



Central District

Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church

EVENTS & DUE DATES

Jan. 10 – 2018 remittance closeout and reporting

Jan. 14 – First day for 2019 remittances; 2019 benefits due only after receipt of January invoice

Jan. 15 - Pastoral Advisory/Preference Forms Due

Jan. 23 - Checkout closes

Jan. 24 - DCOM Certification Interviews



Center for
EVANGELISM, MISSION, & CHURCH GROWTH
transforming local congregations & creating new places for new people

The people already connected with your church are often the most underused resource for growing a church. If our goal is to create a culture of growth it begins with the present members. Until present members are involved in bringing new people in, the church won't have the new people it needs to reach those we are not already reaching. It is the new people who interact with people not yet connected to our church. When growth, evangelism and witness is a low priority in the church in today's culture the church will not grow, and this is often while a non-denominational church down the street is growing. Why? Most new church starts, non-denominational, Baptist, Assembly of God, have a high if not number one goal of growing the church, making disciples, and expanding their base of worshippers.

- Make cards, brochures, and pamphlets available for members to give to friends, family, and neighbors that need the church. The card would have times and place for worship, a way to explore more on social media, the church website, and a note of invitation from the pastor that is personal and inviting. During special seasons, such as Easter and Christmas, a specific card can be printed or when a new message series aimed at the unchurched is rolled out. Make it easy for members to tell the story of the church and Jesus.
- Prepare a message series once or twice a year that is specifically aimed at the unchurched, the skeptic, and the seeking. Involve your present membership in praying for the series, those that we might reach and actively invite friends, family, and neighbors to attend. Find ways to interact with the community, and then celebrate the "witness" of the church in making disciples of Jesus Christ (celebrate our growth success).
- Plan activities, events, 5K runs, park clean-ups, special meals, workshops, conferences, music presentations, etc., that are aimed at the unchurched where present members can participate by inviting friends, family, and neighbors to be a part and partner with them in

the activity. Help your members invite others by creating events that are appealing to those they might invite.

- One of the most effective and simple ways to involve church members in helping your church grow is through social media. When events, Sunday worship, or other opportunities are available on social media and people are asked to share they often do. Not only does it reach people the church may have no connection with, but it helps the church family think about their own responsibility for witnessing. This should be an almost daily thing and should follow a careful plan as to how the church will communicate on social media and its free.
- If you want your church members to invite others, then make sure the church is attractive, the entry areas are inviting, the landscaping is up-to-date and clean. The areas in and around the church tell a story that is exciting and participatory, and that the worship is well done and always includes a message, event, upcoming activity or class aimed at new people. People won't invite others to church if they think it will be unwelcoming or that they will have a bad experience.

One of the things we are trying to do is create a culture of growth, of witness, of evangelism, where it is expected that we are all involved in helping our church grow and not just support the budget, fill a pew, or attend the long-term activities where our friends are.

The senior leaders must be intentional if we are to help the church to move from static participation to dynamic involvement, where, each member is involved with a common goal of the church to grow, from often stable or slow decline, to momentum and growth.

There is no quick fix, this is a decision that should guide the church over the years that slowly transforms the church into having an evangelistic center.

New Faith Communities often because they are new, can be nimble and mobilize quickly around reaching new people. The pattern of a growth culture can be instilled in them much more quickly than in an existing worship service, class or activity. This culture of growth also has the potential of spilling over into the rest of the church family. If you want to know more about beginning New Faith Communities check out the website <https://www.ctcumc.org/nfc>.

*Rev. Mike Ramsdell, Executive Director
Center for Evangelism, Missions, & Church Growth*



Early Response Training Opportunities:

Saturday, January 12, 2019 9am-5pm
Georgetown First United Methodist
Church

410 E. University Ave.
Georgetown, TX. 78626

Instructors: Terry Crain & Dave Scott
Class Fee \$30

Registration closes January 8

Saturday, January 26, 2019 9am-5pm
Fort Worth First United Methodist
Church

800 W. Fifth St.
Fort Worth, TX. 76102

Instructor: Chuck Graff
Class Fee \$30

Registration closes January 22

Saturday, March 2, 2019 9am-5pm
Joshua First United Methodist Church
111 Paula St.

Joshua, TX. 76508

Instructor: Donnie Sherwood
Class Fee \$30

Registration closes February 26

Recertification/Advanced Training
Opportunity:

Saturday, March 2, 2019 9am-1pm
Joshua First United Methodist Church
111 Paula St.

Joshua, TX. 76508

Instructor: Susan Luttrell
Class Fee: \$20

Registration closes February 26



[Register for 1/12/19](#)

[Register for 1/26/19](#)

[Register for 3/2/19](#)

[Enroll for Recertification/Advanced Training](#)

-----*ADDITIONAL ERT/ADVANCED TRAINING CLASS* -----

Early Response Training

Saturday, February 9, 2019 9am-5pm

Meridian First United Methodist Church

300 N. Main

Meridian, TX. 76665

Instructors: Kevin & Lee Morton

Class Fee \$30

Register [HERE](#)

Registration closes February 5

Recertification/Advanced Training

Saturday, February 9, 2019 9am-1pm

Meridian First United Methodist Church

300 N. Main
Meridian, TX. 76665
Instructor: Susan Luttrell
Class Fee \$20
Register [HERE](#)
Registration closes February 5

[Youth Ministry Information from Conference](#)

Individual Registration is now open for Mid-Winter 2019: “Despite the Fear.” Our Conference’s annual youth Winter retreat will feature small group studies, worship, games and fellowship at Glen Lake Camp. Choose from two weekend sessions, Feb. 1-3 and Feb. 15-17. Visit ctcumc.org/midwinter2019 to read more about Mid-Winter, or to register groups and/or individuals.

GROW

NURTURING A CULTURE OF GROWTH

Contact the district office if your church is interested in this initiative!

For more information: <http://www.ctcumc.org/grow>



The Bishop's Pilgrimage to Iona - May 16-25, 2019

[For More Information and/or Apply](#)



All clergy are invited to attend Replenish: A day for the clergy community to renew and connect.

As clergy, we are often pulled in many directions, called upon for many needs, and often find ourselves busy and exhausted. We yearn for time to rest and renew our spirits and for opportunities to connect with other clergy, sharing the burdens of ministry and life. Come join us January 28, 2019 at Glen Lake Camp for Replenish: a day for the clergy community to renew and connect. 10am-4pm \$25 To register go to [Replenish](#). If you have questions or need more information, contact Kathy Ezell at kathyezell@ctcumc.org.



SCOREBOARD

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE DISTRICTS



42,408 / 43,828 ← 2018 GOAL



42,408 / 57,788 ← 2026 WIG GOAL

CONFERENCE SCOREBOARD

		ACHIEVED/SET GOAL
CENTRAL	101%	5,331 / 5,300
EAST	95%	17,559 / 18,478
NEW CHURCH STARTS	99%	490 / 488
NORTH	96%	9,166 / 9,517
SOUTH	97%	6,781 / 7,000
WEST	101%	3,081 / 3,045
	GOAL LINE	

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

DEC. 2017 - NOV. 2018

LEGEND

- 0-69% of goal
- 70-89% of goal
- 90% and above of goal

Data Source: VitalSigns Dashboard



SCOREBOARD

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE DISTRICTS



2,044/2,251 ← 2018 GOAL



2,044/3,500 ← 2026 WIG GOAL

CONFERENCE SCOREBOARD

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	ACHIEVED/SET GOAL
CENTRAL	107%				267 / 250
EAST	95%				759 / 796
NEW CHURCH STARTS	86%				69 / 80
NORTH	69%				432 / 625
SOUTH	99%				398 / 400
WEST	119%				119 / 100

PROFESSIONS OF FAITH NOVEMBER 2018 (YTD)

LEGEND

- less than 10% of YTD target
- within 10% of YTD target
- on or exceeding YTD target

Data Source: VitalSigns Dashboard



This Lent, imagine Peter striding in your church, a net slung over one shoulder, tales of Jesus on his lips. This is *Sea Change*, a Lenten event presented by Mark Winter's One Man Show Ministries, featuring the big fisherman in a series of dramatic vignettes throughout worship.

With its themes of repentance, sacrifice and devotion, *Sea Change* can be used anytime during Lent, and there are special adaptations for Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday, in which your own costumed church members participate in a re-enactment

of the triumphal entry. The service ends with Peter singing *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*.

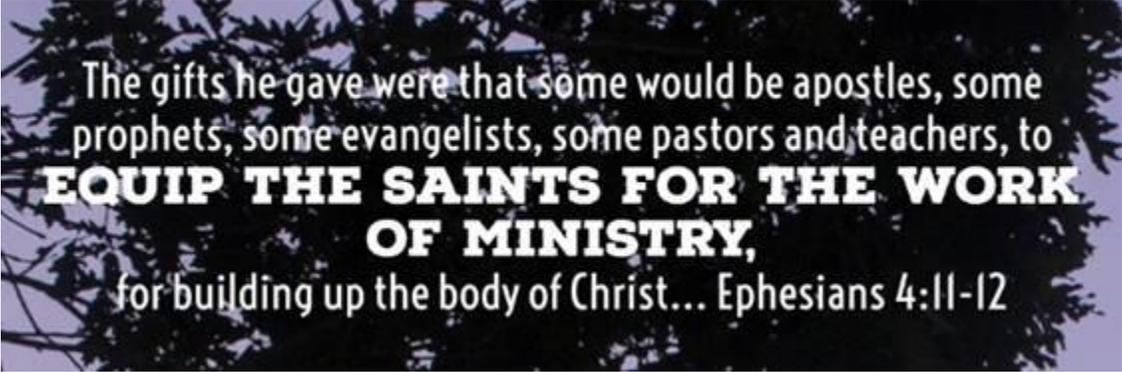
Rev. Michael Cyr of Newcastle UMC noted, “Mark is a consummate professional. His portrayal of the Apostle Peter in *Sea Change* is a perfect blend of humor and drama, with an ending that dares you not to cry. Our church loved him.”

Host churches receive a preparation packet, complete with promotional materials. Mark can come for mileage reimbursement and a love offering with no minimum required. Contact One Man Show at 817-454-1129 or send an email to info@onemanshow.org.



January 17—[Vision Day: San Antonio, TX](#)

January 18—[Vision Day: Austin, TX](#)



The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to **EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY,** for building up the body of Christ... Ephesians 4:11-12

YOU ARE INVITED TO

EQUIP

This conference is to help you strengthen ministries for and by Senior Adults in your church and community.

January 27-29, 2019

Dallas, Texas

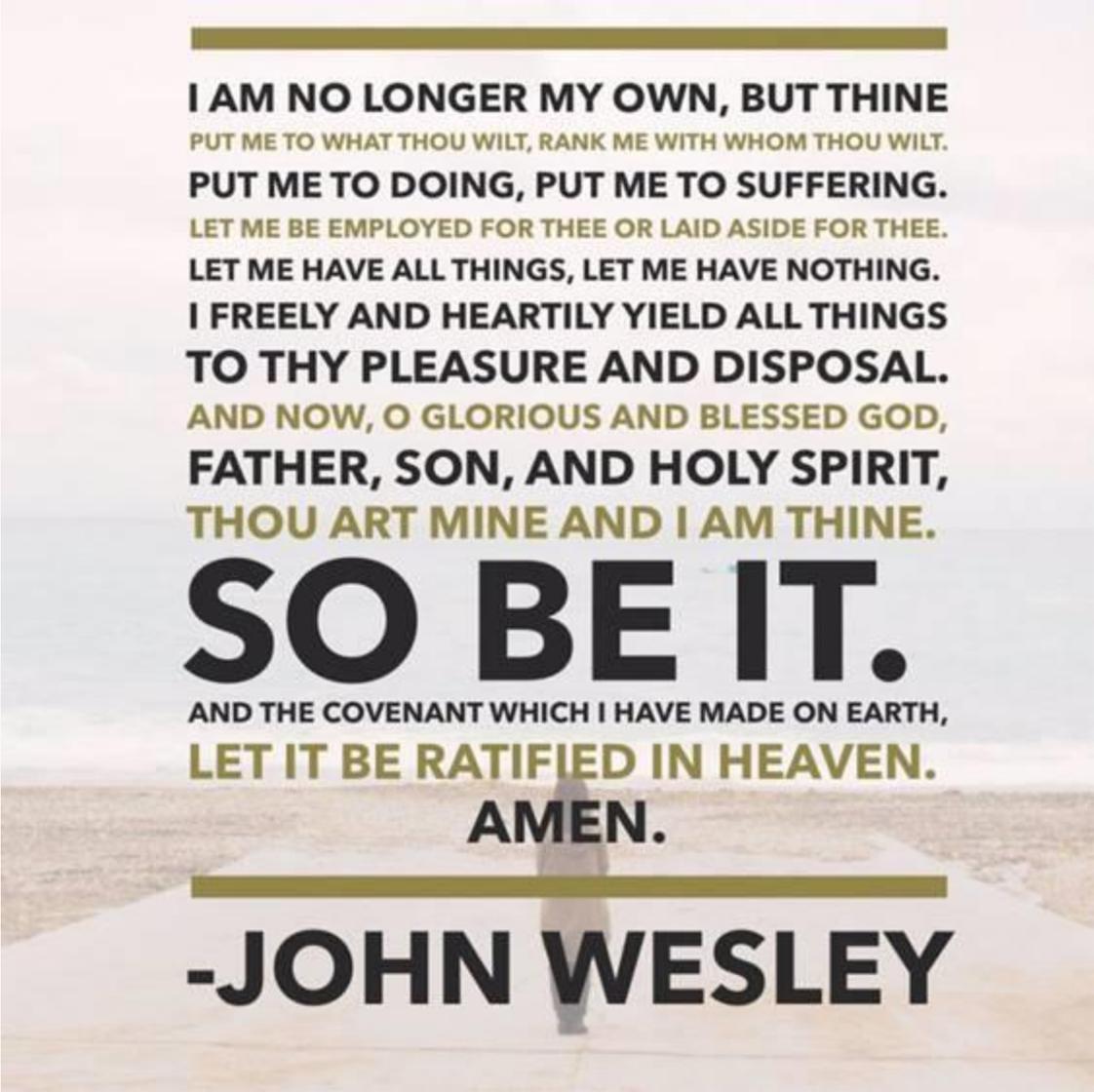
Why is this important? In most mainline churches, 70% of membership is over 65 years old. EQUIP will address this fact head on by providing the laity with practical and spiritual tools for starting a Senior Life Ministry in their

churches. Participants will go home completely equipped with one year of programming.

SPEAKER AGENDA

Please visit www.upumc.org/equip for speaker profiles and session details

[Register](#)



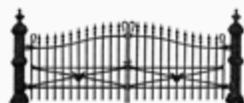
I AM NO LONGER MY OWN, BUT THINE
PUT ME TO WHAT THOU WILT, RANK ME WITH WHOM THOU WILT.
PUT ME TO DOING, PUT ME TO SUFFERING.
LET ME BE EMPLOYED FOR THEE OR LAID ASIDE FOR THEE.
LET ME HAVE ALL THINGS, LET ME HAVE NOTHING.
I FREELY AND HEARTILY YIELD ALL THINGS
TO THY PLEASURE AND DISPOSAL.
AND NOW, O GLORIOUS AND BLESSED GOD,
FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT,
THOU ART MINE AND I AM THINE.

SO BE IT.

AND THE COVENANT WHICH I HAVE MADE ON EARTH,
LET IT BE RATIFIED IN HEAVEN.
AMEN.

-JOHN WESLEY

*Energizing and equipping local churches to make disciples of Jesus
Christ for the transformation of the world.*



“STORM THE GATES”

Matthew 16:18

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