

Thank you to everyone who has done their part in helping persons in our most vulnerable communities to get scheduled for the Covid-19 vaccine. If you are receiving inquiries about why they have not been contacted, ask them to be patient as the winter storm delayed many that were scheduled and delayed the hospitals in scheduling more people.

Thanks be to God that He kept us through the recent winter storm. Thanks to each of you for supporting your family, friends, neighbors, and communities in whatever capacity it was needed. Whether you provided shelter in your church or home, provided food, or water you were a blessing to someone in need. Now that the cleanup has begun and damages have been assessed, there will be more in need of help. If you can volunteer or know of others who can volunteer, please see the article from our disaster coordinator, Godfrey Hubert on how you can assist.

From the Central South District Staff

Due to the winter storm the Lay Leadership Training has been rescheduled to February 27th & March 6th.

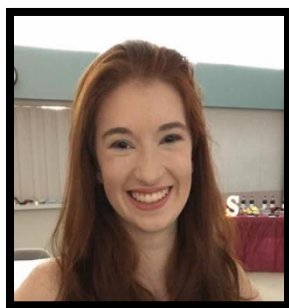
Those who registered for the training received an email with the updated information.

Lay Leadership Training

Central South District has scheduled a Lay Leadership Training to include Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees and Certification in both Basic and Advanced courses in Lay Servant Ministry. There is no cost to participants; however, registration is required.

The required training books for Basic and Advanced Lay Servant Ministry must be purchased in advance of course through Cokesbury (www.cokesbury.com). Zoom information link will be forwarded to participants prior to training date.

Please share this information with your congregations and others who have a passion for Lay Servant Ministry. This training is open to all. For more information contact Ms. Juanita Jackson @ jjackson3014@sbcglobal.net or Rev. Sandra Jones @ sandenjones@hotmail.com



Central South District's New Office Assistant

Some of you may have called the office prior to the winter storm and heard a different voice, it was the voice of our new part time office assistant, Sara Hinshaw-Hatten. Sara will be working with us Tuesday – Thursdays in the afternoons as she continues to pursue a degree from the University of Houston. Sara is the granddaughter of Mrs. Nancy Hinshaw, former assistant to the Bishop.

The next time you call the office make sure you give a hearty welcome to Sara.

Winter Storm 2021 has affected our entire Conference, creating unprecedented



hardship for millions. There is no region in our Conference that has been spared. As a result, the Response will need to be coordinated locally within each community. While there are resources, it will fall on churches to work together to mitigate the damage caused by this hard freeze. At a minimum, I encourage each pastor to appoint a Disaster Response Coordinator and Assistant to manage her/his congregation's response. They should start by seeking direction and collaboration from the County Office of Emergency Management and

the Long-Term Recovery Organization.

For information about how to Respond in the immediate future, please watch the 8 minute synopsis covering things you should know about helping others under these circumstances <https://www.txcumc.org/winter-storm-recovery-webinar>. Also, on the webpage is an hour-long video of the webinar recorded on Saturday, February 20th.

We anticipate there will be many people in vulnerable communities who do not have homeowner's insurance or the means to hire professionals to do the needed repairs. We encourage volunteers to go into their vulnerable communities to help homeowners sign up for Clean Up assistance by registering on the **Crisis Cleanup Hotline --- 844-965-1386. It is a statewide database from which any Recovery Organization, including us, can pull names and addresses within specific zip codes in order to assist them.**

The Conference has set up a webpage for further information about how to serve, how to get help, and how to give - <https://www.txcumc.org/winter-storm-2021>

Our friends all over Texas are going to need our help for a long time as they recover. All funds not used for Winter Storm 2021 will be used for future disaster relief. Donate online to Winter Storm 2021 in the Texas Annual Conference at:

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/texa5215112>.

Checks can also be mailed to: Texas Annual Conference, 5215 Main St., Houston, TX 77002

Local churches with damage should call their insurance company and notify their District Superintendent's office. Finally, if any churches have volunteers skilled in pipe and home repair that are available to help beyond their local community, please contact Christine Riggle at the Mission Center - 936-788-6650 criggle@txcumc.org

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Godfrey Hubert, TAC Disaster Readiness Coordinator
281-433-1412 or gghubert@txcumc.org

Postponed GC2021 What does this mean for me?



How will the decisions being made this week by the Commission on the General Conference affect the United Methodist Church, our Annual Conference, and your local church? What unanswered questions do you have?

Join Bishop Scott J. Jones on Friday, February 26th from 2-3 p.m. for a conversation about what these decisions mean for the future of our denomination. A live Q&A will follow. You do not need to register for this webinar and space is limited.

For registration, go to www.txcumc.org/webinars



Microloans

The one-time \$1 million TMF Microloan Program was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and has been expanded to include capital needs arising from damages from the February 2021 ice storm. This program is designed to efficiently serve the growing needs within United Methodist churches and nonprofit organizations by quickly providing access to funding for the unique and changing circumstances ministry leaders are facing at this time.

Guidelines for February Ice Storm Needs

The TMF Microloan Program will make small (\$2,500 - \$25,000), short-term (24-month) microloans at a rate of 2% interest for repairs and other capital needs arising from the February ice storm. Repayment of these loans is deferred for 6 months based on date of approval. Churches and nonprofits must meet these guidelines to apply:

- (1) Open to qualified 501(c)(3) United Methodist churches and United Methodist-related nonprofit organizations in TX and NM (individuals, private foundations, etc. are ineligible). Priority will be given to organizations with budgets of \$500,000 or less.
- (2) Balanced budget for one of the last two years (2019 and/or 2020).

****February Ice Storm applications will open by Tuesday, February 23, 2021.***

Application: <https://tmf-fdn.org/loans/micro-loans>

The Pastor's Moving... Now What?

A change of pastors is part of the rhythm of life for every United Methodist Church. It happens at some point for every church. Once a change has been announced, the goal of every pastor and church is to make that transition well. Saying goodbye and hello well takes planning and careful thought. That is particularly true in a season when we cannot do so much of what we normally do because of restrictions due to the pandemic.

Toward that end, the Office of Clergy Excellence is offering three identical zoom events called "The Pastor's Moving...Now What?". The three main topics that will be covered in the events are: Saying Goodbye and Hello Well; the 90 Day Action Plan (this covers what the pastor will do in the first 90 days of his or her new

appointment); and the Logistics of a Move (move policy and benefits updates). Each event will last no more than 90 minutes and will include time for Q&A.



Presenters for these events include: Rev. Morris Matthis, Director of Clergy Excellence; Rev. Deborah Hawboldt, Associate Director of Clergy Excellence; Rev. Brenda Porter, Move Coordinator; and Barbara Kilby, TAC Group Health and Pension Benefits Manager.

Those who should attend are: all pastors going to new appointments; SPR members and other appropriate leaders from churches with outgoing and/or incoming pastors as well as staff or volunteers who manage the finances of the church.

All three of these events are identical. Pastors and leaders are encouraged to attend the first event after the appointment is announced. The sooner you attend, the more this information can help you.

Meeting information and accompanying links are as follows:

The Pastors Moving...Now What? I	March 15 @ 7:00 pm
https://zoom.us/j/99589994630	
The Pastor's Moving...Now What? II	April 13 @ 7:00 pm
https://zoom.us/j/94158406345	
The Pastor's Moving...Now What? III	May 11 @ 7:00 pm
https://zoom.us/j/92974812132	

If you have questions about these events, do not hesitate to contact either your district superintendent or Nancy Slade at nslade@txcumc.org.

The Post Quarantine Church with author Thom Ranier

Wondering what will become of the church in the “new normal” future? The Texas Annual Conference is hosting a webinar about what is next, including what is expected to change and what will stay the same. “The-Post Quarantine Church” is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 4 and will be followed by a Q&A. Thom Ranier, a former pastor, long-time church consultant, founder and CEO of Church Answers and Executive Director of Revitalize Network, will lead the webinar.

Ranier recently authored “The Post Quarantine Church: Six Urgent Challenges and Opportunities that Will Determine the Future of Your Congregation.” This guide covers the growing digital church, rethinking campus facilities and developing strategies for growth.

The talk will help pastors find positive ways to leverage new ideas and equip ministers to move courageously into the future. To join, click <https://zoom.us/j/97190832280>.

For more information, visit [Webinars \(txcumc.org\)](https://www.txcumc.org/webinars)



CENTRAL SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Rev. Dr. Elijah A. Stansell, Jr. - District Superintendent

Ms. Marylyn Green - District Administrator

Miss Sara Hinshaw-Hatten - Office Assistant

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