

TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE UMC

WE LOVE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN STRATEGIC ROADMAP

2018-2024



“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’ ” –Matt. 19:14



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION

Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs.

Process for Carrying Out Mission

Proclaim the gospel; seek and welcome people into the body of Christ.

Nurture people in Christian living.

Lead people to commitment through baptism.

Send people into the world to... heal the sick, feed the hungry, care for the stranger, free the oppressed, be a compassionate, caring presence, and work to develop social structures consistent with the gospel.

UMC Four Areas of Focus

Engaging in Ministry with the Poor

“Our emphasis is on *with*” – listening, understanding

Addressing causes of poverty; responding in ways that lift up individuals, communities

Improving Global Health

UMC a leader in fighting diseases, promoting wellbeing

Developing Principled Christian Leaders

Church needs leaders with vision for “changing the world”

Young people have “fearless hearts, vibrant ideas, passion for ministry”

Creating New and Renewed Congregations

Innovating what it means to be the church

Revitalizing faith communities “in every kind of setting”

Reaching the young and those from diverse backgrounds

Being “relevant and vital”



TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE VISION

Vibrant, growing congregations changing lives and reshaping futures for Jesus Christ

MISSION

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

Key Drivers

Spirit-led

Excellence

Fruitfulness

Accountability

Core Values

Radical Hospitality
Passionate Worship

Faith-forming Relationships
Risk-taking Mission

Extravagant Generosity
Connectional Ministry

Fervent Prayer &
Diligent Study of Scripture

WE LOVE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Jesus: "And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." -Matt. 18:2

Vision

The people of the Texas Annual Conference will be known by their love for all God's children.

Mission

Every church will engage with their community to develop, expand and enhance discipleship, early childhood literacy and positive health outcomes for all young children in our communities.

Purpose

In the communities touched by our Texas Annual Conference churches, provide a foundation for faith and life success for children ages 0-11 by focusing holistically across three areas:

Discipleship

Spiritual learning for children & their parents

Provides Spiritual Foundation

Outcomes: Child is introduced to Bible stories and personally experiences the love of Christ

Literacy

Early childhood education (ages 0 to 11), parent education

Provides Learning Foundation

Outcomes: Child is kindergarten-ready and can read proficiently by third grade

Health

Nutritional, medical, dental, mental, vision

Provides Wellness Foundation

Outcomes: Child has enough healthy food, health resources and needed immunizations/screenings

Goals

1) ENGAGE

all the churches in serving young children in the churches' mission fields.

2) EQUIP

clergy and laity to minister with young children and their families – in their churches' unique contexts – in meaningful, sustainable and Christ-centered ways.

3) EMPOWER

local churches to create innovative, holistic **We Love All God's Children's** best practices.

4) EVALUATE

church participation in the three focus areas of **We Love All God's Children**.