



# Central South District

## THE TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### *The Heart of Houston*

Central South District News

September 2021

*From the Desk of the District Superintendent...*

Entering the Last Quarter!

In Max Lucado book “Just in Case You Ever Wonder” is this quote: “There are certain words that every child longs to hear... words of unconditional love, promises of support, and prayers of encouragement.” As children of God, know that I am here as your spiritual supporter.

I want you to know that pastors, laity, and congregations have been in my prayers constantly. In these unprecedented times you have been relentless, steadfast, and immovable.

Your creative, innovative adaptations to the pandemic have been incredible. I believe that like 9-11-2001 had a lasting impact on us, so will the pandemic.

Be encouraged as you forge ahead to engage in discipleship, leadership toward new norms, church-futuring, and evangelism using creative methods.

May your final quarter of 2021 end well and your prayers be answered.

Shalom,

Elijah

#### Inside This Edition

Charge Conference

Clergy Assessments

Epiphany Celebration

Clergy Gathering Updates

DEI Status Report

Report Day

Central South Moving





### **Church Charge Conference 2021**

Charge Conference Documents are now available, you can access them from the district website @ [csdistrict.org](https://csdistrict.org). if you need the forms

in word document they can be found @ <https://www.txcumc.org/chargeconference>.

\*Please note that the Church Officials document was left off the list on the district website, it has now been added. This is required.

Church Charge Conference dates are now on the district website <https://csdistrict.org/calendar>. Charge Conferences begin October 2, 2021, we are updating the schedule if your church is not listed, please contact the office. It is important to have your charge conference paperwork into the district office one to two weeks prior to your charge conference to give the District Superintendent ample time to review the documents prior to your meeting. You can drop off or mail to 3511 Linkwood Dr. Houston, TX 77025 or email ([csdistrict@txcumc.org](mailto:csdistrict@txcumc.org)) your paperwork.



The Upper Room has created a space to listen together as we find our way forward in a world that is forever changed. Our virtual healing and hope-filled event will include storytelling, time for personal reflection and conversation, guided spiritual practice, and worship. This gathering offers time for centering and interaction, a fresh array of spiritual practices to help with healing from trauma, and an introduction to spiritual tools you can use in your own healing journey or the healing journey through which you lead others.

Speakers and workshop leaders include Rev. Sidwell Mokgothu, Rev. Trevor Hudson, Rev. Dr. Amy Steele, Rev. Dr. Ron Bell, Rev. Kimberly Orr, Kara Lassen Oliver, Rev. Beth A. Richardson, and Dianne Harper.

Join us virtually September 30 – October 2, 2021 for RESILIENCE | Healing Practices for Mind, Body, & Spirit: <https://www.upperroom.org/resilience>. All sessions will be recorded and available to registrants after the event. If you have questions, check out our FAQs here: <https://www.upperroom.org/resilience/faqs>.

Looking forward to having you and members of your staff join us; and believing that the Holy Spirit will work miracles in our midst.

Shalom,

[Kimberly]



**We will not host a Christmas Gathering this year due to the pandemic. We are looking to host an Epiphany Celebration during the first quarter of 2022. More details coming soon.**



*Report Day for the Central South District*

is January 11, 2022

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

by appointment only

More Details to Come

## Attention Senior, Associate & Local Pastors

If you have not scheduled your appointment for your annual assessment with the DS, please go to the Sign Up Genius link below and choose your date and time. Assessments will be on Zoom.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054DABA629A5FE3-annual>



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## **Important News - The Central South District is Moving**

**We have confirmed the move date to our new office.**

**The Central South District is moving to the Conference Office located at 5215 Main Street where we will occupy most of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor office space. The moving day is Thursday, December 2, 2021 and IT will work on Monday, December 6, 2021 to get the technical parts up and running. Our physical office will be closed on those days, we will work remotely and do our best to answer your calls and emails in a timely manner. There may be some delay in responding as we work to get our offices set up and organized. The goal is to be in office by December 8, 2021 we ask for your patience as we make this transition during those dates.**

# Clergy Gathering Update

## **Important Announcements for All Clergy**

### **Clergy Gathering Rescheduled!**

The September Clergy Gathering has been rescheduled to **February 21-23, 2022!**

**Same format! Same speakers!**

**Registration will open December 1<sup>st</sup>, but please SAVE THE DATES!**

### **Advent is coming and this will help you in planning for the season**

Marcia McFee is a well-known worship designer and communicator and is offering an interactive learning series that the Center for Leadership Formation knows will be a benefit to you and your worship planning team.

Register at the link below, we have made it **Free to You** and your church!

#### ***Advent-ure Design Camp - an interactive learning series with Dr. Marcia McFee***

*Get ready for a new liturgical year and re-ignite your creativity for worship with this six week learning series from Dr. Marcia McFee, a renowned worship designer, consultant, and educator ([www.marciamcfee.com](http://www.marciamcfee.com)). This six-week journey begins on October 3rd. It will be a mix of webinars and self-paced learning that will walk you through the steps of designing a worship series for Advent - from choosing a theme to engaging the worship arts to getting help from your worship team and volunteers. This series is our gift to any congregation in the conference, and you can sign up at no cost to you. Just follow the link below to sign up and get ready for a hope-filled Advent season. Anyone from your church worship team can also use this link to get access.*

#### ***What you will receive:***

- An e-mail every **Sunday for 6 weeks** with an introduction to the concepts we will cover (starting October 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Access to **written and video digital materials** that further the learning
- Join the **Worship Design Studio Advent-ure Camp Resource** to connect with other churches and access **a lot of other free material** on their website
- Pastors and staff **may receive CEU's** if you need them for completion of the course (you will complete a survey at the end of the course)

#### ***Sign up here:***

<https://ny163.infusionsoft.com/app/form/adventure-camp-2021-texas-umc>

*If you have any questions, please reach out to Robert Besser at [rbesser@txcumc.org](mailto:rbesser@txcumc.org) or Nancy Slade at [nslade@txcumc.org](mailto:nslade@txcumc.org).*

# *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Update*

## **Mending to Ascend Central South District Update Report - Sep 1, 2021**

**Program Objective:** The Central South District DEI initiative aims to mobilize our area churches to provide resources and form the relationships needed to break through the negative impacts of increased exposure to crime and violent behavior throughout our region. By examining our own stereotypes, learning new strategies for promoting mental health and developing individual plans for community engagement, the churches throughout the CSD will work toward establishing ministries that lead to the establishment of healthy leaders, healthy families, healthy churches and healthy communities.

### **Program Components offered in August 2021:**

Launch Event – A 90-minute Zoom introduction to the program components and reflection on how social determinants of health aid us in promoting overall well-being.

64 total attendees

Harvest Respect Trainings: 3 topics covered, aimed at internal examination of how assumptions, stereotypes and biases interfere with our ability to form community and strategies for entering community for the sake of promoting equity.

August Training Session – First Impressions| Unraveling Bias total of five sessions offered, 75 total participants. Participants included Senior Pastors, Associate Pastors and Lay Leaders from 50 of our CSD Churches

### **What's Next?**

September is a month of reflection and processing. There will be two zoom gatherings and one follow-up questionnaire to be completed by participants of the training sessions. The first zoom gathering will reinforce the key objectives of the initiative and frame steps for moving forward. The second zoom gathering will focus on the importance of forming collaborations with community organizations, strategies for building those relationships and recommendations for connecting services to residents. The follow up questionnaire will evaluate how much knowledge was acquired through the first training session “First Impressions| Unraveling Bias.

### **What we learned:**

Central South District churches are committed to exploring ways to establish more equity throughout our district.

There is an opportunity for churches serving the same geographical region to partner to extend services to residents.

There is an existing knowledge gap between providing a service and building equity into the availability and ease of access of these services consistently to our communities.

**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.*

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*Southwest District Lay Servant Academy*

Our Lay Servant Academy is back! We have 3 upcoming opportunities, all of which will be a ONE-DAY class on a Saturday. The dates are listed below as well as the registration link where you can register for any of the dates/classes you'd like. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. RaMona Riggs at [riggs.faithumc@gmail.com](mailto:riggs.faithumc@gmail.com).

2021-2022 Lay Servant Academy Dates:

- October 23, 2021 – location: TBD
- February 5, 2022 – location: TBD
- March 5, 2022 – location: TBD

**Registration Link:** [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScUdpc3iWhY70Q\\_7v7HKnOj2O29K6IoajlCQxp3lkCfLxFOQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScUdpc3iWhY70Q_7v7HKnOj2O29K6IoajlCQxp3lkCfLxFOQ/viewform)

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Are you following the Central South District on Social Media?

Is your church hosting a community project or event, please email the details to [csdistrict@txcumc.org](mailto:csdistrict@txcumc.org) along with a flyer or poster (pdf or jpeg formats) and we will do our best to share it with our followers.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/heartofhouston>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/csd\\_umc/](https://www.instagram.com/csd_umc/)

Contact Us

Central South District

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Visit us on the web at <https://csdistrict.org/>