

Christ at the Center
E-News



Central District

Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church

EVENTS & DUE DATES

Feb. 15 - Bank Authorization Forms Due

**Feb. 21 - District Leadership Team
Meeting**

Feb. 23-26 - General Conference

Mar. 7 - District Clergy Meeting

**Mar. 21 - DCOM Continuation Interviews
for LLP's**

**Apr. 11 - DCOM Continuation Interviews
for LLP's**



The City of Corsicana is currently experiencing a defining moment in its history. The Small Business Revolution (television series on Hulu) has selected Corsicana as one of the top 6 finalists (out of over 12,000 applicants) in the entire country. If we win, then season 4 will be filmed in Corsicana (in our District, in our Conference), and \$500,000 will be shared among 5 of our local small businesses. We are the ONLY city in Texas to make the top 6. There is no reason why we should not win. I would like to leverage our connection to solicit additional votes, if possible, and voting closes on 2/19 at 10:00 p.m. CST.

The easiest way to vote is to click [here](#). You can vote once per email address, per day.

Yours in Christ,

Steven Bell



PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD



We are One in Christ

UMCprays.org • A UMC Prayer Community

<https://umcprays.org/>



MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER 2019

Join First Methodist Waco being the
hands and feet of Christ!

***JUNE 2-7 -PORT ARTHUR
COST \$250/PERSON***

Online forms will be available next
week!

Contact Hayley House if you're
interested or have any questions:
hhouse@fumcwaco.org



As many of you are aware, the beautiful sanctuary at Mooreville UMC burned on 2/7/2019. The church has set up a fund if you would like to extend your generosity at this time.

Online Giving
e-checks & debit/credit cards accepted

<http://www.moorevilleumc.org/give/>

Click Give Now
or text an amount to

254-655-1774

or send a donation to
Mooreville United Methodist Church Fire Relief Fund
Account at all Bancorp South Banks
P.O. Box 808
Marlin, TX 76661

Donations can also be made at any Bancorp South location. The church thanks you for your prayers.

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

The Enote today is a little different. Bishop Lowry, the Executive Team, and the Cabinet has researched and worked on how best to count worship attendance in the Central Texas Conference. This is in response to many questions on the subject. The following is the result. Please use this as the future template for this important metric. This will also be on the CTC website. If you have any questions, please call, 817.477.5222 or email me.

Thank you ~ Mike

Counting Worship Attendance in The Central Texas Conference

The purpose of counting worship attendance is to help measure the strength, health and effectiveness of a local church. In the making of disciples for the transformation of the world, numbers have value. They are not the only measure, but it is one important metric and one the CTC pays close attention to. It is the basic number we use to qualify our market share in each community. The purpose of the following information is to help provide consistency across all the CTC churches as well as a consistent measure for the local church to compare themselves to year by year. When worship attendance goes down it is helpful to explore the reasons why and when it goes up it is helpful to celebrate.

We ask that at the very least, local churches (a) remain consistent in what they do every week, (b) provide the most honest assessment of the church's strength, health, and effectiveness as possible, and place these metrics in VitalSigns weekly.

Who To count?

The People Present

Count every single person present physically attending a worship service. This is also any New Faith Community, any time of the week the service is held, and anything that qualifies as worship (preaching, scripture reading, communion, creeds, worship songs yes, we all know what worship is and what it isn't). This includes counting adults' youth, children, and even infants. This includes children in the nursery but not Sunday School. Also include ushers, greeters, welcome people, coffee servers, choirs, praise teams, anyone participating in worship or serving in the worship experience. Even count the preacher!

Online Worshipers

Count those worshipping online; either on a web-based platform or Facebook live. We want to qualify worship by participation, so the key requirement is not just viewing on Facebook or an IP address that shows up on another platform, the key is "**Registration**" of some sort. The registration can be either official as some churches can do, by registering their participation in the comments section of Facebook, messaging on Facebook, or another way the church might choose to do this. Some churches may have an online worship experience that includes interaction with an online pastor, offering prayer requests, or even giving an offering. Encourage Facebook viewers to register their participation in the worship service they are viewing. This participation can be live or later in the day or week. The key is **registering** their presence by name or family in a clear way. We believe the act of registering is a key component of participating in the worship experience with the

church community.

Count children's worship, count youth worship, count confirmation worship

If your church has weekly children's worship, weekly youth worship, or an annual Confirmation worship, add this into your total weekend worship.

If your Confirmation, youth, and children's programs do not include worship, do not count them.

Count Easter sunrise services

Count Christmas Eve candlelight services - all of them if you have more than one

Count Holy Week

Yes, it's OK if people are counted twice that week, or if a music person is counted in more than one service. Remember we are qualifying the health, strength, and effectiveness of our church and seeking to do so with consistency within the local church and in comparison to other churches.

Add the special services such as Christmas Eve or Holy week to the overall count for the week, meaning add Christmas Eve and Holy Week into the weekend total. Remember, we are qualifying the health, strength, and effectiveness of our church. This is not about numbers even though it is!

Count nursing home worship services and assisted living services, etc. if they include the elements of worship. Add this into the following weekend worship numbers.

What if it snows, sleets, ices, floods, hails or a tornado hits the town. Count, but don't add into the years average worship attendance if it ices one weekend, average 51 weeks leaving that one out.

We want a clear indication of the health, strength, and effectiveness of a church.

Who not to count?

Don't add 5% to the total to account for people in the bathroom or talking in the hallways.

Don't count weekly fellowship dinners if they do not include the full worship qualification.

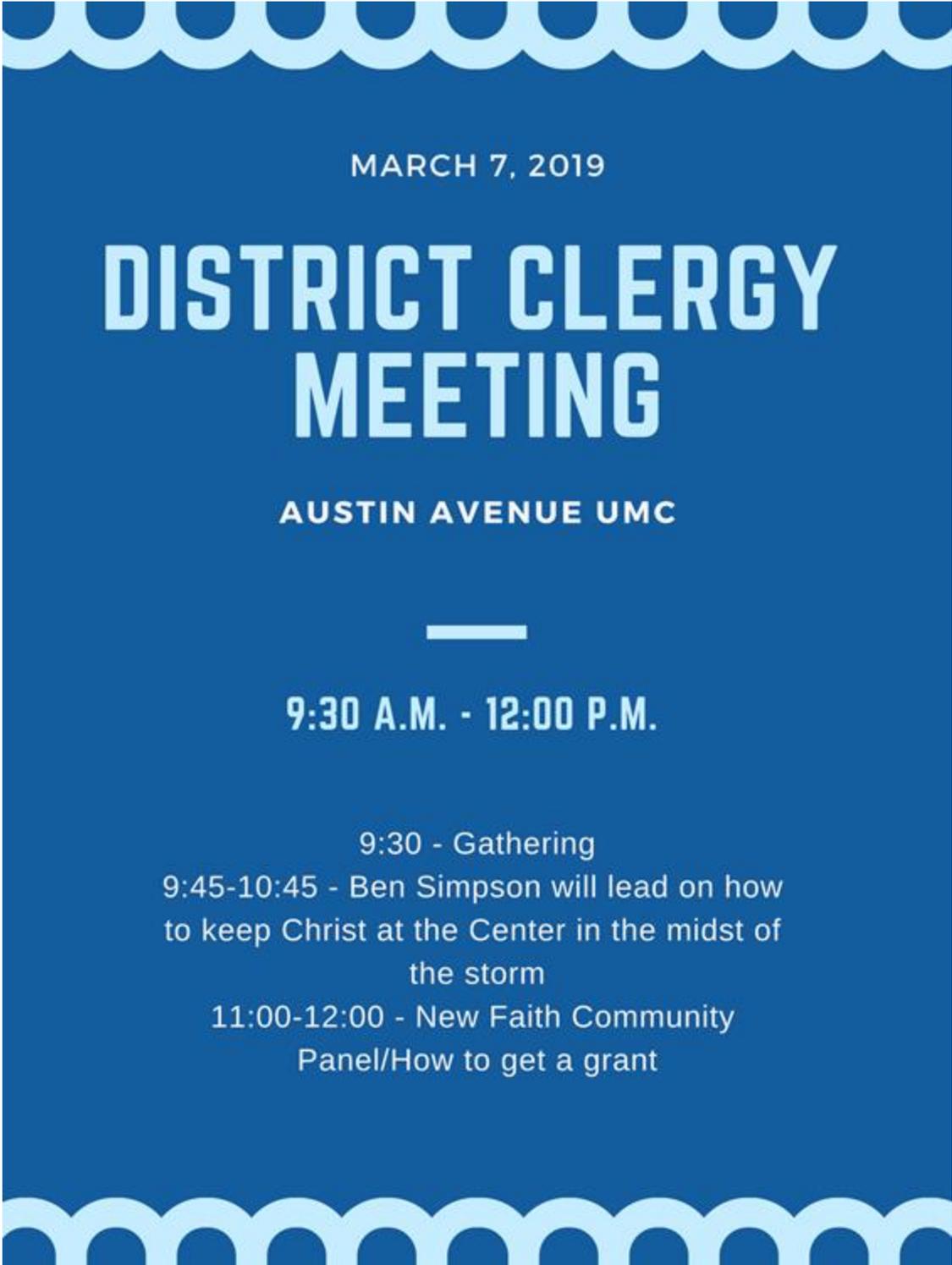
Don't count Preschool worship.

If your church hosts a weekly preschool for children that the community enrolls their children in and pays for and it has a worship experience connected with it, do not count as a church worship experience.

Don't, don't, don't count funerals or weddings.

Rev. Mike Ramsdell, Executive Director

Center for Evangelism, Missions & Church Growth



MARCH 7, 2019

DISTRICT CLERGY MEETING

AUSTIN AVENUE UMC

9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

9:30 - Gathering

9:45-10:45 - Ben Simpson will lead on how
to keep Christ at the Center in the midst of
the storm

11:00-12:00 - New Faith Community
Panel/How to get a grant

Early Response Training Opportunities:

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 3/2/19

Enroll for Recertification/Advanced Training



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

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

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

The CTC's goal was to begin 100 new faith communities in three years and we are well on our way, as we currently have given out 32 grants.

But,

and this is a big but, I am aware of many churches who began a New Faith Community, Fresh

Expressions worship experience, or a new worship service and did so without applying for a grant. We want to track these weekly, celebrate them, and support them on this journey regardless of a church not needing or asking for the grant.

So,

if your church has begun a New Faith Community, new worship service, a fresh expressions experience in the last three years, would you respond to me in this email with:

Name of your church/community:

Who is the primary leader/pastor:

Who is the contact person:

The number of persons your NFC reaches each week:

And how this has impacted your church:

This will be very helpful as we head toward Annual Conference and also this information will be reported with all of our NFC's.

Rev. Mike Ramsdell, Executive Director

Center for Evangelism, Missions & Church Growth



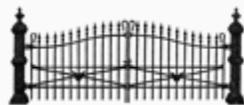
Wake Up!

How about something different for Ash Wednesday this year? Open it with *Wake-Up*

Call, a One Man Show monologue featuring John the Baptist as a contemporary backwoodsman. Rev. Jeffrey Miller of FUMC Belton wrote, “A wake-up call is what we got at our Ash Wednesday service! During the scripture reading, Mark marched in thundering a message of repentance. He urged our people to truly change and not just walk around with dirty foreheads, making ‘ashes’ out of themselves. *Wake-Up Call* is an inspiring message –highly recommended.”

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.

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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