



# Central South District

## THE TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*The Heart of Houston*

Central South District News

November 2021

### Message from The District Office

Greetings Pastors:

The past few weeks have been busy with charge conferences, clergy assessments, packing and the day-to-day operations. We would like to say thank you for your patience during this time as we begin our transition to our new offices. You may not reach us immediately by phone or email, but we are doing our best to respond as soon as we can.

Please make sure you are checking your emails . I know a lot of information is coming your way from the conference and district office but we need to make sure that you are staying informed about important information.

Our new offices will be located at the Texas Annual Conference (TAC) Service Center on the first floor. We will provide you with the new contact information soon.

Report Day will be held at the TAC on January 11<sup>th</sup> for those who will need to report in person. More details on report day will be coming after the Thanksgiving holiday

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**We embody the Mission and Vision of the Texas Annual Conference**

***Mission:** Equip congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world to the glory of God.*

***Vision:** Vibrant, growing congregations changing lives and reshaping futures for Jesus Christ.*

## Important District Information:

**Charge Conferences** scheduled for 2021 have been completed. Thank you to everyone who have submitted all the required documents. Our administrator is still going through the packets and if you are missing anything, an email will be sent requesting those documents. Please be patient with us on this process as it takes time to go through them all.

**Salary Sheets:** Pastors (or your business manager), please make sure you are certifying your salary sheets. We cannot complete on our end until you complete the process. Some of you have input your information in the salary sheet system but have not certified, some have not input any information and this needs to be done ASAP as we must have these completed before January 1st. If you have already completed your charge conference this information should be in the system. Some of you may be receiving an email from the administrator regarding your salary sheet being incomplete or not done.

[Salary Sheet Login](#)

**Moving Day & Holiday Office Schedule** – As we begin to finalize all details and complete the packing, the physical office will be closed November 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> but we will be reachable by phone and/or email.



Closed on November 24<sup>th</sup> - Office Staff on Vacation

Closed on November 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Thanksgiving.

December 1<sup>st</sup> after 1:30 pm, IT will be here to begin disconnecting our computer equipment.

Closed on December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Moving Day.

December 6<sup>th</sup> - IT will begin reconnecting our computer equipment at the new office.

December 23, 2021 - January 3, 2022 - Christmas/Winter Holidays

**Roving Reporter:** Keep a lookout for your district administrator as she is on the move around the district. She may show up at your worship service or an event your church is hosting to take pictures to share on our website and social media pages. If you have a special worship or event coming up, send an email to [csdistrict@txcumc.org](mailto:csdistrict@txcumc.org) and let us know about it.

## Practical Strategies for Evangelism in a Covid World



**Context:** During Covid every church has seen a significant downturn in worship attendance and overall participation in the church's life. Pastors have expressed a belief that many of those who have left will not be returning and can no longer be counted on to participate and/or support the ministry of the church in the manner they did before. The great commission already calls us as the followers of Jesus to share the good news of the gospel with all who will receive it. Now, in this new reality, the church's need to connect with new people is greater than ever before.

**The Opportunity:** An article in the Houston Chronicle reports that according to a recent Harris poll two-thirds of American adults say the pandemic is bringing people closer to their faith and will cause more people to become religious. Forty percent of parents say the pandemic has made them more spiritual or religious than before. Members of all groups - by gender, age, income, education, household makeup, race and region - also report feeling a personal spiritual awakening. About half of all men aged 35-44 are the most likely to feel more spiritual and religious today than before the pandemic. Three-quarters of men and women 65 years old and up also think the virus is bringing people closer to their faith. Even among Americans unaffiliated with a religion, 13 percent say the pandemic has made them more spiritual, and 48 percent say the pandemic will cause more people to become believers in religion.

**The Invitation:** Priscilla Pope-Levison is a Professor at Perkins School of Theology. She teaches and has a passion for evangelism. She has recently written a book called Models of Evangelism. In the book she describes various models of doing evangelism and, in addition, names what all those models have in common. She has responded favorably to an invitation to offer a webinar on the topic of doing evangelism in the environment in which we find ourselves.

**The Plan:** Pastors and church leaders with a heart for evangelism would gather in their churches on Saturday morning January 15. The suggestion is to provide breakfast which would be followed by a webinar starting at 9:00. The webinar would last for two to two and a half hours. In the webinar Dr. Pope-Levison would teach on four to six models of evangelism interspersed with times of guided discussion in small groups. Pastors will be encouraged to sign up for their church by December 1st. The Center for Leadership Formation will then send each of those churches a few copies of Dr. Pope Levison's book in advance of the January 15 meeting. The December 1st sign up is not a requirement for churches to participate.

**The Hope:** That each church would hear at least a few ideas they could implement in their own ministry settings that would help them reach out to new people with the gospel.

Sign up by December 1, 2021 to receive up to six copies of Dr. Pope Levison's book: Models of Evangelism, from which she will be teaching. After December 1, your church will need to purchase the books. Spots are limited, sign up now! Order books [here](#).

# Lakeview Mid-Winter

# "CHILL"

## Psalms 23

"He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake."  
Psalms 23:2-3

January 14-16, 2022

**Register Today**

[www.iheartlakeview.org](http://www.iheartlakeview.org)

[Register](#) Today for Mid-Winter Camp

## 2022 LAY SERVANT SCHOOL

SATURDAY, February 12, 2022 - 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

First UMC - 506 E. 28th St - Bryan, TX 77803

COST: \$30 by January 10 - Textbooks & lunch included

**NO Registrations AFTER Jan 10, 2022**



### Contact Us

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