

*Christ at the Center*  
*E-News*



Central District

Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church

## EVENTS & DUE DATES

Jan. 23 - Checkout Closes

Jan. 23 - End of Year Forms Due

Jan. 24 - DCOM Certification Interviews

Feb. 19 - District Leadership Team  
Meeting

Feb. 23-26 - General Conference

Mar. 21 - DCOM Continuation Interviews  
for LLP's

Apr. 11 - DCOM Continuation Interviews  
for LLP's

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

I think one of the key elements of a growing church is the *what's next* ~ the next steps for first time guests and visitors, including the next step for long time church participants or members.

**First time guests:**

A few ideas to consider in expectation of guests attending a worship experience or other area of first time exposure to the church such as; a church sponsored run, fall festival, Halloween experience, Easter egg hunt, recovery classes, any church activity where first-time guests or hoped for or expected:

- What are the next steps where they can learn, make connections, become more involved or just continue the ways they might build a deeper relationship with the church and with Jesus Christ?
- How do you communicate those steps; a monitored table with information on it, greeters, or welcome people with needed information, handouts of some sort, access to easy information on their website or social media?
- Is there more than just ongoing stuff and something new designed just for the new people you want to connect with? It's the new that reaches new people and new people reach more new people. Churches that want to grow always have something rolling out that is aimed at new people and first-time guests but also communicates it well making the next step easily accessible and adding clarity that the first-time guest or visitor is especially welcomed and expected.

**Long time members or constituents:**

- If we want our present members and constituents to grow as disciples, what are the next steps that are aimed at them; classes, missions opportunity's, small groups, online bible study or daily online learning experience, etc.

- If long term members do the same thing week after week, they will typically do less and less as the years go by, or at the very best do and be the same things while the world changes around them and the church often declines. There should always be a new activity, event, learning or mission opportunity rolling out that long term people can connect with that demands, expects, or offers an opportunity to grow in their discipleship journey. Churches stagnate when their members do not grow.

Is the year planned around these opportunities an intentional and organized season of offering guests and long-term members a way to take next steps? This not only provides a system to **make disciples for the transformation of the world**, but it also shapes the church creating a culture of growth, personal and corporate.

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

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Early Response Training Opportunities:

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 1/26/19](#)

[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

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## [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](http://ctcumc.org/midwinter2019) to read more about Mid-Winter, or to register groups and/or individuals.



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](mailto:kathyezell@ctcumc.org).

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# SCOREBOARD

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE DISTRICTS

97%

42,447 / 43,828 ← 2018 GOAL

73%

42,408 / 57,788 ← 2026 WIG GOAL

## CONFERENCE SCOREBOARD

		ACHIEVED/SET GOAL
CENTRAL	101%	5,364 / 5,300
EAST	95%	17,521 / 18,478
NEW CHURCH STARTS	101%	491 / 488
NORTH	97%	9,214 / 9,517
SOUTH	97%	6,779 / 7,000
WEST	101%	3,078 / 3,045

## AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

JAN. 2018 - DEC. 2018

LEGEND

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

Data Source: VitalSigns Dashboard



# SCOREBOARD

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE DISTRICTS



2,171/2,251 ← 2018 GOAL



2,171/3,500 ← 2026 WIG GOAL

## CONFERENCE SCOREBOARD

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	ACHIEVED/SET GOAL
CENTRAL	117%				293 / 250
EAST	97%				776 / 796
NEW CHURCH STARTS	101%				81 / 80
NORTH	75%				467 / 625
SOUTH	104%				414 / 400
WEST	140%				140 / 100

## PROFESSIONS OF FAITH DECEMBER 2018 (YTD)

LEGEND

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

Data Source: VitalSigns Dashboard



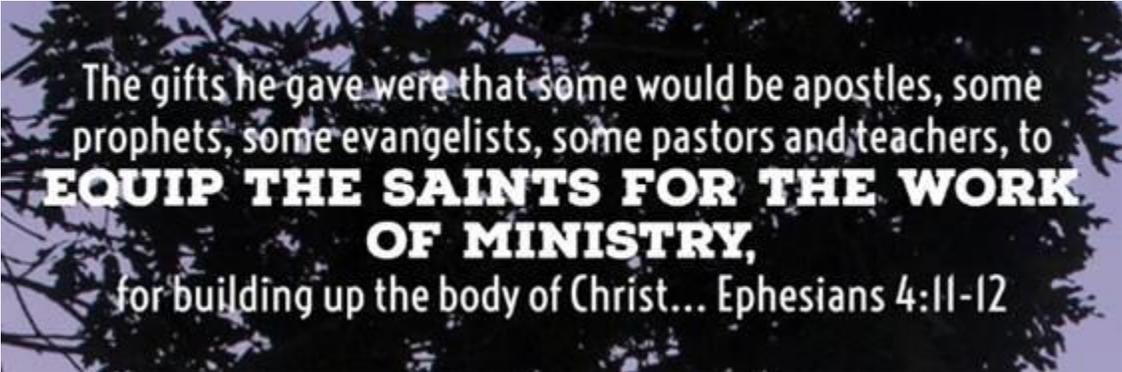
This Lent, imagine Peter striding in your church, a net slung over one shoulder, tales of Jesus on his lips. This is *Sea Change*, a Lenten event presented by Mark Winter's One Man Show Ministries, featuring the big fisherman in a series of dramatic vignettes throughout worship.

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](mailto:info@onemanshow.org).



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

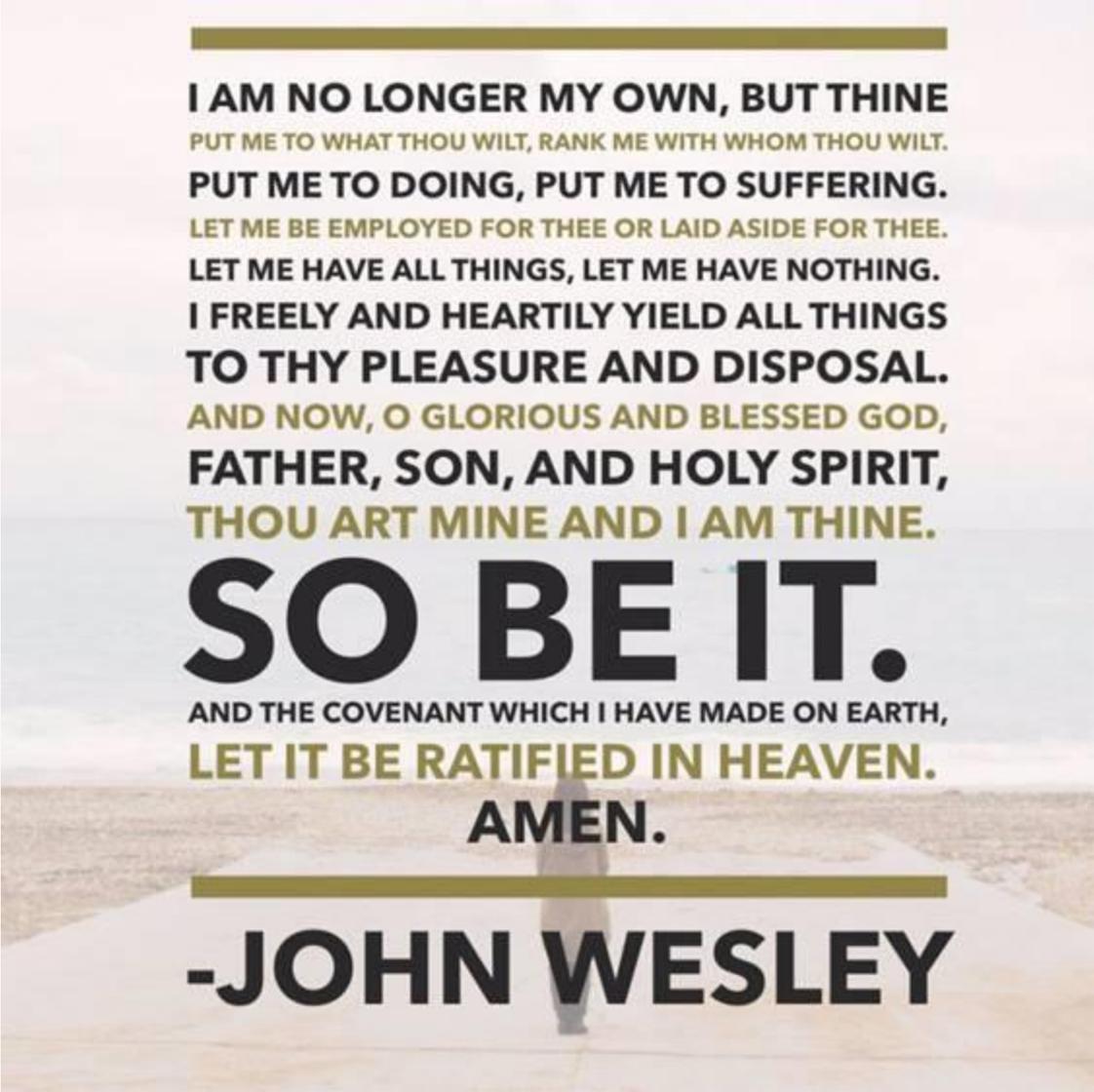
***Why is this important?*** In most mainline churches, 70% of membership is over 65 years old. EQUIP will address this fact head on by providing the laity with practical and spiritual tools for starting a Senior Life Ministry in their churches. Participants will go home completely equipped with one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

## **SPEAKER AGENDA**

Please visit [www.upumc.org/equip](http://www.upumc.org/equip) for speaker profiles and session details

[Register](#)

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**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.

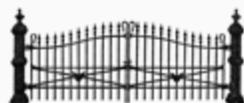
**SO BE IT.**

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

**-JOHN WESLEY**

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*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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