main time we need to rest our body's and most importantly our souls. It is necessary to take the time to spend talking, meditating, and resting with God. Life is hectic enough, throughout the rest of the year with work, school, sports, extracurricular activities, friends, and family. Please take this time to reset your physical, mental, and emotional health.

Also I encourage you, again, if you haven't already, to join the [Rio Texas Conference United Methodist Women | home \(umwriotexas.org\)](http://umwriotexas.org) and/or the [Rio Texas Conference United Methodist Men \(riotexasumm.org\)](http://riotexasumm.org). These are wonderful organizations with love, service, support, and friendship.

Lastly, I still want to encourage you to attend the Early Response Training, July 17th at Sierra Vista. Even if you think you might not have time to join an Early Response Team, there is a lot of helpful training. You could use this to help your neighbors, friends, and families in times of need. Go to <https://riotexasresponse.org/ert-basic> for more information.

Blessings,
Ken Wadley
Program Coordinator



**ERT Basic Training at
Sierra Vista UMC
4522 College Hills Blvd, San Angelo
on July 17th 2021
from 8:30am to 4:30pm**
**For more information or to register go
to:
<https://riotexasresponse.org/ert-basic>**

**“Are you Ready, Are you Able,
Are you Willing?”**

There is something for everyone to do.

For questions or concerns, please contact Ginnie Street, Rio Texas Conference Disaster Response Training Coordinator at 512-203-7730 or training@riotexasresponse.org

Summer Camps Available



◆ Camp Awesomeness ◆ August 4-7, 2021

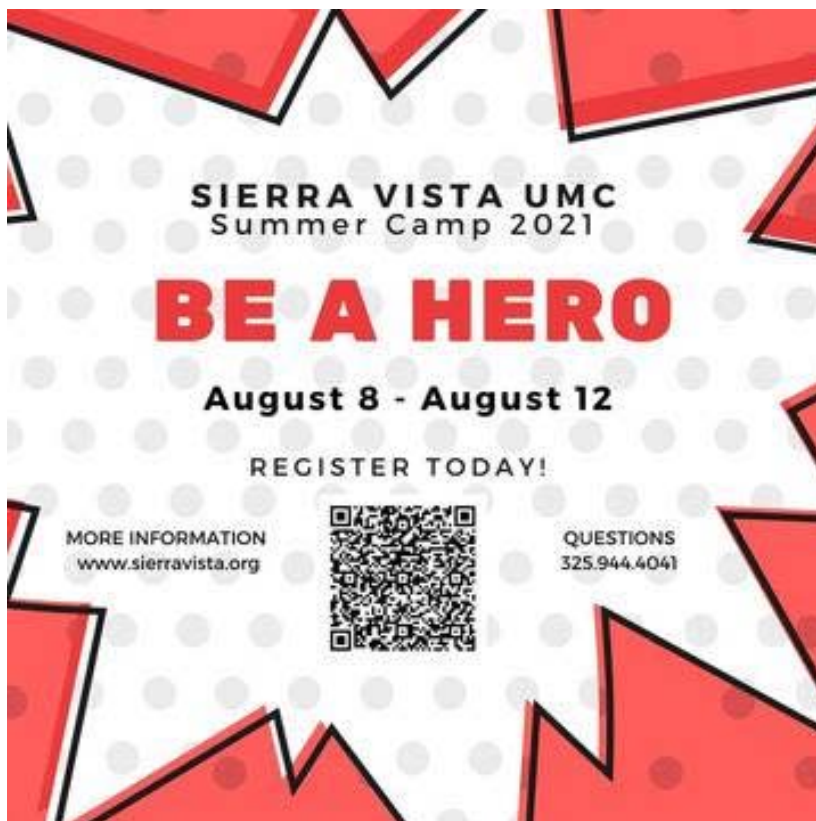
Cost: \$125 by July 12
\$150 late registration

No registration accepted after July 19th.

The Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church West & Hill Country Districts invites **tweens going into 4th, 5th, or 6th grades** in the 2021-22 school year to **Camp Awesomeness August 4th – 7th** being held @ Gruene UMC in New Braunfels.

Come explore and learn how to find the WAY using your GPS (God's Positioning System) along with friends as you discover new faith-filled FUN ways to **Grow, Pray, and Study** together as God guides you on your journey of faith EVERY DAY!

To register go to: www.tinyurl.com/campawesomeness2021



Camp Details:

August 8 - 11, 2021

Cost: \$300 per child

Children going into third through ninth grades for the 2021-2022 school year are invited. Camp will be held at Camp Butman near Merkel and will feature many new and exciting activities. Kids' Bible studies will focus on how to live like Jesus and

"BE A HERO!"

**WEST DISTRICT
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The United Methodist Church

We're on the web!

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Calendar

July	1-2	Amy—Vacation
	5	District Office Closed for observance of July 4th holiday
	6	Coffee with Andy
	6	Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 p.m.
	8-9	District Office Closed
	13	Coffee with Andy
	15-19	Andy—Vacation
	16	District Office Closed
	17	ERT Training, Sierra Vista
	20	Coffee with Andy
	22-23	District Office Closed
	27	Coffee with Andy
	30	District Office Closed
August	3	Coffee with Andy
	3	Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 p.m.
	4-7	Camp Awesomeness
	8-11	Camp—"Be A Hero"
	9-13	Andy—Spiritual Retreat
	10	Coffee with Andy
	17	Coffee with Andy
	24	Coffee with Andy
	29-7	General Conference
	31	Coffee with Andy